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UMNS file photo by Cassandra Heller

The Rev. Clinton Rabb (above left), head of Mission Volunteers for the General Board of Global Ministries, and the Rev. Sam Dixon, head of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, died within one day of each other from injuries received in the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti. The men had been trapped together in the debris of the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince.

The Rev. Sam Dixon, leader of UMCOR, dies in Haiti

NEW YORK (UMNS) — The Rev. Sam Dixon came to Haiti to make life better for the poor and afflicted. As the leader of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, Dixon traveled the world assisting Indonesians whose homes were washed away by the tsunami, Africans whose crops had withered under unrelenting drought, and Americans needing shelter after tornadoes destroyed their neighborhoods. It came as a shock Jan. 16, when — after four days of hopes dimmed and raised again with reports of his survival — church workers learned that Dixon died of injuries. He had been buried in rubble beneath a collapsed hotel following the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti.

Mission agency's Clinton Rabb dies of quake-related injuries

NEW YORK (UMNS) — The Rev. Clinton Rabb knew how to connect volunteers with people and places in need. His effectiveness as a mover of mission was remembered, Jan. 17, after the General Board of Global Ministries announced his death from injuries sustained during the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti. The news came a day after the mission agency had

confirmed the earthquake-related death of another employee, the Rev. Sam Dixon, top executive of UMCOR. The men had been trapped together in the debris of the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince.

Haiti mission volunteer remembered as symbol of love

DALLAS (UMNS) — Clara “Jean” Arnwine, 49, who gave her life providing medical care to Haiti’s poor, was remembered in song and prayer Jan. 20 in an emotional service attended by many of the volunteers who served with her. More than 800 family members and friends of Arnwine packed Highland Park United Methodist Church in a service of celebration and thanksgiving for the mission team member, who died from injuries she received in the earthquake that struck Haiti Jan. 12. Wearing a pink carnation in honor of Arnwine’s love of flowers, 10 of the 11 surviving members of the 12-person medical mission team from the church attended the service.

Haitian Methodists, UMCOR assess volunteer projects

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (UMNS) — The Methodist Church in Haiti and United Methodist Committee

on Relief are identifying “suitable projects and assignments” for volunteer teams wishing to assist with earthquake recovery in Haiti. Both groups are asking volunteers to delay their arrival in Haiti until those assessments are complete. Evaluations in the six church circuits most impacted by the earthquake are being made to determine the extent of the damage in church communities and beyond, according to the Rev. Gesner Paul, president of the Methodist Church in Haiti.

Medical specialists top volunteer list for Haiti

NEW YORK (UMNS) — Medical specialists are the first category of volunteers needed to assist earthquake survivors in Haiti. Officials with the United Methodist Committee on Relief and other units of its parent agency, the Board of Global Ministries, said they would be working with the Methodist Church of Haiti and other organizations to provide medical and other services to Haiti. “We have already received an outpouring of inquiries and offers for volunteers to provide a variety of services,” wrote Bishop Joel Martinez, the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries’ interim top executive, in a letter to bishops. “While we are encouraged by this spirit of support, we strongly advise that teams and others not set out for Haiti at this time.”

Texas surgeon conducts 50 surgeries in Haiti

SUGAR LAND, Texas (UMNS) — United Methodist orthopedic surgeon Dr. Michael Kent, 35, was part of a four-person surgical team that spent five days in Jimini, a Dominican Republic town bordering Haiti. He conducted 50 surgeries before returning to his home in Sugar Land, Texas. “It was chaotic initially,” he said. “Some 100 people needed surgery immediately.” Since there were only two functioning operating rooms, the team converted another three rooms into surgical centers.

Hospital is home to children abandoned by quake

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (UMNS) — The doctors and staff at Grace Children’s Hospital are caring for 10 to 15 children since the Jan. 12 earthquake. They are the “abandoned” ones—children who were in the hospital when the disaster struck, or lost ones found alone and brought there. The staff knows most of their parents probably died. Under the shade of a blue tarp are a few cribs. These are the children too young or too sick to be in the tents with the others on the hospital grounds. They are

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