



Love Beyond Borders: An Interfaith Movement to End the Pandemic

Sample Talking Points

Note: These talking points are just a few suggested themes. What is most important is that you speak from the heart in an inviting, personal and inspiring way.

1. Welcome

- *Thank you for attending this evening I appreciate you making time to learn about **Love Beyond Borders**.*

2. Speak briefly about why Global Health and vaccination in particular are important to you and to your church.

- *The inequitable distribution of vaccine shows the gap between the West and the majority world and how this gap costs lives. Supporting Covax is a step toward closing this gap.*
- *In a world where a more than 4 million people have died from Covid, the people of The United Methodist Church know NOW is the time to act.*
- *We are in a race against Covid mutations that could reduce the effectiveness of the vaccines, or possibly produce a variation that are resistant to the current vaccines. The longer the time required to vaccinate the world, the greater the risk to us all.*
- *However, in order to vaccinate everyone, the Majority World needs access to vaccines.*
- *The consequences of the pandemic go beyond illness and death, and include rising poverty, disrupted child development, economic loss, and more.*

3. Recognize the previous efforts of attendees and your church. This may include other vaccination efforts and in overcoming malaria (Imagine No Malaria)

- *Many of us already have joined [INSERT CHURCH NAME] in the fight against malaria through Nothing But Nets. Together, we have sent [INSERT #] nets to Africa, saving [INSERT #] people. This is truly something of which to be proud!*
- *Three years of Nothing But Nets activities have taught us about the consequences of disease and how movements like Love Beyond Borders can make a difference.*

4. Describe Love Beyond Borders and how it relates to vaccine hesitancy

- *Please take a few moments as I share informational video(s) outlining Love Beyond Borders and the work of UNICEF.*

[PAUSE – while video plays (roughly 2.5 minutes)]

- *Our efforts may begin with a net, but they do not end there. Prevention alone is not enough.*
- *Community health-care workers are needed to ensure the nets are used properly, and to teach communities about simple ways to prevent malaria and reduce mosquito populations.*
- *Hospitals and health-care clinics need adequate resources and medicine onsite to treat malaria patients quickly and efficiently.*
- *Communications networks encourage the spread of health information, helping to dispel myths that actually still exist that malaria is caused by witchcraft or too much palm oil. Networks also can be used to announce the date of net distributions.*
- *The United Methodist Church already sponsors these programs. Now is the time to strengthen these and other efforts to fight diseases of poverty.*
- *Imagine how much more effective the 1.2 million bed nets will be in Sierra Leone when communities know the best way to use them to prevent malaria, and when hospitals are able to treat patients with affordable care and adequate medications.*

5. Encourage participation in the Love Beyond Borders

- *If you have received the vaccine, consider donating the value of that vaccine forward to those who are waiting for vaccines.*
- *We need people to help raise awareness and serve as advocates. Consider participating as one of our advocates. Join on online advocates, talk with your friends and neighbors, collect stories, and contact us for more advocacy ideas.*
- *Consider a local Love Beyond Borders campaign. Use our movement as a template, join our discussions groups. Adopt our name, or use one of your own.*

6. Thank guests for their consideration

- *Together, we are creating a powerful foundation that will build a stronger and more broad-based community health infrastructure in the fight against the pandemic.*
- *Imagine the power of United Methodists working together as instruments of God's healing.*
- *Imagine 100% of the people of the Majority World protected from Covid. And imagine Covid eliminated from the globe.*

- *Imagine: the spirit of Christ with us as we care for each other in our times of need, for “God is not unjust; [God] will not forget your work and the love you have shown ... as you have helped . . . and continue to help them.” (Hebrews 6:10).*