



The Russian Initiative: Partnership Program

Grace UMC is currently providing ministerial support for Hope UMC in Volgograd, Russia. This support helps to supplement the pastor's salary and other essentials. Without this support, the pastor must provide his own means of support. When a small congregation does not have the means to support their pastor, church functions can sometimes consist only of a Bible study group. Here in the United States, our strong connectional system can subsidize local churches to keep them alive. **In Russia, there are no extra funds at the Annual Conference level to subsidize even a small or new church.** But the small church is the bread and butter of United Methodist discipleship. Grace desires to partner with other churches to provide support for the Hope church and other church developments in the Volgograd area. Hope UMC has a membership of about 30 people. They currently meet in a basement of an apartment building that they have renovated. The congregation is not able to directly support their pastor, who is finishing up his seminary work in Moscow (700 miles away). We contribute through the Partner Church Program of the Russian Initiative of the General Board of Global Ministries. In this program, a church (or group of churches) pledges to support a Russian church.

For more information on the contributions from Grace Church and how you can participate in the Volgograd Partnership Program, please contact David Kronbach at davekronbach@gmail.com

For more information on the Russian Mission Initiative and a video *Methodism in Eurasia: A Century of Darkness and Light*, go to [GBGM Russian Mission Initiative](#).

For more information on the GBGM Partnership Program, go to [Partner Church Program: Russian Initiative](#).