



Transforming The World

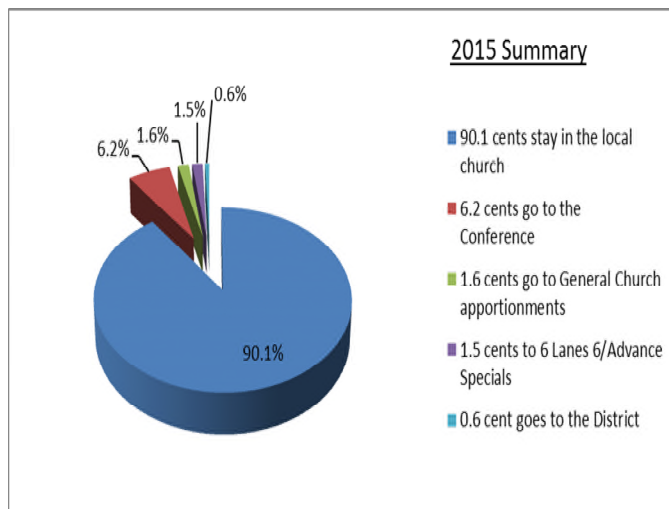
Your Ministry Shares At Work

Multiplying your gifts

How your Ministry Shares support Ministry and Mission around the world.

In 2015, the members of our 401 United Methodist churches in the West Michigan Conference made total gifts of \$ 71,456,672 at their local church. Of these gifts, 90.1% (\$64,380,666) remained in the local church for ministry, mission and operations. The remaining gifts of \$7,7076,006 (Ministry Shares) are used in support of the connectional missions and ministries of our Conference, the General Church, and six Districts to meet the mission of our church.

2015 Summary



TOTAL GIFTS FROM WMC CHURCHES

\$71,456,672

For WMC and WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES

\$5,598,759

For DISTRICT MINISTRIES

\$444,784

For 2ND MILE GIVING 6 LANES MINISTRIES

\$1,032,463

FUNDING OUR SHARED MISSION AND MINISTRIES IN 2016

GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS

Your gifts to the General Church make possible a national/global faith partnership that allows your local church to reach far beyond your community to change the world for Christ. Using the connectional power of more than 14,000 local churches and 14 million United Methodists, your gifts to the General Church contribute to amazing ministry around the world. For detailed information on how your gifts were invested in ministry and mission, please visit umcgiving.org.

World Service Fund **\$839,057**

Through this fund, your local church is connected with the global mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church. How these gifts are used is expressed through “The Four Areas of Focus of The United Methodist Church.” This is our collective focus for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by:

1. Developing Principled Christian Leaders for the Church and the World
2. Creating New Places for New People and Renewing Existing Congregations
3. Engaging in Ministry with the Poor
4. Stamping out Killer Diseases of Poverty by improving Health Globally

Because of the importance of this ministry, members of the West Michigan Conference have committed to 100% participation in the World Service Fund. This commitment makes the West Michigan Conference the leading per-capita provider of support to the World Service Fund of any United Methodist Conference in the world.

Ministerial Education Fund **\$288,065**

Now, more than ever, we need well-educated pastors to meet the needs of our local churches. This fund supports the education of tomorrow’s ministers through our 13 United Methodist seminaries. One-fourth of this gift remains under the administration of our own Board of Ordained Ministry to assure there are seminary scholarships and loans for those students from our conference

Black Colleges Fund **\$114,912**

Your gifts support eleven colleges with predominantly African-American students. The fund provides the opportunity for approximately 16,000 students of all races to be exposed to academic excellence based on the Christian perspective of community, service and social responsibility.

Africa University **\$25,724**

So that we are symbol of God’s love for the largest growing continent in the world, we support the first United Methodist University created in Africa. Your gifts provide for the transformation of Africa by educating nearly 1,200 African students each year from 25 countries in sustainable agriculture, disease prevention, peace, leadership and governance, education, church growth and development, business management and administration and ethical leadership.

Episcopal Fund **\$270,479**

Bishops of The United Methodist Church, like our own Michigan Area Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey, provide spiritual leadership to more than 11 million persons in a broad range of settings on four continents, including North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. Historically, bishops preside over Annual and Central Conferences (regional areas of the church). Our Bishops play an important leadership role in helping to set the direction of the church and its mission throughout the world.

General Administration **\$101,303**

Every four years 1,000 delegates, including a delegation from the West Michigan Conference, gather from around the world to set direction for the ministries and budget of UMC and update the Book of Discipline. Your gifts provide for the administration and the safeguarding of The United Methodist Church finances, legal interests and assets, and maintain denominational records.

Interdenominational Cooperation **\$22,540**

Through the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, your gifts allow us to partner with ecumenical organizations (other religious denominations) to advocate and work towards the full reception of the gift of Christian unity in every aspect of the church's life. Our church fosters approaches to ministry and mission that more fully reflect the oneness of Christ's church in the Christian community,

provides witness to a common Christian faith, and meets human suffering and advocate for global peace and justice all over the world.

GENERAL CHURCH TOTAL **\$1,662,080**

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRY

District Superintendents **\$1,090,488**

Your local church is connected with approximately 50-70 other area churches to form a Conference District. We have six districts in the West Michigan Conference, each led by a pastor known as the District Superintendent. This individual provides spiritual care and supervision for your pastor, supports the needs of your congregation, connects local churches in connectional missions and ministries on this level. Through your gifts, District connectional ministries are fully supported and funded, providing staff and space to help your pastor and local church grow.

Equitable Compensation **\$76,500**

So that everyone has access to competent faith leadership, your gifts assure that smaller financially challenged congregations and missional ethnic churches are able to support a competent pastor. This fund helps provide the minimum salary amount set by the Annual Conference for accredited pastors. In our conference, 15 communities are currently supported through this program.

Moving Expense Fund **\$197,800**

Welcoming a new pastor to your local church requires faith, grace, time, and effort to assure a smooth transition. Through the gift of the transition fund, moving costs never becomes a financial burden to the local church. Together, you and your new pastor can focus on the ministry of your church instead of moving.

Board of Ordained Ministry **\$47,000**

Local churches and faith communities need qualified, educated and carefully vetted individuals to serve as our pastors. This fund supports the development, recruitment, evaluation, professional development, supervision, and assists in the transition and advocacy of clergy as they grow. Thanks to this board, every pastor has received the care, support, nurturing and assessment necessary to assure every local church has qualified faith leadership.

Clergy Advocacy **\$2,000**

So that we both clergy families and congregations are supported in times of conflict, this fund assures that professional care can be received by clergy during difficult times in ministry. This gift contributes to an environment where grace and healing can occur.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES TOTAL **\$1,413,788**

CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE

Connectional Ministries Office **\$515,000**

Located in Grand Rapids, your gifts provide for a talented group of people called to the ministry of our connection. These faithful people work daily to meet the needs of our local churches and connectional ministries and missions in this conference. This fund also provides a central location to house this ministry team. They are there to help you create new disciples.

Board of Christian Camping \$253,725

There is simply no better means for introducing a child to a life-long relationship with God than through Summer Christian Camp. Children receive more Christian education and nurturing in a week than most receive in an entire year. Many give their lives to Christ at camp. Camping is supported by camp registrations and generous gifts of scholarships for children to attend. This fund, supported by your gifts, assures that our five conference camps are led by competent Camp Directors

Board of Global Ministries \$105,000

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.

Vital Church Initiative \$55,000

The Vital Church Initiative (VCI) is a “process” of renewal for growing healthy, vital, fruitful, missional congregations in our conference. This is a new process to engage our congregations for transformation. The process offers hope to leaders of congregations that have lost their outward focus by preparing them for systemic change that will enable them to once again answer God’s call to reach out to new people with the Good News.

Racial Ethnic Local Church \$179,550

Michigan is becoming a very diverse state. Your gifts assure that United Methodist racial ethnic local churches and ministries are supported in a way that allows for the creation of new disciples.

Campus Ministry & Higher Education \$324,000

College is a serious time of discernment for many college students. Many young people answer the call to ministry and/or mission during this phase of life. Your gifts provide a safe place and supports for young people on five college campus ministries (Michigan State, Central, Western, Grand Valley, and Ferris State) plus support for our two Michigan United Methodist related colleges Albion and Adrian.

Board of Lay Ministries \$3,000

The United Methodist Church is unique in that the leadership of the church is shared equally between pastors and laity (those who are not clergy). This board supports the development of laity leaders and your gifts provide training and mentoring for these important faithful people in our connection.

Communications \$36,000

So that you have accurate and up to date information on the missions and ministries of our connection and the opportunities to learn about local church growth and faith advancement, this fund provides for an area communications team and 24/7 streams of information. This fund provides you with news and information you can use through our conference website, numerous social media pages and print information.

Pooled and Contingency Fund \$10,000

To be prepared for unforeseen expenses.

Hispanic/Latino Ministries **\$45,000**

By working together we develop opportunities for Hispanic/Latinos to access a pathway to equal representation at the table-as contributors to the transformation of the world and the full realization of God's kingdom.

Youth Ministry **\$20,000**

Making it possible to equip young people to engage with others and develop future Church leadership.

Indian Workers Conference **\$123,633**

Supporting the development and growth of our 5 Native American Congregations.

Other Ministries **\$6,250**

Staffed by dedicated conference clergy and lay volunteers, these ministries receive approximately \$500 per year for meetings and administration. These ministries are able to raise additional funds through the conference. Included are; Board of Evangelism, Christian Unity, Religion & Race, COSROW, Personnel, UMM, Hunger, Prison Ministry, Disability Concerns, Board of Church and Society, Abuse Prevention Team, and Cooperative Ministry. Information on these ministries and missions can be found on the conference website.

CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCE TOTAL \$1,676,158

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT **\$257,326**

Creating new places for new people is a serious commitment of the General Church and our conference. We must continue to develop and birth new faith communities in our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. This fund makes new places possible each year.

MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION

Jurisdictional Conference **\$16,000**

Every four years the nine conferences that make up the North Central Jurisdiction meet, in part to assure that each area has the leadership of a bishop. This work and our regional missions and ministries are supported through your gifts.

Michigan Area Support **\$308,246**

So that the gifts provided to assure that our Bishop and the Clergy Assistant to the Bishop have parsonages and office space available, this fund cares for these needs.

Annual Conference Administration

Council on Finance & Admin (CF&A) \$318,666

So that your gifts are cared for, protected and invested wisely, this fund provides for a Treasurer's office and staff. This also assures an annual financial audit of the Annual Conference is conducted by an accredited independent accounting firm.

Conference Property **\$155,000**

So that the gifts provided to assure that our district and conference staff engaged in connection ministry and mission, have parsonages and office space available, this fund shares these properties are properly cared for and maintained for future generations.

Conference Program Committee \$28,000

Each year your local church sends a lay and clergy representative to Annual Conference, an annual meeting and time of shared worship, typically held each June. This gathering allows us to worship, connect, discuss the progress of missions and ministries, and look to the future of how we are called as God's people. Your gifts support the planning of this four-day spiritual event.

Nominations & Leadership \$3,000

Our dozens of missions and ministries require leadership and support by people just like you. The Nominations and Leadership ministry helps align the right people with their calling and provides training and development of leaders in the conference.

Conference Secretary \$15,000

So that you have an accurate report on the actions of our connectional ministry and the focus for the upcoming year, this fund assures that we are able to record, edit, design and publish an extensive annual report known as the Conference Journal. This publication is available free for online reading, or printed on demand and mailed to you for a small fee.

Legal Contingencies \$15,000

When legal support is needed to protect our connectional missions and ministries, this fund provides for legal needs incurred by the Conference Chancellor (attorney).

Conference Statistician \$500

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

Conference Committees \$500

Covers expenses of ad hoc committees for which no specific provisions were made.

At Large Lay Member Expenses \$40,000

To assure the voices of laity are shared equally with clergy in ministry and mission planning, this fund provides the ability for each district to send lay members to participate at Annual Conference, regardless of the location of their local church in our conference. This eases the burden of travel costs on lay leaders at more distant churches in our conference.

Archives and History \$18,000

So that you are able to access historical church records of our missions and ministries, this fund assures the safekeeping of our conference records, preserving an institutional memory and heritage of the churches of the West Michigan Conference.

Delegation Expense \$15,000

Pays for expenses for Jurisdictional and General Conference's held in 2016.

Contingency & Reserve \$25,000

Ministry often provides unforeseen expenses. So that we do not need to reduce other mission or ministry to care for these unplanned financial challenges, your gifts provide a "rainy day" fund.

ADMINISTRATION FUNDS TOTAL \$957,912

GRAND TOTAL \$5,967,264

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 2016

1. Human Relations Sunday, January 17
2. One Great Hour of Sharing, March 06
3. Native American Ministries Sunday, April 10
4. Peace with Justice Sunday, May 22*
5. World Communion Sunday, October 02
6. United Methodist Student Day, November 27
7. Racial Ethnic Local Church Sunday, February 07
8. Golden Cross Sunday, May 01
9. Volunteer in Mission Awareness Sunday, June 05
10. Rural Life Sunday, August 21
11. Christian Education Sunday, September 11
12. Camp Sunday, date to be selected by church
13. Disability Awareness Sunday (without offering) Oct. 23
14. World Aids Day, December 04

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 Statements 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.
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.