



2017 MINISTRY SHARES

Ministry Shares is the first priority benevolence of the local church. As United Methodists in West Michigan, we have a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people in our community and around the world through ministry shares.

As a connectional Church we are *all connected* in a structured chain of conferences, districts and local churches and together we are able to do far more than as individual churches. We give to Ministry Shares in response to God's love---to support the various ministries of our lay and clergy in starting new churches, in mission and outreach, in evangelism, in spiritual education and nurture of all ages, and in our witness to the world.

FUNDING OUR SHARED MISSION AND MINISTRIES IN 2017

GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS



www.umcgiving.org

A. World Service Fund \$858,047
It is the heart of our shared United Methodist mission and ministry at home and around the world. Supports the missionaries, builds and strengthens churches and brings the saving grace and healing of Christ to persons worldwide that a local church could not do alone. This includes recruiting, training and sending over 325 missionaries in 66 countries. Full support of the World Service Fund is a commitment by our conference. The Book of Discipline (§812) states, "the full payment of the World Service fund is the first benevolent responsibility of the church."

B. Ministerial Education Fund \$289,809
Supports the education of tomorrow's ministers in our 13 UM seminaries. One-fourth of the amount remains in our Conference under the administration of the WMC Board of Ordained Ministry for seminary scholarships and loans.

C. Black Colleges Fund \$115,602
Supports students in the eleven predominantly African-American colleges. These colleges are open to students regardless of racial origin.

D. Africa University \$25,871
In Zimbabwe, we are funding the first UM university in Africa. This university educates Africans to be ministers, teachers, healers and leaders for Africans in the name of Jesus.

E. Episcopal Fund \$254,103
Supports the ministries of bishops and their offices around the world as the spiritual and temporal leaders of UMC.

F. General Administration \$101,886
Underwrites the work of the General Conference as a conference of 800 delegates from around the world to set direction for the ministries and budget of UMC and update the Book of Discipline. Funds the administration of the finances of UMC and the safeguarding of its legal interests and assets, and maintain denominational record.

G. Interdenominational Cooperation \$22,665
Nurtures the cooperation of different denominations ministering in the name of Christ, so that the world will see our unity as a symbol of God's love in the world.

GENERAL CHURCH **\$1,667,983**

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRY

A. District Superintendents \$1,098,263
Our six district superintendents provide spiritual leadership and nurture of our pastors and congregations. Supports their ministries including salary, pension, health care and travel, including the six office assistants, office rental, utilities and office expenses for our six districts.

B. Equitable Compensation \$76,500
Enables the provision of pastors to churches that are not able to meet the minimum salary amount set by the Annual Conference.

C. Moving Expense Fund \$182,800
Provides for the cost of moving pastors' household to another appointment.

D. Board of Ordained Ministry \$47,000
Supports the recruitment, evaluation, professional development, supervision, and accreditation of clergy.

E. Clergy Advocacy \$2,000
Assist counseling for clergy family in conflicted congregations.

F. Abuse Prevention Team \$500
Support oversight of abuse prevention policy.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES \$1,407,063

CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE

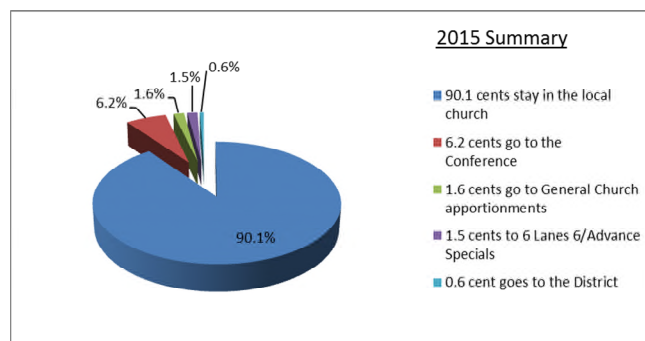
A. Connectional Ministries Office \$467,000
Funding for the Conference Connectional Ministries staff compensation and office expenses.

B. Board of Christian Camping \$183,000
Subsidy for the operation of the five Conference camps over and above camper fees

C. Board of Global Ministries \$62,750
The mission programs in our Conference include community outreach and ethnic ministries. Receiving support are more than forty local and statewide mission and outreach. Ministries including promotion and mission education, e.g. UM Community House, Metro Ministry, Clark Retirement Community, Volunteers. In Missions, etc.

D. Vital Church Initiative \$52,500
Provides leadership and training in revitalizing congregations.

Where Church Dollars went in 2015



E. Racial Ethnic Local Church \$149,895
Supplements program and operating costs of racial ethnic local churches and ministries.

F. Board of Lay Ministries \$3,000
Supports the ministry and development of laity leaders.

G. Campus Ministry & Higher Ed. \$193,000
Supports five college campus ministries including Albion and Adrian colleges.

H Pooled and Contingency Fund \$30,000
Contingency for unforeseen expenses.

I. Hispanic/Latino Ministries \$43,000
Develop new Hispanic/Latino congregations and ministries.

J. Youth Ministry \$20,000
Support engagement with young people and development of young leaders.

K. Indian Workers Conference \$111,270
Support the development and growth of our 5 Native American congregations.

L. Coordination and Meeting Expense \$2,750

M. Conference Personnel Committee \$1,500

CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE \$1,319,665

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT \$244,460

The birthing of new congregations and revitalization of existing ones are a high priority for the Conference in the fulfillment of our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION

A. Jurisdictional Conference \$16,000

Our share of the mission and ministries of the North Central Jurisdiction, which our annual conference is part of.

B. Michigan Area Support \$443,830

Our share of the support of the bishop's office, the clergy assistant to the bishop and area wide communications and Area Center operations.

C. Annual Conference Administration

1. Council on Finance & Admin. \$310,823
Covers the cost of operations of the Treasurer's office, administrative services in the Conference Center and financial audit of the Conference.

2. Conference Property \$155,000
Maintenance, insurance and utilities of district and staff parsonages and the Conference Center and legal expenses of the Conference.

3. Conference Program Committee \$11,000
Funds Annual Conference session where we gather as WMC to celebrate and affirm our shared mission and ministries.

4. Nominations & Leadership \$3,000
Training and development of leaders in the conference.

5. Conference Secretary \$14,000
Pays for recording, editing and publishing of the Conference Journal.

6. Legal Contingencies \$32,392
Provides for legal expenses to comply with the laws and protect interest of the conference.

7. Conference Statistician \$500

Expenses in gathering church data as basis for planning and development.

8. Conference Committees \$500
Covers expenses of ad hoc committees for which no specific provisions were made.

9. At Large lay Member Expenses \$93,000
Covers expenses of At Large Members to Annual Conference from each district to equalize lay and clergy membership.

10. Archives and History \$18,000
Pays for safekeeping of church historical records to preserve institutional memory and heritage of the churches.

12. Contingency & Reserve \$10,000
Provides for contingency or unforeseen expenses in any section of the budget.

ADMINISTRATION FUNDS \$1,108,045

GRAND TOTAL \$5,747,216

Second Mile Giving

"Advance Specials" allow churches to direct their giving to the areas that they feel God is calling into their circle of care. The best thing about The Advance is that every dollar donated goes to the Advance Project. That's a "good deal" when it comes to charitable giving. In West Michigan the **Six Lanes** is our model for Advance giving. **Find out** more about the General Advance, the conduit that enables partnership with hundreds of projects worldwide.

<http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/The-Advance>

Special Sunday Offerings in 2017

1. Human Relations Sunday, January 15
2. UMCOR Sunday, March 26
3. Native American Ministries Sunday, April 30
4. Peace with Justice Sunday, May 11*

5. World Communion Sunday, October 01
6. United Methodist Student Day, November 26
7. Racial Ethnic Local Church Sunday, February 05
8. Golden Cross Sunday, May 07
9. Volunteer in Mission Awareness Sunday, June 04
10. Rural Life Sunday, August 20
11. Christian Education Sunday, September 10
12. Camp Sunday, date to be selected by church
13. Disability Awareness Sunday (without offering)
Oct. 22
14. World Aids Day, December 03

5. Proceeds from sale of church assets designated for the general operating or benevolence budget.
6. Proceeds from rental or fees.
7. Fund raisers for operational and benevolent causes.

b. *Base Percentage Rate* is the percentage rate approved by annual conference. The base percentage multiplied by the actual receipts equals the ministry shares of the church.

Track Your Church's Ministry Shares Giving

Keep track of how your church is doing in meeting its ministry shares and special giving. To access that data base click on Church Ministry Shares on the home page of the Treasurers' website <http://wmc.umconline.org/>. The churches in the file are organized by district; click on your church to find your church statement. If there any questions or discrepancies between your church's records and this report, contact Ann Buck, abuck@wmcumc.org or Pros Tumonong, Conference Treasurer, treas@wmcumc.org, or call the Conference Treasurer's Office 616-459-4503 or 1- 888-217-1905.

Ministry Shares Policy and Procedures

Our Ministry Shares formula is be based on each congregation paying the *Base Percentage Rate* of its *Actual Receipts*.

a. *Actual Receipts* is the total annual income of the local church for general expenses excluding capital improvements and mortgage payments. Actual Receipts are funds used exclusively in support of the annual operating and benevolence budgets and do not include funds used for capital improvements, and mortgage payments. These funds include:

1. Payment of pledges or other commitments toward the annual operating and benevolence budgets of the church.
2. Receipts from constituents or members who did not pledge.
3. Receipts from unidentified givers (for example, loose currency in the offering plate).
4. Interest earned on funds on deposit or investments and used for the general operating or benevolence causes of the church.