

*Newsletter article for NAFAUM.*

*Once a Deaconess, always a Deaconess!*

*Deaconesses and Home Missioners are devoted lay individuals who have received a divine calling to serve in a lifelong commitment within the United Methodist Church. Our calling involves dedicating ourselves to full-time vocations centered on love, justice, and service. Together, we form a covenant community rooted in Scripture, guided by historical context, mission-driven, ecumenical in scope, and globally focused in outreach.*

*Deaconesses and Home Missioners are consecrated to lifetime service during the General Conference or any national and global event approved by the UWF Board of Directors. The bishop then commissions them for their appointment during the Annual Conference.*

*The Deaconess and Home Missioner call to ministries of love, justice, and service is defined in Paragraph 1913.1 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline, which states:*

*Deaconesses and Home Missioners function through diverse forms of service directed toward the world to make Jesus Christ known in the fullness of his ministry and mission, which mandate that his followers:*

- 1. Alleviate suffering*
- 2. Eradicate causes of injustice, and all that robs life of dignity and worth*
- 3. Facilitate the development of full human potential*
- 4. Share in the building of a global community through the church's universal*

*The Filipino deaconesses are dedicated to serving in various capacities wherever they go. Following migration to the US, many of us have taken on roles as educators, healthcare providers, and volunteers in church ministries, actively contributing to Christian education, mission outreach, and worship and music services. We never stop serving; we continue to pursue our calling wherever we go.*

*Currently, we have 270 active Deaconesses and Home Missioners serving in the US and Canada and 119 retired, 41 of whom are Filipino. Seven are retired Filipino deaconesses still involved in volunteer work at church, with the UWF mission, and in the community.*

*The Active Diasporic Filipino Deaconesses and Home Missioners serve as Preschool teachers, Special Education Teachers, School directors or supervisors, Nurses, Elderly Health Caregivers, Administrative and supervision officers in Foster Care and other agencies, Community ministries, Christian Educators, Children and Youth ministries, Music directors, organists, supports and advocates for Christmas Institute and serve as a resource and facilitates Christian Education Workshops. In the Philippines, we partnered on missions, shared our resources, and immersed ourselves in various missions to assist the marginalized. We maintain regular visits to our alma mater, Harris Memorial College, to provide ongoing support for scholarship programs and building projects. The training we received at Harris has profoundly shaped us, and we are genuinely grateful for the valuable skills we gained during our time there*

*.As a deaconess, I serve as a Transfer Coordinator and Consultant for the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner. I advocate and provide resources for deaconesses residing in the US to transfer their Deaconess relationship from the Philippines to the US.*

*The Christmas Institute played a vital role in the lives of Deaconesses, myself included. We wholeheartedly answered our calling to serve as Deaconesses during the Altar Call on the final day of*

*CI. Deaconesses are dedicated to supporting the Christmas Institute in the US. They collaborate with clergy and young adult CI leadership to identify and address CI's needs and concerns, strategize to strengthen CI in the US and provide guidance for starting CI at different annual conferences. They serve as a resource to help young people discern their calling to mission ministry.*

*Deaconesses are deeply committed to spreading God's love and advocating justice and service for all people. Being a deaconess is a lifelong vocation, symbolizing persistent dedication. Once a Deaconess, always a deaconess! Our devotion to addressing the needs of others is limitless; wherever there is a need, we are there to answer the call!*

*Submitted by:*

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*Transfer Coordinator and Consultant*

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