2025-2028

The United Methodist Church

BUDGET HANDBOOK

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
General Council on Finance and Administration
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Opening Letter from
General Secretary Moses Kumar

Dear Members of the United Methodist Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I write to you with gratitude and excitement as we outline the United Methodist Church's budget for the coming years. This budget is a vital tool that supports our ministry and mission across the globe, ensuring that the work of the church continues to flourish and grow.

The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) has meticulously compiled the United Methodist Church Budget Handbook, previously known as the Financial Commitment Booklet. This comprehensive document is a compilation of budgetary items passed by the General Conference in 2024. It outlines the financial commitments and allocations that will be enacted over the next four years, providing a clear and transparent roadmap for our collective financial stewardship.

This significant work could not be accomplished without the faithful and sacrificial giving of our members. It is your generosity and dedication that enable us to carry out the mission of the church, reaching out to communities in need, supporting vital ministries, and spreading the message of Christ's love and hope.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued support and commitment. Together, we can ensure that our church remains a beacon of light and a source of strength for all.

In Christ's service,

Moses Kumar

Moses Kumar
General Secretary
The United Methodist Church

Report No. 1
WORLD SERVICE FUND

Introduction

When United Methodist congregations give their share of apportioned funds, they participate in God's work. The World Service Fund is the heart of our collective church ministry. Through this fund, individuals can partner with church agencies to be in mission and ministry at home and around the world. The World Service Fund truly makes a difference by supporting ministries across the globe.

World Service is God's people reaching out in love and compassion in the name of Christ. It represents a call and a challenge to each United Methodist. As *The 2016 Book of Discipline* states, the full payment of the World Service Fund is each congregation's "first benevolent responsibility." (¶¶ 247.14, 812)

Overview

For the 2025-2028 quadrennium, the program agencies will continue their programmatic emphasis centered around four areas of focus: (1) Making New Disciples in New Places, (2) Leading Where God Calls, (3) Overcoming Poverty Together, and (4) Seeking Health and Wholeness for All.

World Service Fixed Charges

General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA"). GCFA is accountable to The United Methodist Church connection through the General Conference for receiving, disbursing, and reporting all general funds. (¶ 806) This line item is an estimate of the World Service Fund's share of GCFA's expenses for the quadrennium.

The Connectional Table ("CT"). As part of the total mission of the Church, CT facilitates the Church's program life as determined by the General Conference. Its task is to discern and articulate the vision for the Church and the stewardship of the mission, ministries, and resources of The United Methodist Church. (¶ 904)

Interpretation Resources. Along with producing materials to interpret United Methodism's connectional funds, the Marketing Team of United Methodist Communications ("UMCom") uses money from this section of the budget for "Promotion of Giving," a joint effort of UMCom, GCFA and the General Board of Discipleship ("GBOD"). The Promotion of Giving goal is to develop comprehensive financial stewardship tools, leading to improved financial support of ministry at all levels of the connection.

Program Agencies

The World Service Fund provides basic financial support to program-related general agencies, which are especially important to the common vision, mission, and ministry of The United Methodist Church. Through World Service funding, agencies support annual conferences and local congregations in living out God's mission for the worldwide Church. General agencies also provide essential services and ministries beyond the scope of individual local congregations and annual conferences through services and ministries that are highly focused, flexible, and capable of rapid response.

Strategic Directions for 2025-2028

Whenever United Methodism has had a clear sense of mission, God has used our Church to save persons, heal relationships, transform social structures, and spread scriptural holiness, thereby changing the world (¶ 121). The United Methodist Church's mission is discerned by the Council of Bishops and The Connectional Table.

Our vision remains to increase the number of vital congregations worldwide through sustained attention to the Four Areas of Focus. As such, United Methodist disciples will engage in mission and ministry throughout the connection to live out God's vision for a world where poverty is reduced and poor people and communities flourish; a world where children live to their full potential; a world where Christian leaders heed God's call to discipleship; and a world where new faith communities offer God's love and grace worldwide.

Our UMC Mission: VITAL CONGREGATIONS. *Our 2024 Vision looks forward to a United Methodist church that increases the number of highly vital congregations worldwide.*

A vital congregation is a body of Christ, making and engaging disciples for the transformation of the world. This is rooted in our understanding that local congregations provide the primary arena through which Christian disciples are called, formed, and nurtured. Five markers of vitality – disciples in worship, new disciples (professions of faith), disciples in small groups, disciples in mission, and giving to mission – help us gauge our progress together through a shared approach.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has created a worldwide challenge. This pandemic has impacted The United Methodist Church in numerous ways, including the postponements of the 2020 General Conference. Annual Conferences have had to adapt their sessions and various ministries. Most especially, life in local churches has changed dramatically. Worship, nurture, ministry, and engagement with the community have had to go through radical adaptations. Consequently, the pandemic has i creased the critical necessity of empowering existing congregations to become more vital in their ministries. It also demonstrates the need to help discover new ways to reach new people.

The challenging strain created by the departure of congregations to either independent status or affiliating with another denomination has impacted both the general Church and local congregations throughout the Connection. Our witness and ministry with and through those churches which intentionally choose to remain as a part of The United Methodist Church is at a crossroads. The Wesleyan theology and the practice of grace and discipleship of The United Methodist Church, as well as its distinctive approach to ministry, mission, and connection of the church and community, is necessary in the 21st Century. General Conference's investment in Vital Congregations is significant to the passion, vision, health, and well-being of our churches and communities.

The real measure of our missional impact will not be in membership increases or improved giving, but by the lives that are touched and drawn to Christ as disciples. These vital congregations are able to reach people with the gospel of Christ who we might not otherwise reach.

Our Mission Strategies: THE FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS. *Vital congregations are shaped by and witnessed through four focus areas: leading where God calls; making new disciples in new places; overcoming poverty together; and seeking health and wholeness for all.*

1. Leading Where God Calls: *Our 2024 Vision looks forward to a United Methodist Church equipping people across the connection to be "difference makers" by leading where God calls.*

Our United Methodist Church believes that Jesus is "calling you out" for something greater than any one person. The question for every United Methodist today and into our future is: "What difference will you make?"

The simple answer is that you can make a difference by following God's call to leadership wherever you are: at the local church, in the mission field, in each community and society across our world. We believe we can equip every United Methodist across our connection to be effective "difference makers" for Jesus.

2. Making New Disciples in New Places: *Our 2024 Vision looks forward to a United Methodist Church with **new disciples** who profess their faith through renewed and new faith communities around the world.*

Creating new, vital faith communities is critical to the task of making new disciples and transforming the world. A ***faith community*** is a group that gathers under the reign of Jesus Christ to worship, engage, and send. It is within faith communities that we receive new disciples through professions of faith and increase professions of faith. This multilayered strategy focuses on increasing the number of new faith communities in annual conferences across the world.

3. Overcoming Poverty Together: *Our 2024 Vision looks forward to a United Methodist Church with **vibrant, flourishing, and transforming communities addressing issues of poverty together.***

As faith disciples, we are called to love our neighbors – to walk, worship, and witness so that all may enjoy God's vision of abundant life. As United Methodists, we will challenge and transform broken systems and structures that create and perpetuate poverty. Leveraging connections and partnerships within and beyond The United Methodist Church, we can transform communities and open doors for a more promising future.

4. Seeking Health and Wholeness for All: *Our 2024 Vision looks forward to a United Methodist Church that can reach **people around the world with life-saving interventions.***

Every child is a life filled with promise and potential, yet every five seconds, a child dies from preventable causes. Pre-pandemic, the United Nations Health Organization estimated that forty-one million people die of preventable chronic illnesses each year around the world. The United Methodist Church has a sacred calling to ensure abundant health for all people, engaging disciples to be agents of God's healing transformation in the world. Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

There is a global movement to significantly improve health for all people by 2035, through education, direct health services to those in need, and increased access to medical care.

5. The eradication of racism, white supremacy, patriarchy, and colonialism.

2016 General Conference Action

The 2016 General Conference approved the continuation of two initiatives which began in 2012:

Commission on Central Conference Theological Education. Paragraph 817 provides for a Commission on Central Conference Theological Education, elected by the Council of Bishops, to determine policies and procedures and approve disbursements from this fund. The Commission includes one person from each central conference, members of the Council of Bishops and Boards of Ordained Ministry, and representatives of theological schools, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry ("GBHEM"), the General Board of Global Ministries ("GBGM"), and the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters.

Proceeds from this fund are to be used in central conferences at the discretion of the Commission to: (1) develop theological schools; (2) develop courses of study; (3) develop libraries and contextually developed resources; (4) provide scholarships and faculty development; (5) support associations and networks of faculty and schools; and (6) support new and innovative approaches to theological education. GBHEM administers this designated fund.

Young Clergy Initiative Fund. This Fund provides support to increase the number of young clergy among the jurisdictional conferences, and was a three-quadrennium effort, which ended in 2024. It was established to enable The United Methodist Church to focus efforts on encouraging young adults responding to the call to ordained ministry by providing a strong theological education in the United Methodist tradition. This initiative has been in addition to the funds the Church already has budgeted for discernment, recruitment, nurturing, education, and support of young clergy leaders.

Because the term of the fund ended in 2024, funding for 2025-28 is not included. The boards and commissions, in collaboration with annual conference boards of ordained ministry, seminaries, bishops, and cabinets, will continue to determine the most effective use of any remaining funds in response to the needs of young clergy leaders. GBHEM administers this designated fund.

Other Ministries

Contingency Fund. The Contingency Fund for World Service provides funding for emerging needs in the World Service Fund areas that occur during a quadrennium. These funds are normally granted to program agencies for new programs to address unanticipated needs with the approval of The Connectional Table. Grants from the World Service Contingency Fund will not be given for general administrative costs, fixed charges, or capital outlay without approval from GCFA.

WORLD SERVICE FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (3)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (2)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
Fixed Charges					
Interpretation Resources	$ 1,442,000	$ 1,432,197	$ 806,588	$ (625,609)	-43.7%
Connectional Table	2,155,000	2,140,350	2,214,951	74,601	3.5%
General Commission on Religion and Race [(1)]	7,404,806	7,354,467	7,666,468	312,001	4.2%
Core Action Plan Fund [(1)]	2,505,812	2,488,777	2,633,450	144,673	5.8%
General Commission on the Status and Role of Women [(1)]	3,984,606	3,957,518	4,094,158	136,640	3.5%
Native American Comprehensive Plan [(1)]	1,080,664	1,073,317	1,135,709	62,392	5.8%
Strengthening the Black Church [(1)]	1,989,960	1,976,432	2,091,323	114,891	5.8%
Asian American Language Ministry [(1)]	1,408,000	1,398,428	1,479,719	81,291	5.8%
Korean Ministry Plan [(1)]	3,082,000	3,061,048	3,238,988	177,940	5.8%
Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry [(1)]	2,382,000	3,143,830	3,326,582	182,752	5.8%
Pacific Island Ministry [(1)]	544,000	540,302	571,710	31,408	5.8%
General Council on Finance and Administration	7,423,000	7,372,537	3,920,585	(3,451,952)	-46.8%
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 35,401,848**	**$ 35,939,203**	**$ 33,180,231**	**$ (2,758,972)**	**-7.7%**
On-Ratio:					
General Board of Church and Society	$ 11,178,712	$ 11,021,677	$ 5,606,110	$ (5,415,567)	-49.1%
General Board of Discipleship	35,497,388	34,952,169	16,344,050	(18,608,119)	-53.2%
General Board of Global Ministries	112,100,584	111,338,501	56,370,786	(54,967,715)	-49.4%
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	27,512,708	26,932,588	13,517,626	(13,414,962)	-49.8%
Central Conference Theological Education Fund	5,000,000	10,000,000	5,249,437	(4,750,563)	-47.5%
Young Clergy Initiative: Jurisdictional Conferences	7,000,000	6,952,413	-	(6,952,413)	-100.0%
General Commission on United Methodist Men	1,487,084	1,476,974	909,717	(567,257)	-38.4%
United Methodist Communications	72,141,492	71,651,059	36,035,780	(35,615,279)	-49.7%
Contingency Reserve	467,000	463,825	243,482	(220,343)	-47.5%
Total On-Ratio	**$ 272,384,968**	**$ 274,789,206**	**$ 134,276,988**	**$ (140,512,218)**	**-51.1%**
Grand Total	**$ 307,786,816**	**$ 310,728,409**	**$ 167,457,219**	**$ (143,271,190)**	**-46.1%**

(1) At the request of The Connectional Table, the allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent change, but rather to sustain these missions during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(2) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(3) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

WORLD SERVICE FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (2)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Fixed Charges				
Interpretation Resources	$ 198,867	$ 192,377	$ 209,043	$ 206,301
Connectional Table	546,104	528,281	574,048	566,518
General Commission on Religion and Race (1)	1,890,194	1,828,506	1,986,915	1,960,853
Core Action Plan Fund (1)	649,286	628,096	682,510	673,558
General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (1)	1,009,429	976,485	1,061,081	1,047,163
Native American Comprehensive Plan (1)	280,013	270,875	294,341	290,480
Strengthening the Black Church (1)	515,623	498,795	542,007	534,898
Asian American Language Ministry (1)	364,830	352,923	383,498	378,468
Korean Ministry Plan (1)	798,583	772,521	839,447	828,437
Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry (1)	820,180	793,413	862,149	850,840
Pacific Island Ministry (1)	140,957	136,357	148,170	146,226
General Council on Finance and Administration	966,633	935,087	1,016,096	1,002,769
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 8,180,699**	**$ 7,913,716**	**$ 8,599,305**	**$ 8,486,511**
On-Ratio:				
General Board of Church and Society	$ 1,382,206	$ 1,337,096	$ 1,452,933	$ 1,433,875
General Board of Discipleship	4,029,681	3,898,170	4,235,881	4,180,318
General Board of Global Ministries	13,898,409	13,444,825	14,609,593	14,417,959
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	3,332,817	3,224,048	3,503,358	3,457,403
Central Conference Theological Education Fund	1,294,266	1,252,027	1,360,494	1,342,650
General Commission on United Methodist Men	224,294	216,974	235,771	232,678
United Methodist Communications	8,884,744	8,594,785	9,339,378	9,216,873
Contingency Reserve	60,031	58,072	63,103	62,276
Total On-Ratio	**$ 33,106,448**	**$ 32,025,997**	**$ 34,800,511**	**$ 34,344,032**
Grand Total	**$ 41,287,147**	**$ 39,939,713**	**$ 43,399,816**	**$ 42,830,543**

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(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

WORLD SERVICE FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (3)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (2)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
Fixed Charges					
Interpretation Resources	$ 1,442,000	$ 1,432,197	$ 763,622	$ (668,575)	-46.7%
Connectional Table	2,155,000	2,140,350	2,096,962	(43,388)	-2.0%
General Commission on Religion and Race (1)	7,404,806	7,354,467	7,258,078	(96,389)	-1.3%
Core Action Plan Fund (1)	2,505,812	2,488,777	2,493,168	4,391	0.2%
General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (1)	3,984,606	3,957,518	3,876,064	(81,454)	-2.1%
Native American Comprehensive Plan (1)	1,080,664	1,073,317	1,075,210	1,893	0.2%
Strengthening the Black Church (1)	1,989,960	1,976,432	1,979,919	3,487	0.2%
Asian American Language Ministry (1)	1,408,000	1,398,428	1,400,895	2,467	0.2%
Korean Ministry Plan (1)	3,082,000	3,061,048	3,066,448	5,400	0.2%
Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry (1)	2,382,000	3,143,830	3,149,376	5,546	0.2%
Pacific Island Ministry (1)	544,000	540,302	541,255	953	0.2%
General Council on Finance and Administration	7,423,000	7,372,537	3,711,737	(3,660,800)	-49.7%
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 35,401,848**	**$ 35,939,203**	**$ 31,412,734**	**$ (4,526,469)**	**-12.6%**
On-Ratio:					
General Board of Church and Society	$ 11,178,712	$ 11,021,677	$ 5,307,475	$ (5,714,202)	-51.8%
General Board of Discipleship	35,497,388	34,952,169	15,473,408	(19,478,761)	-55.7%
General Board of Global Ministries	112,100,584	111,338,501	53,367,935	(57,970,566)	-52.1%
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	27,512,708	26,932,588	12,797,547	(14,135,041)	-52.5%
Central Conference Theological Education Fund	5,000,000	10,000,000	4,969,801	(5,030,199)	-50.3%
Young Clergy Initiative: Jurisdictional Conferences	7,000,000	6,952,413	-	(6,952,413)	-100.0%
General Commission on United Methodist Men	1,487,084	1,476,974	861,257	(615,717)	-41.7%
United Methodist Communications	72,141,492	71,651,059	34,116,168	(37,534,891)	-52.4%
Contingency Reserve	467,000	463,825	230,512	(233,313)	-50.3%
Total On-Ratio	**$ 272,384,968**	**$ 274,789,206**	**$ 127,124,103**	**$ (147,665,103)**	**-53.7%**
Grand Total	**$ 307,786,816**	**$ 310,728,409**	**$ 158,536,837**	**$ (152,191,572)**	**-49.0%**

(1) At the request of The Connectional Table, the allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent change, but rather to sustain these missions during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(2) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(3) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

WORLD SERVICE FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (2)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Fixed Charges				
Interpretation Resources	$ 198,867	$ 192,377	$ 187,418	$ 184,960
Connectional Table	546,104	528,281	514,664	507,913
General Commission on Religion and Race (1)	1,890,194	1,828,506	1,781,372	1,758,006
Core Action Plan Fund (1)	649,286	628,096	611,906	603,880
General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (1)	1,009,429	976,485	951,314	938,836
Native American Comprehensive Plan (1)	280,013	270,875	263,892	260,430
Strengthening the Black Church (1)	515,623	498,795	485,938	479,563
Asian American Language Ministry (1)	364,830	352,923	343,826	339,316
Korean Ministry Plan (1)	798,583	772,521	752,608	742,736
Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry (1)	820,180	793,413	772,961	762,822
Pacific Island Ministry (1)	140,957	136,357	132,842	131,099
General Council on Finance and Administration	966,633	935,087	910,983	899,034
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 8,180,699**	**$ 7,913,716**	**$ 7,709,724**	**$ 7,608,595**
On-Ratio:				
General Board of Church and Society	$ 1,382,206	$ 1,337,096	$ 1,302,630	$ 1,285,543
General Board of Discipleship	4,029,681	3,898,170	3,797,686	3,747,871
General Board of Global Ministries	13,898,409	13,444,825	13,098,256	12,926,445
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	3,332,817	3,224,048	3,140,941	3,099,741
Central Conference Theological Education Fund	1,294,266	1,252,027	1,219,754	1,203,754
General Commission on United Methodist Men	224,294	216,974	211,381	208,608
United Methodist Communications	8,884,744	8,594,785	8,373,236	8,263,403
Contingency Reserve	60,031	58,072	56,575	55,834
Total On-Ratio	**$ 33,106,448**	**$ 32,025,997**	**$ 31,200,459**	**$ 30,791,199**
Grand Total	**$ 41,287,147**	**$ 39,939,713**	**$ 38,910,183**	**$ 38,399,794**

(1) At the request of The Connectional Table, the allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change is classification is not intended to be a permanent change, but rather to sustain these missions during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

Report No. 2
MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND

Background

The Ministerial Education Fund was established by action of the 1968 General Conference. Its mission is to engage the membership of the Church in an effort to equip annual confeences, theological schools, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry ("GBHEM") to meet the need for increased resources for the recruitment and education of persons for ministry.

Every clergyperson who has served in The United Methodist Church over the past 54 years has been shaped in part by the ministries and institutions supported by the Ministerial Education Fund. Support is provided for the thirteen United Methodist seminaries in the United States, as well as the local pastor Course of Study, continuing education, and other programs that strengthen the ministry of every local church. Twenty-five percent of the apportioned funds is retained by each annual conference to directly support ministerial education as approved by that conference; 56.25% is disbursed to the thirteen seminaries; and 18.75% is utilized by GBHEM to directly support connectional ministerial education and formation.

Recommendations

The Ministerial Education Fund was first apportioned in 1970 to the jurisdictional annual conferences as one of the Church's general funds. During the 52-year period through 2022 almost $900 million has been disbursed to support this important work. GCFA recommends that the General Conference approve the following amounts to be apportioned for the 2025-2028 quadrennium:

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (2)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
On-Ratio					
Annual Conferences	$ 26,417,000	$ 26,237,412	$ 14,480,745	$ (11,756,667)	-44.8%
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	79,251,000	78,712,235	43,442,233	(35,270,002)	-44.8%
Grand Total	**$ 105,668,000**	**$ 104,949,647**	**$ 57,922,978**	**$ (47,026,669)**	**-44.8%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (1)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
On-Ratio				
Annual Conferences	$ 3,570,277	$ 3,453,758	$ 3,752,969	$ 3,703,741
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	10,710,830	10,361,275	11,258,906	11,111,222
Total	**$ 14,281,107**	**$ 13,815,033**	**$ 15,011,875**	**$ 14,814,963**

(1) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (2)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
On-Ratio					
Annual Conferences	$ 26,417,000	$ 26,237,412	$ 13,709,361	$ (12,528,051)	-47.7%
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	79,251,000	78,712,235	41,128,082	(37,584,153)	-47.7%
Grand Total	**$ 105,668,000**	**$ 104,949,647**	**$ 54,837,443**	**$ (50,112,204)**	**-47.7%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (1)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
On-Ratio				
Annual Conferences	$ 3,570,277	$ 3,453,758	$ 3,364,730	$ 3,320,596
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	10,710,830	10,361,275	10,094,191	9,961,786
Total	**$ 14,281,107**	**$ 13,815,033**	**$ 13,458,921**	**$ 13,282,382**

(1) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

Amounts received by the annual conference treasurers for this fund will be distributed as described in ¶ 816.

Report No. 3

THE BLACK COLLEGE FUND

Background

The 1972 General Conference established the Black College Fund as one of the apportioned general Church funds. The objective of the fund is to provide financial support for institutions of higher education that have historically served the educational needs of black students. This support helps the institutions maintain academic quality and financial stability while limiting individual student tuition costs. More than $323 million has been disbursed to assist the programs and ministries of these schools since the fund was established.

Recommendations

The General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA") recommends:

1. That the 2025-2028 apportionments be set as follows:

BLACK COLLEGE FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (2)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
On-Ratio					
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	$ 42,150,000	$ 41,863,455	$ 23,104,946	$ (18,758,509)	-44.8%
Grand Total	**$ 42,150,000**	**$ 41,863,455**	**$ 23,104,946**	**$ (18,758,509)**	**-44.8%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

BLACK COLLEGE FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (2)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
On-Ratio					
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	$ 42,150,000	$ 41,863,455	$ 21,874,154	$ (19,989,301)	-47.7%
Grand Total	**$ 42,150,000**	**$ 41,863,455**	**$ 21,874,154**	**$ (19,989,301)**	**-47.7%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (1)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
On-Ratio				
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	$ 5,696,603	$ 5,510,691	$ 5,988,099	$ 5,909,553
Total	**$ 5,696,603**	**$ 5,510,691**	**$ 5,988,099**	**$ 5,909,553**

(1) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

BLACK COLLEGE FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (1)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
On-Ratio				
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	$ 5,696,603	$ 5,510,691	$ 5,368,641	$ 5,298,219
Total	**$ 5,696,603**	**$ 5,510,691**	**$ 5,368,641**	**$ 5,298,219**

(1) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

2. That GCFA remit monthly receipts for this fund to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry ("GBHEM") for distribution to the colleges using the formula described in ¶ 815. GBHEM shall promote the Black College Fund.

3. That an annual conference may make direct and/or designated gifts for current expense or capital funds purposes to one or more of these colleges, but only after it has met its full Black College Fund apportionment. There may be reasonable exceptions to this restriction, but such exceptions will be agreed to by GBHEM prior to implementation.

Report No. 4

AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND

Background

The 1988 General Conference approved the establishment of a United Methodist university on the continent of Africa. By the time the 1992 General Conference convened, the site selection process was complete, the Zimbabwe Annual Conference had gifted the university with a large tract of land on which to establish the main campus, and the university had been granted a charter by the government of Zimbabwe. On March 23, 1992, the College of Theology and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources opened on a site near Old Mutare to 40 students from six African countries.

Subsequent General Conferences have heard and affirmed reports on the continuing development of this university for all of Africa. The vitality of the University was evidenced by the creation of additional courses (now over 1,500), increases in the number of faculty members and students, and the growth of the physical plant. There are currently three colleges and one school within the University, namely: (1) College of Health, Agriculture and Natural Sciences; (2) College of Business, Peace, Leadership and Governance; (3) College of Social Sciences, Theology, Humanity and Education; and (4) the School of Law.

Current Realities

The student body typically numbers about 2,500 full-time students and 300 part-time students from up to 28 African countries. All 14 Africa Central Conferences, where the United Methodist Church is experiencing significant growth, are well-represented in the student body. The university has a 95% graduation rate and more than 92% of the graduates remain on the continent of Africa.

Africa University's more than 12,000 alumni have solidified the university's status as a leadership preparation institution. They are bishops, college and seminary presidents, faculty members, district superintendents, communicators, hospital and clinic managers, farmers and agricultural extension workers, and leaders in every walk of life.

Five core goals inform the priorities of Africa University's fifth vice chancellor (president) as he inspires the evolution of the institution's missional impact beyond its 30-year milestone. They are: (1) Enhance Student Access and Success, (2) Invest and Empower (faculty and administrators), (3) Increase Financial Stewardship and Institutional Sustainability, (4) Cultivate Strategic Partnerships and Economic Competitiveness, and (5) Internationalize Research, Teaching and Learning.

The Africa University Fund supports the ministry's core needs and amounts to 14 percent of the institution's $14 million annual budget. Africa University is deeply thankful to the local churches for their ever faithful and generous contributions, leading to a significant number of annual conferences investing 100 percent or more of their asking in 2022. With 83.83% in overall giving in 2022, the Africa University Fund continues to be actively supported within the Church.

World Service Special Gifts have also been sought since 1988. These gifts have been held and invested as permanent endowment funds for the University. As of 2022, contributions and investment earnings have resulted in an endowment fund of more than $100 million, with the proceeds going primarily to pay for student scholarships.

The Africa University Board of Directors is working to expand the basic infrastructure of the main campus and increase the permanent endowment fund.

Recommendations

The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) recommends the 2025-2028 apportionments as follows:

AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (2)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
On-Ratio					
Africa University	$ 9,433,000	$ 9,368,872	$ 5,170,794	$ (4,198,078)	-44.8%
Grand Total	**$ 9,433,000**	**$ 9,368,872**	**$ 5,170,794**	**$ (4,198,078)**	**-44.8%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (1)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
On-Ratio				
Africa University	$ 1,274,877	$ 1,233,270	$ 1,340,113	$ 1,322,534
Total	**$ 1,274,877**	**$ 1,233,270**	**$ 1,340,113**	**$ 1,322,534**

(1) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (2)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
On-Ratio					
Africa University	$ 9,433,000	$ 9,368,872	$ 4,895,348	$ (4,473,524)	-47.7%
Grand Total	**$ 9,433,000**	**$ 9,368,872**	**$ 4,895,348**	**$ (4,473,524)**	**-47.7%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (1)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
On-Ratio				
Africa University	$ 1,274,877	$ 1,233,270	$ 1,201,480	$ 1,185,721
Total	**$ 1,274,877**	**$ 1,233,270**	**$ 1,201,480**	**$ 1,185,721**

(1) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

Also, an annual conference may make direct and/or designated gifts for current expense or capital funds purposes to Africa University.

Report No. 5
THE EPISCOPAL FUND

The Episcopal Fund, raised in accordance with ¶ 818.3, provides for the salary and expenses of active bishops from the date of their consecration and for the support of retired bishops and surviving spouses and minor children of deceased bishops.

The General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA") is recommending a budget for the Episcopal Fund that is 10-15% lower than the 2017-2020 budget approved in 2016. This compares to an overall recommended decrease of 39-47% to the other six general Church funds.

This revised report includes an additional $10 million in funding to the Episcopal Fund compared to the version submitted in the Advanced Daily Christian Advocate (ADCA), which is an increase of $15 million relative to a pro-rata share of the budget adjusted for higher disaffiliation than projected. This $15 million increase was agreed to collaboratively by the agency General Secretaries, The Connectional Table, the Council of Bishops Executive Committee, and GCFA, in response to a request from the Council of Bishops for additional funding. The additional amount is intended to be temporary in nature to facilitate the necessary leadership to lead the denomination through this transitional period in the life of the Church. The increase to the Episcopal Fund came from two sources:

1. An increase to the base percentage originally recommended by GCFA, as printed in GCFA Report No. 8 in the the ADCA, from 2.54% to 2.595%. This increase adds $7.5 million to the Episcopal Fund allocation.
2. A shift to the Episcopal Fund of $7.5 million that was previously allocated to the general agencies. Wespath has proposed legislation to the 2020 General Conference that would terminate legacy pension plans that have excess funding. If that proposal is approved, this excess funding would be distributed during the upcoming quadrennium to offset the budget decrease to the agencies.

Currently there are 46 jurisdictional episcopal areas and 25 central conference episcopal areas. These figures include the five new areas in Africa approved by the 2016 General Conference. There are 39 active bishops in the jurisdictions and 19 in the central conferences. The budget presented below includes total projected apportionments of $82.8 million across both the jurisdictions and central conferences. If all of the current episcopal areas are filled after General Conference, quadrennial spending would be approximately $99.6 million. With an 85% collection rate in the jurisdictions and a 50% collection rate in the central conferences, this would create a quadrennial deficit in 2025-2028 of approximately $33 million. Considering the projected beginning Episcopal Fund balance on January 1, 2025, is expected to be approximately $15 million, this projects to a $18 million negative fund balance at the end of 2028 (see the chart below). The deficit would need to be offset by reductions in costs in any of the cost structural items listed below, increased collection rates, or both. It is important to note that General Conference cannot delegate to GCFA the authority to move dollars between apportioned funds during the quadrennium.

The quadrennial cost structure of the Episcopal Fund with 46 jurisdictional and 25 central conference bishops includes:

1. Salaries and benefits - $55.6 million
2. Office, equipment, and housing grants - $26.4 million
3. Meetings and travel - $6.0 million

4. Council of Bishops office & ecumenical work - $5.8 million
5. Retiree benefits – $2.8 million
6. GCFA fixed charges - $1.8 million
7. Insurance coverages - $0.6 million
8. All other costs - $0.6 million

The quadrennial costs per episcopal area are $1.4 million in the jurisdictions and $0.9 million in the central conferences. Within the central conferences, the quadrennial costs are $0.8 million in Africa and the Philippines and $1.4 million in Europe.

GCFA presents the following recommendations concerning items in the Episcopal Fund for the 2025-2028 quadrennium. The items will be reviewed and set annually by GCFA. Section III-A below provides authority to GCFA to adjust the budget as necessary to respond to relevant changes in economic circumstances.

I. Bishops Elected by the Jurisdictional and Central Conferences

A proposed annual spending plan of estimated receipts on apportionment of the Episcopal Fund and expenses for each episcopal office will be submitted to GCFA on forms furnished by it. The proposed spending plan will include funding for salary, housing allowance, and office expense as recommended by the respective episcopal area, jurisdictional or central conference, or committee on episcopacy.

A. Salaries

1. Active Bishops. All salaries are set annually by GCFA. The salary of a bishop newly elected in 2024 or 2025 will begin on the date of his/her consecration, or 6 weeks prior to the assignment date, whichever is later, at the annual rate established by GCFA for 2024 or 2025.

a. Jurisdictional Bishops. The 2024 salary for jurisdictional bishops is $180,900. Any salary adjustments for 2025 through 2028 will be set by GCFA annually. Considerations for determining salary adjustments each year will include the percentage adjustment for workers in state and local government as published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the review of other relevant compensation studies as determined by GCFA, and the overall economic status of the Episcopal Fund and its reserves.

GCFA will notify each newly elected bishop's current salary-paying unit of the date on which payment of salary from the Episcopal Fund will begin.

b. Central Conference Bishops. The salary of each bishop will be recommended by the respective central conference or its committee on episcopacy as included in the area spending plan. The 2024 salaries for central conference bishops are as follows:

Episcopal Area / Regions	2024 Salary
Africa	$88,888.00
Philippines	$88,888.00
Central and Southern Europe	$140,551.00
Eurasia	$73,507.00
Germany	$67,051.00
Nordic and Baltic	$102,031.00

Any salary adjustments for 2025 through 2028 will be set by GCFA annually after reviewing the recommendations. Considerations for determining salary adjustments will include the review of cost-of-living changes in each episcopal area, relevant compensation studies as determined by GCFA, and the overall economic status of the Episcopal Fund and its reserves.

2. Special Assignment (¶ 408.1*d*)

a. Bishops who have retired pursuant to ¶ 408.1 and who accept a special assignment from the Council of Bishops to a general agency or United Methodist Church-related institution of higher education as outlined in ¶ 408.1d(2) will receive remuneration not to exceed 20% of an active bishop's salary in the episcopal area from which they retired. The Episcopal Fund's share will not exceed 50% of the compensation established by the general agency or United Methodist Church-related institution of higher education. The agency or institution of higher learning will assume all responsibility for the bishop's operational and travel expenses related to the assignment.

b. Retired bishops who accept a special assignment from the Council of Bishops with a direct relationship and accountability to the Council of Bishops following mandatory retirement, as outlined in ¶408.1*d*(1), such as the COB Executive Secretary or Ecumenical Officer, will receive remuneration of 50% of an active bishop's current salary in the episcopal area from which the bishop retired, with the stipulation that GCFA can adjust this salary level if necessary due to the economic status of the Episcopal Fund and its reserves.

3. Salary Payment. Due to the variation in time of election, consecration, and assignment, there may be up to six weeks of salary and benefits provided from the Episcopal Fund prior to the date of assignment for any newly elected bishop.

B. Episcopal Residence/Housing.

The annual conference(s) constituting the episcopal area to which the bishop is assigned will be responsible for providing an episcopal residence or allowance for the bishop.

1. Jurisdictional Bishops. The Episcopal Fund will provide a grant of $10,000 annually per active bishop to assist in the cost of providing an episcopal residence or allowance. This annual grant will be paid to the annual conference in the episcopal area designated by the area's episcopal residence committee. This annual grant will continue during any period in the quadrennium where the episcopal area is being served by an interim bishop. The amount of this grant can be adjusted by GCFA if necessary due to the overall economic status of the Episcopal Fund and its reserves.

2. Central Conferences Bishops. The Episcopal Fund will provide a grant annually per active bishop to assist in the cost of providing an episcopal residence or allowance. The amount for each episcopal area will be set annually by GCFA. This annual grant will be paid to the annual conference in the episcopal area designated by the area's episcopal residence committee. This annual grant will continue during any period in the quadrennium where the episcopal area is being served by an interim bishop. The amount of this grant can be adjusted by GCFA if necessary.

3. Guidelines will be developed by the respective jurisdictional or central conference committees on episcopacy for transition in episcopal residences.

4. If a bishop dies while in active service and the episcopal residence is provided by the annual conference, the surviving spouse may continue to occupy the episcopal residence for up to 120 days following the date of death of the bishop.

C. Office Expense

1. Each episcopal area will receive an annual grant as set by GCFA to be applied towards the operation of the episcopal office. The number of annual grants within a jurisdiction or central conference shall not exceed the number of currently elected bishops serving within the jurisdiction or central conference. This annual grant will continue during any period in the quadrennium where the episcopal area is being served by an interim bishop. Such grants will be paid quarterly in the jurisdictions and monthly in the central conferences.

D. Travel Expense

The Episcopal Fund will pay the travel expenses of all members of the Council of Bishops in accordance with the Episcopal Fund Travel Expense Policies and Procedures then in effect. These travel expense policies are in accordance with the General Agency Expense and Reimbursement Policies for all general funds of The United Methodist Church as approved by GCFA.

II. Miscellaneous Other Matters

A. Council of Bishops Staff Office

The Council of Bishops will submit an annual spending plan to GCFA providing for the expenses related to the Council of Bishops staff and the office located in Washington, D.C. The administrative costs and other expenses incurred by the Council of Bishops staff in the performance of the duties of this office will also be included in the spending plan. The spending plan will be subject to the approval of GCFA.

B. Ecumenical and Interreligious Ministries

The Council of Bishops will submit an annual spending plan to GCFA to provide for expenses pertaining to the Ecumenical and Interreligious ministries of the Council of Bishops. The spending plan is subject to the approval of GCFA.

C. Faith and Order Ministries

The Council of Bishops will submit an annual spending plan to GCFA to provide for expenses pertaining to the Faith and Order ministries of the Council of Bishops. The spending plan is subject to the approval of GCFA.

III. FUNDING

A. Changes During Quadrennium

If, in the judgment of GCFA, economic conditions require increasing or decreasing the amounts authorized in this report, GCFA is authorized to make such adjustments.

B. Apportionment for the Episcopal Fund

Both the jurisdictional and central conferences will be apportioned based upon the formulas recommended by GCFA in its Report No. 8. GCFA recommends the apportionment for the Episcopal Fund during the 2025-2028 quadrennium be:

EPISCOPAL FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (2)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
Jurisdictional Fixed Charges					
General Council on Finance and Administration	3,000,000	2,979,605	1,900,000	(1,079,605)	-36.2%
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 3,000,000**	**$ 2,979,605**	**$ 1,900,000**	**$ (1,079,605)**	**-36.2%**
Jurisdictional On-Ratio	**$ 89,649,184**	**$ 89,039,730**	**$ 80,642,341**	**$ (8,397,389)**	**-9.4%**
Total Jurisdictional Apportionments	**$ 92,649,184**	**$ 92,019,335**	**$ 82,542,341**	**$ (9,476,994)**	**-10.3%**
Central Conference On-Ratio	**$ 3,664,928**	**$ 3,690,081**	**$ 4,875,222**	**$ 1,185,141**	**32.1%**
Grand Total	**$ 96,314,112**	**$ 95,709,416**	**$ 87,417,563**	**$ (8,291,853)**	**-8.7%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

EPISCOPAL FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (1)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Jurisdictional Fixed Charges				
General Council on Finance and Administration	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 475,000**	**$ 475,000**	**$ 475,000**	**$ 475,000**
Total Jurisdictional On-Ratio	**$ 19,876,096**	**$ 19,211,925**	**$ 20,917,467**	**$ 20,636,853**
Total Jurisdictional Apportionments	**$ 20,351,096**	**$ 19,686,925**	**$ 21,392,467**	**$ 21,111,853**
Central Conference On-Ratio	**$ 1,146,534**	**$ 1,254,358**	**$ 1,239,116**	**$ 1,235,214**
Grand Total	**$ 21,497,630**	**$ 20,941,283**	**$ 22,631,583**	**$ 22,347,067**

(1) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

EPISCOPAL FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (2)

		2013-2016		2017-2020 (1)		2025-2028		$ Change	% Change
Jurisdictional Fixed Charges									
General Council on Finance and Administration		3,000,000		2,979,605		1,900,000		(1,079,605)	-36.2%
Total Fixed Charges	**$**	**3,000,000**	**$**	**2,979,605**	**$**	**1,900,000**	**$**	**(1,079,605)**	**-36.2%**
Jurisdictional On-Ratio	**$**	**89,649,184**	**$**	**89,039,730**	**$**	**76,245,342**	**$**	**(12,794,388)**	**-14.4%**
Total Jurisdictional Apportionments	**$**	**92,649,184**	**$**	**92,019,335**	**$**	**78,145,342**	**$**	**(13,873,993)**	**-15.1%**
Central Conference On-Ratio	**$**	**3,664,928**	**$**	**3,690,081**	**$**	**4,619,257**	**$**	**929,176**	**25.2%**
Grand Total	**$**	**96,314,112**	**$**	**95,709,416**	**$**	**82,764,599**	**$**	**(12,944,817)**	**-13.5%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

EPISCOPAL FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (1)

		2025		2026		2027		2028
Jurisdictional Fixed Charges								
General Council on Finance and Administration		475,000		475,000		475,000		475,000
Total Fixed Charges	**$**	**475,000**	**$**	**475,000**	**$**	**475,000**	**$**	**475,000**
Total Jurisdictional On-Ratio	**$**	**19,876,096**	**$**	**19,211,925**	**$**	**18,704,451**	**$**	**18,452,870**
Total Jurisdictional Apportionments	**$**	**20,351,096**	**$**	**19,686,925**	**$**	**19,179,451**	**$**	**18,927,870**
Central Conference On-Ratio	**$**	**1,146,534**	**$**	**1,254,358**	**$**	**1,110,931**	**$**	**1,107,433**
Grand Total	**$**	**21,497,630**	**$**	**20,941,283**	**$**	**20,290,382**	**$**	**20,035,303**

(1) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

Report No. 6
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND

The General Administration Fund (¶ 813) finances general Church activities that are specifically administrative in nature. In the 2025-2028 quadrennium, the jurisdictional apportionments for these General Administration Fund activities will decrease by 21.9%-23.3% from the 2017-2020 quadrennium. Without the additional funding allocated for a General Conference to be held in between 2024 and 2028, the decrease from 2017-2020 would be 46.5%. Central Conference apportionments are increasing by 6.9% as membership in these areas are growing at a time when the U.S. is decreasing. The General Council on Finance and Administration's ("GCFA") Report No. 8 describes the role of professing membership in the Central Conference apportionments. At the request of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, the 2025-2028 budget allocates the Central Conference apportionments across all line items in the General Administration Fund in the same ratio as the jurisdictional apportionments. In 2017-2020, they were allocated 100% to the Contingency Fund.

Discussion of Specific Budget Items

GCFA. GCFA reports to and is amenable to the General Conference and is responsible for receiving and distributing general Church funds. In addition, GCFA provides certain administrative services to the general funds and most General Agencies, including general ledger processing and maintenance, accounts payable functions, cash management, and group insurance plan administration. The 2025-2028 jurisdictional budget decreases by 59.0% compared to 2017-2020. A more detailed description of GCFA's activities and funding is found in its Report No. 14.

General Conference. The apportionments for General Conference fund delegate expenses, operation costs (convention center and equipment rental, publishing, petition tracking software, worship, labor), language services (printed translation of advance materials and spoken interpretation on site), expenses of the offices of the secretary, business manager, and treasurer of the General Conference and expenses of the several commissions and committees which support the event.

The changing global nature of the Church is due in part to the rapidly growing membership in the central conferences. The percentage of delegates from central conferences has changed significantly since the start of this millennium, which was 16% in 2000 and had increased to 29% in 2008, 38% in 2012, 42% in 2016, and 44% in 2024 (for the postponed 2020 General Conference). This change in representation has resulted in two of the four major cost drivers increasing significantly:

1. Language and translation services for the postponed 2020 General Conference are budgeted at $1,570,000 for oral interpretation and $695,000 for written interpretation, which represents a 10% increase to total interpretation costs compared to the 2016 General Conference.
2. In 2016, the average travel cost for delegates from within the United States was approximately $765 for each delegate, while the average travel cost for delegates from Central Conferences was approximately $3,365 each. As the percentage of the total delegates coming from Central Conferences increases, so does the total cost of travel for delegates.

An additional $7 million has been added to the proposed budget for a special called session. This funding level assumes the additional session will have a duration of one week.

The General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH). GCAH promotes and preserves the historical interests of The United Methodist Church and its predecessors. GCAH accomplishes this uniquely administrative and programmatic mission by gathering, preserving, and holding title to and disseminating materials representing the history of the denomination.

GCAH's "Ministry of Memory" serves these functions for all levels of the connection. In addition, it serves UMC seminary students and professors worldwide in basic preparatory and more highly academic Wesleyan-Methodist studies. It also anticipates increased support for Central Conference historians and leaders, many beginning basic archival collections of their own.

GCAH also manages a Historic Sites and Heritage Landmarks (¶ 1712) program, supervising more than 500 denominational historic sites and nearly 50 heritage landmarks across the global connection.

The Judicial Council. The Judicial Council is the highest judicial body in The United Methodist Church connection. It determines the legality and/or constitutionality of actions by agencies, boards, conferences, and officials of the Church. Paragraph 813.3 provides that the expenses of the Judicial Council will be paid from the General Administration Fund, within a budget submitted annually to GCFA for its approval.

Pension and Salary Aid – Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. This line item funds salary and pension assistance programs. The apportionments in the 2025-2028 are 20.7% lower in total.

Contingency Reserve. This allocation provides funding for unforeseen or emergency situations that fall within the scope of general administration.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND - JURISDICTIONS - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (3)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
Fixed Charges					
General Commission on Archives & History Historic Shrines, Landmarks & Sites (2)	$ 4,162,000	$ 4,133,706	$ 3,955,739	$ (177,967)	-4.3%
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 4,162,000**	**$ 4,133,706**	**$ 3,955,739**	**$ (177,967)**	**-4.3%**
On-Ratio					
General Council on Finance and Administration	$ 16,844,000	$ 16,729,491	$ 7,237,327	$ (9,492,164)	-56.7%
General Conference	11,903,000	11,822,081	14,434,572	2,612,491	22.1%
Standing Committee Central Conference Matters	293,000	291,008	290,629	(379)	-0.1%
Judicial Council	587,000	583,009	348,754	(234,255)	-40.2%
Pension and Salary Aid - Rio Grand Conf.	805,000	-	-	-	
Pension and Salary Aid - Oklahoma Conf.	1,694,000	1,682,484	1,259,392	(423,092)	-25.1%
Contingency Reserve	861,000	1,654,674	775,011	(879,663)	-53.2%
Total On-Ratio	**$ 32,987,000**	**$ 32,762,747**	**$ 24,345,685**	**$ (8,417,062)**	**-25.7%**
Grand Total	**$ 37,149,000**	**$ 36,896,453**	**$ 28,301,424**	**$ (8,595,029)**	**-23.3%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) The allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent one, but rather to sustain this mission during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(3) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND - CENTRAL CONFERENCES - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (3)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
Fixed Charges					
General Commission on Archives & History					
Historic Shrines, Landmarks & Sites (2)	$ -	$ -	$ 233,639	$ 233,639	
Total Fixed Charges	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 233,639**	**$ 233,639**	
On-Ratio					
General Council on Finance					
and Administration	$ -	$ -	$ 427,460	$ 427,460	
General Conference	-	-	852,552	852,552	
Standing Committee Central				-	
Conference Matters	-	-	17,166	17,166	
Judicial Council	-	-	20,599	20,599	
Pension and Salary Aid - Oklahoma Conf.	-	-	74,384	74,384	
Contingency Reserve	-	1,479,590	45,775	(1,433,815)	-96.9%
Total On-Ratio	**$ -**	**$ 1,479,590**	**$ 1,437,936**	**$ (41,654)**	**-2.8%**
Grand Total	**$ -**	**$ 1,479,590**	**$ 1,671,575**	**$ 191,985**	**13.0%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) The allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent one, but rather to sustain this mission during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(3) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%. The base rate in the Jurisdictions also effects the Central Conference Apportionments as explained in Report Number 8.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND - TOTAL - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (3)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
Fixed Charges					
General Commission on Archives & History					
Historic Shrines, Landmarks & Sites (2)	$ 4,162,000	$ 4,133,706	$ 4,189,378	$ 55,672	1.3%
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 4,162,000**	**$ 4,133,706**	**$ 4,189,378**	**$ 55,672**	**1.3%**
On-Ratio					
General Council on Finance					
and Administration	$ 16,844,000	$ 16,729,491	$ 7,664,787	$ (9,064,704)	-54.2%
General Conference	11,903,000	11,822,081	$ 15,287,124	3,465,043	29.3%
Standing Committee Central					
Conference Matters	293,000	291,008	307,795	16,787	5.8%
Judicial Council	587,000	583,009	369,353	(213,656)	-36.6%
Pension and Salary Aid - Rio Grand Conf.	805,000	-	-	-	
Pension and Salary Aid - Oklahoma Conf.	1,694,000	1,682,484	1,333,776	(348,708)	-20.7%
Contingency Reserve	861,000	3,134,264	820,786	(2,313,478)	-73.8%
Total On-Ratio	**$ 32,987,000**	**$ 34,242,337**	**$ 25,783,621**	**$ (8,458,716)**	**-24.7%**
Grand Total	**$ 37,149,000**	**$ 38,376,043**	**$ 29,972,999**	**$ (8,403,044)**	**-21.9%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) The allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent one, but rather to sustain this mission during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(3) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%. The base rate in the Jurisdictions also effects the Central Conference Apportionments as explained in Report Number 8.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND - JURISDICTIONS - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (2)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Fixed Charges				
General Commission on Archives & History				
Historic Shrines, Landmarks & Sites (1)	$ 975,301	$ 943,471	$ 1,025,207	$ 1,011,760
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 975,301**	**$ 943,471**	**$ 1,025,207**	**$ 1,011,760**
On-Ratio				
General Council on Finance				
and Administration	$ 1,784,388	$ 1,726,153	$ 1,875,695	$ 1,851,091
General Conference	3,558,893	3,442,746	3,741,002	3,691,931
Standing Committee Central				
Conference Matters	71,656	69,317	75,322	74,334
Judicial Council	85,987	83,180	90,387	89,200
Pension and Salary Aid - Oklahoma Conf.	310,507	300,374	326,396	322,115
Contingency Reserve	191,082	184,845	200,859	198,225
Total On-Ratio	**$ 6,002,513**	**$ 5,806,615**	**$ 6,309,661**	**$ 6,226,896**
Grand Total	**$ 6,977,814**	**$ 6,750,086**	**$ 7,334,868**	**$ 7,238,656**

(1) The allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent one, but rather to sustain this mission during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND - CENTRAL CONFERENCES - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (3)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Fixed Charges				
General Commission on Archives & History				
Historic Shrines, Landmarks & Sites (1)	$ 54,946	$ 60,114	$ 59,383	$ 59,196
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 54,946**	**$ 60,114**	**$ 59,383**	**$ 59,196**
On-Ratio				
General Council on Finance				
and Administration	$ 100,528	$ 109,982	$ 108,646	$ 108,304
General Conference	200,501	219,356	216,688	216,007
Standing Committee Central				
Conference Matters	4,037	4,417	4,363	4,349
Judicial Council	4,844	5,300	5,235	5,220
Pension and Salary Aid - Oklahoma Conf.	17,493	19,138	18,907	18,846
Contingency Reserve	10,765	11,777	11,635	11,598
Total On-Ratio	**$ 338,168**	**$ 369,970**	**$ 365,474**	**$ 364,324**
Grand Total	**$ 393,114**	**$ 430,084**	**$ 424,857**	**$ 423,520**

(1) The allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent change, but rather to sustain this mission during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND - TOTAL - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (3)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Fixed Charges				
General Commission on Archives & History				
Historic Shrines, Landmarks & Sites (1)	$ 1,030,247	$ 1,003,585	$ 1,084,590	$ 1,070,956
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 1,030,247**	**$ 1,003,585**	**$ 1,084,590**	**$ 1,070,956**
On-Ratio				
General Council on Finance				
and Administration	$ 1,884,916	$ 1,836,135	$ 1,984,341	$ 1,959,395
General Conference	3,759,394	3,662,102	3,957,690	3,907,938
Standing Committee Central	-	-	-	-
Conference Matters	75,693	73,734	79,685	78,683
Judicial Council	90,831	88,480	95,622	94,420
Pension and Salary Aid - Oklahoma Conf.	328,000	319,512	345,303	340,961
Contingency Reserve	201,847	196,622	212,494	209,823
Total On-Ratio	**$ 6,340,681**	**$ 6,176,585**	**$ 6,675,135**	**$ 6,591,220**
Grand Total	**$ 7,370,928**	**$ 7,180,170**	**$ 7,759,725**	**$ 7,662,176**

(1) The allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent change, but rather to sustain this mission during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND - JURISDICTIONS - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (3)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
Fixed Charges					
General Commission on Archives & History					
Historic Shrines, Landmarks & Sites (2)	$ 4,162,000	$ 4,133,706	$ 3,745,018	$ (388,688)	-9.4%
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 4,162,000**	**$ 4,133,706**	**$ 3,745,018**	**$ (388,688)**	**-9.4%**
On-Ratio					
General Council on Finance					
and Administration	$ 16,844,000	$ 16,729,491	$ 6,851,797	$ (9,877,694)	-59.0%
General Conference	11,903,000	11,822,081	13,665,649	1,843,568	15.6%
Standing Committee Central					
Conference Matters	293,000	291,008	275,148	(15,860)	-5.5%
Judicial Council	587,000	583,009	330,176	(252,833)	-43.4%
Pension and Salary Aid - Rio Grand Conf.	805,000	-	-	-	
Pension and Salary Aid - Oklahoma Conf.	1,694,000	1,682,484	1,192,305	(490,179)	-29.1%
Contingency Reserve	861,000	1,654,674	733,726	(920,948)	-55.7%
Total On-Ratio	**$ 32,987,000**	**$ 32,762,747**	**$ 23,048,801**	**$ (9,713,946)**	**-29.6%**
Grand Total	**$ 37,149,000**	**$ 36,896,453**	**$ 26,793,819**	**$ (10,102,634)**	**-27.4%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) The allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent one, but rather to sustain this mission during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(3) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND - CENTRAL CONFERENCES - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (3)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
Fixed Charges					
General Commission on Archives & History					
Historic Shrines, Landmarks & Sites (2)	$ -	$ -	$ 221,372	$ 221,372	
Total Fixed Charges	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 221,372**	**$ 221,372**	
On-Ratio					
General Council on Finance					
and Administration	$ -	$ -	$ 405,018	$ 405,018	
General Conference	-	-	807,792	807,792	
Standing Committee Central				-	
Conference Matters	-	-	16,264	16,264	
Judicial Council	-	-	19,517	19,517	
Pension and Salary Aid - Oklahoma Conf.	-	-	70,478	70,478	
Contingency Reserve	-	1,479,590	43,371	(1,436,219)	-97.1%
Total On-Ratio	**$ -**	**$ 1,479,590**	**$ 1,362,440**	**$ (117,150)**	**-7.9%**
Grand Total	**$ -**	**$ 1,479,590**	**$ 1,583,812**	**$ 104,222**	**7.0%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) The allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent one, but rather to sustain this mission during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(3) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%. The base rate in the Jurisdictions also effects the Central Conference Apportionments as explained in Report Number 8.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND - TOTAL - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (3)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
Fixed Charges					
General Commission on Archives & History					
Historic Shrines, Landmarks & Sites (2)	$ 4,162,000	$ 4,133,706	$ 3,966,390	$ (167,316)	-4.0%
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 4,162,000**	**$ 4,133,706**	**$ 3,966,390**	**$ (167,316)**	**-4.0%**
On-Ratio					
General Council on Finance					
and Administration	$ 16,844,000	$ 16,729,491	$ 7,256,815	$ (9,472,676)	-56.6%
General Conference	11,903,000	11,822,081	$ 14,473,441	2,651,360	22.4%
Standing Committee Central					
Conference Matters	293,000	291,008	291,412	404	0.1%
Judicial Council	587,000	583,009	349,693	(233,316)	-40.0%
Pension and Salary Aid - Rio Grand Conf.	805,000	-	-	-	
Pension and Salary Aid - Oklahoma Conf.	1,694,000	1,682,484	1,262,783	(419,701)	-24.9%
Contingency Reserve	861,000	3,134,264	777,097	(2,357,167)	-75.2%
Total On-Ratio	**$ 32,987,000**	**$ 34,242,337**	**$ 24,411,241**	**$ (9,831,096)**	**-28.7%**
Grand Total	**$ 37,149,000**	**$ 38,376,043**	**$ 28,377,631**	**$ (9,998,412)**	**-26.1%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) The allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent one, but rather to sustain this mission during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(3) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%. The base rate in the Jurisdictions also effects the Central Conference Apportionments as explained in Report Number 8.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND - JURISDICTIONS - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (2)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Fixed Charges				
General Commission on Archives & History				
Historic Shrines, Landmarks & Sites (1)	$ 975,301	$ 943,471	$ 919,151	$ 907,095
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 975,301**	**$ 943,471**	**$ 919,151**	**$ 907,095**
On-Ratio				
General Council on Finance				
and Administration	$ 1,784,388	$ 1,726,153	$ 1,681,658	$ 1,659,598
General Conference	3,558,893	3,442,746	3,354,002	3,310,008
Standing Committee Central				
Conference Matters	71,656	69,317	67,530	66,645
Judicial Council	85,987	83,180	81,036	79,973
Pension and Salary Aid - Oklahoma Conf.	310,507	300,374	292,631	288,793
Contingency Reserve	191,082	184,845	180,081	177,718
Total On-Ratio	**$ 6,002,513**	**$ 5,806,615**	**$ 5,656,938**	**$ 5,582,735**
Grand Total	**$ 6,977,814**	**$ 6,750,086**	**$ 6,576,089**	**$ 6,489,830**

(1) The allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent one, but rather to sustain this mission during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND - CENTRAL CONFERENCES - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (2)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Fixed Charges				
General Commission on Archives & History				
Historic Shrines, Landmarks & Sites (1)	$ 54,946	$ 60,114	$ 53,240	$ 53,072
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 54,946**	**$ 60,114**	**$ 53,240**	**$ 53,072**
On-Ratio				
General Council on Finance				
and Administration	$ 100,528	$ 109,982	$ 97,407	$ 97,101
General Conference	200,500	219,356	194,274	193,662
Standing Committee Central				
Conference Matters	4,037	4,417	3,912	3,898
Judicial Council	4,844	5,300	4,694	4,679
Pension and Salary Aid - Oklahoma Conf.	17,493	19,138	16,950	16,897
Contingency Reserve	10,765	11,777	10,431	10,398
Total On-Ratio	**$ 338,167**	**$ 369,970**	**$ 327,668**	**$ 326,635**
Grand Total	**$ 393,113**	**$ 430,084**	**$ 380,908**	**$ 379,707**

(1) The allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent change, but rather to sustain this mission during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND - TOTAL - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (2)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Fixed Charges				
General Commission on Archives & History				
Historic Shrines, Landmarks & Sites (1)	$ 1,030,247	$ 1,003,585	$ 972,391	$ 960,167
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 1,030,247**	**$ 1,003,585**	**$ 972,391**	**$ 960,167**
On-Ratio				
General Council on Finance				
and Administration	$ 1,884,916	$ 1,836,135	$ 1,779,065	$ 1,756,699
General Conference	3,759,393	3,662,102	3,548,276	3,503,670
Standing Committee Central	-	-	-	-
Conference Matters	75,693	73,734	71,442	70,543
Judicial Council	90,831	88,480	85,730	84,652
Pension and Salary Aid - Oklahoma Conf.	328,000	319,512	309,581	305,690
Contingency Reserve	201,847	196,622	190,512	188,116
Total On-Ratio	**$ 6,340,680**	**$ 6,176,585**	**$ 5,984,606**	**$ 5,909,370**
Grand Total	**$ 7,370,927**	**$ 7,180,170**	**$ 6,956,997**	**$ 6,869,537**

(1) The allocations for these ministries are to fixed charges rather than on-ratio for 2025-2028. This change in classification is not intended to be a permanent change, but rather to sustain this mission during a period of uncertainty around collections.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

Report No. 7
INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND

As part of the church universal, The United Methodist Church believes that the Lord of the church is calling Christians everywhere to strive toward unity; and therefore it will seek, and work for, unity at all levels of church life: through world relationships with other Methodist churches . . . through councils of churches and through plans of union and covenantal relationships with churches of Methodist or other denominational traditions. (¶ 6)

The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund allows The United Methodist Church to fulfill our Disciplinary mandate to continually strive toward unity with Christians everywhere. Specifically, it offers the financial resources necessary to partner with Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world to fulfill a shared ecumenical mission. Our relationships with ecumenical partners enable us to witness together while respecting our unique traditions and distinctions, engaging in ministries that foster justice, mercy, and peace in God's world.

In partnership with other Christian communions, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund gives operating and other support for organizations that relate to the ecumenical responsibility of the Council of Bishops. It also allows for United Methodist representation at ecumenical and interreligious events and provides resources for our official dialogues and special ecumenical projects. The General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA") recommends the annual budgeted amounts for the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund to the General Conference from recommendations developed in consultation with the Council of Bishops (¶ 814.2).

GCFA, working collaboratively with The Connectional Table (CT), proposes that the funding for the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund be significantly below previous levels. This reduction is designed to reduce the fund balance that has increased over the past several years, with the expectation that the next General Conference may choose to increase the funding as fund balances diminish during 2025-2028. At the end of 2023 there was a total fund balance of $5,983,145. These funds are restricted for specific purposes as shown in the chart below.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND BALANCES AT 12/31/2023

Organization / Activity	2023 Ending Fund Balance
National Councils of Churches / Regional Ecumenical Organizations	$ 3,913,642
World Council of Churches / International Ecumenical Organizations	10,327
Pan Methodist Commission	210,762
Ecumenical / Multilateral Conversations	347,348
Ecumenical Representative Travel	1,045,635
Interreligious Relations	361,270
Churches Uniting In Christ	33,876
Contingency Reserve	60,285
Total Fund Balances	**$ 5,983,145**

As a result of the increasing balances for the restricted purposes shown above and the significant decrease in funding for 2025-2028, the total of all Interdenominational Cooperation Fund balances at the end of 2024 will be transferred to a single line item called "Ecumenical & Interreligious Activity & Relations." Each year the Council of Bishops will present an annual spending plan for the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund to GCFA for approval. This spending plan will show the specific areas of funding, including some which are currently included in the restrictions listed above. This process provides greater flexibility in support of organizations and areas as needs change and develop.

Explanation of Items Historically Funded by the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund

All of these engagements help The United Methodist Church fulfill it's calling to commit ourselves to the "…cause of Christian unity at local, national, and world levels" (¶ 105).

General Council on Finance and Administration. GCFA, which reports to and is amenable to the General Conference, is also responsible for receiving and distributing general Church funds. Part of the Council's expenses is charged as a direct charge to the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund as provided in ¶ 805.6a and Report No. 14.

National Councils of Churches/Regional Ecumenical Organizations. Supports the work of councils or organizations whose membership is limited to a specific country or geographic region. Among the specific organizations currently receiving support is the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. This council has thirty-eight member denominations and communions in the United States representing more than 40 million Christians and about 100,000 local congregations.

World Council of Churches/International Ecumenical Organizations. Supports the work of councils or organizations whose membership is not limited to a specific country or geographic region. The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund supports the World Council of Churches, founded in 1948. The council includes 350 member communions throughout the world representing more than 500 million Christians. These funds support United Methodist participation in the work and life of the World Council of Churches, with a focus on justice and peace. This fund also supports the work of the newer Global Christian Forum, which every few years brings together a wide variety of Christians from around the world for conversation and discernment on a topic of interest to all.

Christian World Communions/Methodist Unity. This category includes funds to support the work of ecumenical organizations whose members trace their origins to religious traditions started by John Wesley. One such conciliar partner, dedicated to nurturing unity in the Methodist family, is the World Methodist Council. Established in 1881, the World Methodist Council is a worldwide association of 80 Methodist, Wesleyan, and related Uniting and United Churches representing more than 80 million people in 138 countries. The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund supports United Methodist participation in the work and life of the Council. It also supports the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome and other projects of the World Methodist Council.

Pan-Methodist Commission. This allocation of funding relates to ongoing ministry on matters of mutual interest among representatives of The United Methodist Church, The African Methodist Episcopal Church, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, The African Union Methodist Protestant Church, The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and The Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. The commission is currently engaged in fulfilling the vision of full communion among its member churches, including joint chaplaincy endorsement, the Campaign for Children in Poverty, and Pan-Methodist young adult engagements.

Ecumenical/Multilateral Conversations. Provides funding for ongoing and proposed meetings with representatives of other denominations for dialogue, including but not limited to the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Moravian Church (Northern and Southern Provinces) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The ICF provides funds for multi-lateral expressions of ecumenism, such as Christian Churches Together and the Wesleyan Holiness Connection.

Ecumenical Representative Travel. To ensure a United Methodist voice and presence in worldwide deliberations and meetings of funded ecumenical bodies, travel expenses for United Methodist representatives named by the Council of Bishops are paid from the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (¶ 814.4). Costs and expenses are paid in accordance with guidelines adopted by GCFA. Covered meetings include those of the governing board, convening tables, and other units of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; the central and executive committees of the World Council of Churches, including other structural units and periodic assembly; the executive committee members and at-large delegates of the World Methodist Council; meetings of Churches Uniting in Christ, Christian Churches Together, and the Pan-Methodist Commission; and United Methodist participation in concordant relationships and other ecumenical activities of recognized bodies.

Interreligious Relations. This funding provides resources for United Methodists to engage more directly with neighbors of other faith communities. Funding is used to provide information, materials, and support for dialogues locally and regionally, and to support ecumenical programs involving interfaith partners, such as Religions for Peace USA, Shoulder to Shoulder, and the Parliament of the World's Religions.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (2)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
Fixed Charges					
General Council on Finance and Administration	206,000	204,600	31,969	(172,631)	-84.4%
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 206,000**	**$ 204,600**	**$ 31,969**	**$ (172,631)**	**-84.4%**
On-Ratio					
National Councils of Churches/ Regional Ecumenical Organizations	$ 2,500,000	$ 2,483,005	$ -	$ (2,483,005)	-100.0%
World Council of Churches/ International Ecumenical Organizations	2,192,000	2,177,098	-	(2,177,098)	-100.0%
Christian World Communions/ Methodist Unity:					
World Methodist Council	1,940,000	1,926,812	-	(1,926,812)	-100.0%
Pan Methodist Commission	100,000	99,320	-	(99,320)	-100.0%
Ecumenical/Multilateral Conversations	316,000	313,852	-	(313,852)	-100.0%
Ecumenical Representative Travel	760,000	754,833	-	(754,833)	-100.0%
Interreligious Relations	150,000	148,980	-	(148,980)	-100.0%
Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations & Activity	-	-	2,365,022	2,365,022	
Contingency Reserve	100,000	99,320	-	(99,320)	-100.0%
Total On-Ratio	**$ 7,958,000**	**$ 7,903,900**	**$ 2,365,022**	**$ (5,538,878)**	**-70.1%**
Grand Total	**$ 8,164,000**	**$ 8,108,500**	**$ 2,396,991**	**$ (5,711,509)**	**-70.4%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028 (1)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Fixed Charges				
General Council on Finance and Administration	7,882	7,625	8,285	8,177
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 7,882**	**$ 7,625**	**$ 8,285**	**$ 8,177**
On-Ratio				
Ecumenical & Interreligious Activity & Relations	583,104	564,074	612,942	604,902
Total On-Ratio	**$ 583,104**	**$ 564,074**	**$ 612,942**	**$ 604,902**
Grand Total	**$ 590,986**	**$ 571,699**	**$ 621,227**	**$ 613,079**

(1) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (2)

	2013-2016	2017-2020 (1)	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
Fixed Charges					
General Council on Finance and Administration	206,000	204,600	30,266	(174,334)	-85.2%
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 206,000**	**$ 204,600**	**$ 30,266**	**$ (174,334)**	**-85.2%**
On-Ratio					
National Councils of Churches/ Regional Ecumenical Organizations	$ 2,500,000	$ 2,483,005	$ -	$ (2,483,005)	-100.0%
World Council of Churches/ International Ecumenical Organizations	2,192,000	2,177,098	-	(2,177,098)	-100.0%
Christian World Communions/ Methodist Unity:					
World Methodist Council	1,940,000	1,926,812	-	(1,926,812)	-100.0%
Pan Methodist Commission	100,000	99,320	-	(99,320)	-100.0%
Ecumenical/Multilateral Conversations	316,000	313,852	-	(313,852)	-100.0%
Ecumenical Representative Travel	760,000	754,833	-	(754,833)	-100.0%
Interreligious Relations	150,000	148,980	-	(148,980)	-100.0%
Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations & Activity	-	-	2,239,038	2,239,038	
Contingency Reserve	100,000	99,320	-	(99,320)	-100.0%
Total On-Ratio	**$ 7,958,000**	**$ 7,903,900**	**$ 2,239,038**	**$ (5,664,862)**	**-71.7%**
Grand Total	**$ 8,164,000**	**$ 8,108,500**	**$ 2,269,304**	**$ (5,839,196)**	**-72.0%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

(2) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND - Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% All Four Years (1)

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Fixed Charges				
General Council on Finance and Administration	7,882	7,625	7,428	7,331
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 7,882**	**$ 7,625**	**$ 7,428**	**$ 7,331**
On-Ratio				
Ecumenical & Interreligious Activity & Relations	583,104	564,074	549,534	542,326
Total On-Ratio	**$ 583,104**	**$ 564,074**	**$ 549,534**	**$ 542,326**
Grand Total	**$ 590,986**	**$ 571,699**	**$ 556,962**	**$ 549,657**

(1) Report Number 8 has a contingent Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028. It will be 2.6% if the total apportionment collection rate is below 90% for the period of 2025 through 2026. If the collection rate in this time period is 90% or greater, then the Base Percentage Rate for 2027 and 2028 will be 2.9%.

Report No. 8

APPORTIONMENT FORMULAS

The Book of Discipline provides that the General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA") will recommend the formulas by which all apportionments to the annual conferences shall be determined, subject to the approval of the General Conference (¶ 806.1*c*).

Recommendations:

1. GCFA recommends adoption of the following Jurisdictional Conference apportionment formula, which shall apply to the World Service, Ministerial Education, Black College, Africa University, Episcopal, Interdenominational Cooperation, and General Administration Funds:

A = E * P

Where:
A represents an annual conference's **general Church apportionment**
E represents the annual conference's **"Net Expenditures"**
P represents the **"Base Percentage"**

a. "Net Expenditures" (E) consists of the total local church expenditures in the annual conference, less (1) current capital expenditures, (2) expenditures on capital debt service, (3) payments toward general Church apportionments, and (4) all other benevolence giving. The net expenditures will be calculated with the most recent year for which complete data is available. All the components are currently reported through local church statistical reports. The actual and estimated net expenditures for the 2025-2028 quadrennium are:

Year of Data	Year of Apportionment		Net Expenditures	
2022	2025	$	3,479,216,522	Actual
2023	2026	$	3,365,669,883	(Estimated)
2024	2027	$	3,278,912,578	(Estimated)
2025	2028	$	3,235,902,795	(Estimated)

Even though there is a three-year lag between the data year and the year of apportionments, any churches that leave or have left The United Methodist Church two years prior to the year of apportionments will be excluded from the calculation. This change from past practice is due to the disaffiliation parameters that require a church to pay 100% apportionments for the 12 months following disaffiliation.

b. "Base Percentage" (P) consists of a simple percentage set by the General Conference on recommendation by GCFA. When the percentage is applied to the "Net Expenditures" for all conferences, it will yield the total to be apportioned for all general Church funds. GCFA recommends the "Base Percentage" for each year of the quadrennium as follows:

Year	Projected Apportionments		Base Percentage
2025	$	90,459,630	2.6000000000%
2026	$	87,507,417	2.6000000000%
2027	$	95,088,465	2.9000000000%
2028	$	93,841,181	2.9000000000%
Total	**$**	**366,896,693**	

If the general Church apportionment collection rate is less than 90% the first two years of the quadrennium (2025 and 2026), the base rate for each year of the quadrennium would be as follows:

Year	Projected Apportionments		Base Percentage
2025	$	90,459,630	2.6000000000%
2026	$	87,507,417	2.6000000000%
2027	$	85,251,727	2.6000000000%
2028	$	84,133,473	2.6000000000%
Total	**$**	**347,352,247**	

2. GCFA recommends adoption of the following Central Conference apportionment formula, which shall apply to only the Episcopal and General Administration Funds, as both of those funds directly support the Central Conferences:

A = (J * M) * i

Where:
A represents a central conference annual conference's **General Church Apportionment**
J represents the **Jurisdictional Apportionments per Professing Member** for each of the Episcopal and General Administration Funds
M represents the number of **Professing Members in the Central Conference Annual Conference**
i represents the central conference's **"Economic Adjustment Factor"**

a. "Jurisdictional apportionments per professing member" (J) will be calculated each year based upon the actual apportionments for that year divided by the number of professing members three years prior. For example, 2025 apportionments per professing member would use the actual apportionments for 2025 and the professing members at the end of 2022. The current estimate for this factor in 2025-2028 is shown below:

With Base Percentage of 2.6% in 2025 and 2026 and 2.9% in 2027 and 2028

Episcopal Fund	General Administration Fund	Total
$ 4.22	$1.45	$ 5.67

With Base Percentage of 2.6% in all Four Years 2025-2028

Episcopal Fund	General Administration Fund	Total
$ 4.00	$ 1.37	$ 5.37

b. "Professing Members" (M) consists of the professing members of each annual conference within the Central Conferences as reported in the latest annual conference journal sent to GCFA. Membership was chosen as a basis for the apportionment formula because the availability and reliability of the data was better than revenue- or expenditure-based options.

c. "Economic Adjustment Factor" (i) is unique to each annual conference within the Central Conferences. The exact value of the "Economic Adjustment" for a conference will vary during the quadrennium as new economic and statistical reports become available. The factor to be used for the economic adjustment in the annual conferences is each country's or annual conference's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per capita in relation to the U.S., expressed as a percentage. The source used for this data will be a credible source as chosen by GCFA, and the most recent data point available at the time of apportionment calculations will be used. In calculating the average GDP for annual conferences in multiple countries, the country GDP data will be weighted by the number of professing members as reported in each country.

Based upon the recommended formula and the assumptions outlined above, the projected central conference apportionments for the 2025-2028 quadrennium are:

With Base Percentage of 2.6% in all Four Years 2025-2028

Year	Episcopal Fund	General Administration Fund	Total Apportionments
2025	$1,146,534	$393,114	**$1,539,649**
2026	$1,254,358	$430,084	**$1,684,442**
2027	$1,110,931	$380,907	**$1,491,838**
2028	$1,107,433	$379,707	**$1,487,141**
Total	**$4,619,257**	**$1,583,812**	**$6,203,069**

With Base Percentage of 2.6% in 2025 and 2026 and 2.9% in 2027 and 2028

Year	Episcopal Fund	General Administration Fund	Total Apportionments
2025	$1,146,534	$393,114	**$1,539,649**
2026	$1,254,358	$430,084	**$1,684,442**
2027	$1,239,116	$424,857	**$1,663,973**
2028	$1,235,214	$423,520	**$1,658,733**
Total	**$4,875,222**	**$1,671,575**	**$6,546,797**

3. Using the jurisdictional formula, GCFA will first calculate the total amount to be apportioned to each annual conference for the applicable apportioned general funds. The apportionment for each fund will then be calculated in direct proportion to that fund's approved amount. Each annual conference will therefore continue to receive from GCFA an annual statement showing its apportionments for each applicable general fund. Each annual conference will continue to have the authority to apportion those amounts to its charges or churches by whatever formula or method it determines (¶ 613.3).

4. If an annual conference decides to combine general Church apportionments with each other or with conference apportioned funds for apportioning to local churches, the receipts on such combined funds will be allocated in direct proportion to the budgeted amounts for each fund or cause included in the combined fund budget and amounts so allocated to general Church funds will be remitted to GCFA on a monthly basis. (¶ 619.1*a*(2)(c))

5. If more than 100% of the amount voted by General Conference for jurisdictional apportionments for a general fund is received in any given year, the excess funds will be held in trust by GCFA in an apportionment stabilization fund. All monies placed in such a fund will be considered as fund balances restricted by the General Conference to the fund or line item in which the surplus occurred. They will be held by GCFA until such time as shortfalls in such receipts occur during the same quadrennium, at which time they may be distributed to compensate for the shortfalls. If undistributed funds remain at the end of the quadrennium, due to excess receipts beyond the amounts needed to compensate for shortfalls, GCFA will recommend to the next General Conference how any remaining fund balances should be distributed, provided that those recommendations will be consistent with the purposes for which the funds were raised. (¶ 808.3)

6. In adopting this report, the General Conference authorizes GCFA to make such changes in the language and definitions of this report as other General Conference actions or changed circumstances may require, while preserving as much as possible the substance and content of this report.

7. Multiple "regionalization" proposals have been submitted to the General Conference. To the extent that any such proposal, if adopted by the General Conference and thereafter ratified by the membership of the annual conferences, replaces/removes the term "central conference," the central conference apportionment formula set forth in this Report will continue to apply to the annual conferences located in the then-former central conferences in the same manner as it did prior to such change.

Report No. 9
GENERAL CHURCH SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS

The Discipline designates six Special Sundays during which offerings for general Church purposes are to be received:

- **Human Relations Day** (¶¶ 263.1, 824.1)
- **UMCOR Sunday** (¶¶ 263.2, 824.2)
- **United Methodist Student Day** (¶¶ 263.4, 824.3)
- **World Communion Sunday** (¶¶ 263.3, 824.4)
- **Peace with Justice Sunday** (¶¶ 263.5, 824.5)
- **Native American Ministries Sunday** (¶¶ 263.6, 824.6)

The General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA"), in consultation with The Connectional Table ("CT") and the Council of Bishops, makes recommendations to the General Conference regarding any offerings to be received in connection with those Special Sundays. All such recommendations are subject to the approval of the General Conference. The following table indicates the total offerings received by GCFA from the Special Sundays during 2017-2023:

Special Sundays

Special Sunday Offering	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Human Relations Day	544,329	493,667	471,659	422,731	265,324	282,038	300,905
One Great Hour of Sharing	2,348,825	2,795,841	2,709,028	1,150,756	1,921,619	1,908,376	1,731,346
United Methodist Student Day	431,753	398,970	370,123	236,828	272,159	223,615	214,733
World Communion Sunday	777,600	711,318	663,666	400,254	473,970	457,406	443,480
Peace With Justice Sunday	221,736	255,449	216,718	144,244	164,232	151,290	144,067
Native American Ministries Sunday	301,847	329,908	270,892	136,870	226,578	213,037	243,947
Total Receipts	**$4,626,091**	**$4,985,152**	**$4,702,086**	**$2,491,683**	**$3,323,882**	**$3,235,762**	**$3,078,478**

Directives. The following directives will apply to each of the six general Church Special Sunday offerings:

1. Promotion of all authorized Special Sundays will be by the General Commission on Communications ("UMCom"), in consultation with the administering agencies. Expenses of promotion for each offering shall be a charge against receipts in an amount determined in the manner described in GCFA Report No. 11.

2. Receipts from all authorized Special Sundays will promptly be remitted in full by the local church treasurer to the annual conference treasurer, who will, within thirty days of receipt, remit the funds in full to GCFA, except where noted differently below. Local churches will report the amount of the offerings in the manner indicated on the Local Church Report to the Annual Conference. For the Native American Ministries and Peace with Justice Special Sundays, the annual conference treasurer will divide the receipts as specified in the relevant Disciplinary paragraphs.

3. The following table indicates the amounts of the respective offerings that are to be remitted and the amounts that are to be retained for use by the annual conference:

Special Sunday Offering	Authorizing Paragraph(s)	% to Remit to GCFA	% to Retain in Annual Conference
Human Relations Day	824.1, 263.1	100%	0%
One Great Hour of Sharing	824.2, 263.2	100%	0%
United Methodist Student Day	824.3, 263.4	100%	0%
World Communion Sunday	824.4, 263.3	100%	0%
Peace With Justice Sunday	824.5, 263.5	50%	50%
Native American Ministries Sunday	824.6, 263.6	50%	50 %*

* Should there be no Native American ministries within the annual conference, the annual conference treasurer shall also remit this 50 percent to GCFA.

Sundays with Offerings Authorized for Use Within the Annual Conference. The Discipline authorizes offwerings in connection with five special Sundays for which the offering receipts are to be retained for use within the annual conference:

- **Christian Education Sunday** (¶ 265.1)
- **Golden Cross Sunday** (¶ 265.2)
- **Rural Life Sunday** (¶ 265.3)
- **Disability Awareness Sunday** (¶ 265.4)
- **Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday** (¶ 265.5)

These special Sundays are governed by the provisions of ¶ 265.

Report No. 10

COMMITTEE ON AUDIT AND REVIEW

The Committee on Audit and Review ("Committee") of the General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA") has the principal function of assessing the fiscal stewardship of the agencies and missions wholly or partly funded by The United Methodist Church. This function is only a part of the general Church's fiduciary duty to effectively and transparently utilize funds entrusted to it by donors and by the blessings of our God. The Committee has two primary methods for accomplishing its function.

The first is to evaluate the qualifications, independence, experience, and expertise of outside auditing firms and engage the best firm available to examine the records, financial statements, and procedures of each Church agency. The Committee's task is to evaluate the auditor's findings and reports to determine whether there are any opportunities to improve on the fiscal transparency or accountability of each agency. Each year, this audit firm reports all findings resulting from its examination of each agency directly to the Committee.

The second is to employ an internal audit firm to examine areas of particular concern in agency or mission operations, in partnership with the external auditor. While the outside auditor can evaluate an agency's fiscal processes and procedures on an overall scale once a year, the internal auditor identifies specific areas within an agency for additional focused examination throughout the year, and reports to the agency and to the Committee opportunities for improvement regarding the areas examined.

Awareness of the fiduciary obligations to the general Church and its donors must be continually reinforced by the Committee, as must the importance of the perception and the reality of financial and operational transparency. Identifying opportunities for improving methods for achieving these goals, followed by prompt, effective action, is central to this effort.

External Audit Firm

The certified public accounting firm of Cherry Bekaert LLP ("Cherry Bekaert") has performed external audit services for the general agencies since 2014. The treasurers and chief financial officers of the general agencies have expressed gratitude for the quality of work, timeliness of the audits, and professionalism of the Cherry Bekaert team. In 2022, the Committee approved a new three-year contract with Cherry Bekaert through the fiscal year 2024 audits.

Internal Audit Function

The internal audit function is performed by the accounting firm of LBMC, PC ("LBMC"). The firm was recommended by the Committee and approved by GCFA. LBMC has performed the internal audit function since 2012. The internal audit firm reports to the Committee. This reporting relationship ensures that the internal audit function can remain objective and independent while performing audits.

The internal audit function is responsible for auditing the general agencies and other affiliated entities that receive general Church funds. A cornerstone of strong governance, internal auditing bridges the gap between management and the board, assesses the ethical climate and the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and serves as an organization's safety net for compliance with rules, regulations, and overall best business practices. General agency staff involved in internal audits throughout the quadrennium expressed appreciation for the work done by LBMC, for a high degree of professionalism in its work, and for helpful and relevant feedback given to improve fiscal operations at the agencies.

Committee Observations

The overall level of financial controls at the general agencies continues to improve. The Committee would like to point out three areas that continue to need focused attention by the Committee as well as agency staff during internal and external audits.

<u>Segregation of Incompatible Duties.</u> With changes in the staffing levels within the Accounting and Finance functions of the general agencies, the risk that incompatible duties are no longer adequately segregated is increased. This issue exists when one individual has the authorized or erroneous ability to initiate, approve, and record the same transaction. Management and the audit functions must be diligent to identify these situations and to ensure that incompatible duties are appropriately segregated or related transactions are monitored by management.

<u>Unsecured Network and Internet Applications.</u> Unsecured network and internet applications continue to present a significant risk to the general agencies. As reliance on these applications to conduct critical business functions increases, the risk associated with unsecured applications increases. Both internal and external audit work has been performed to identify key areas of vulnerability and corrective actions have been recommended. This work will continue as new technologies emerge and relevant feedback is given to increase security in this area.

<u>Incomplete Financial Documentation.</u> For some agencies, the external audit work revealed inadequate documentation for financial asset classification, including endowment, permanently restricted, and board-designated funds. Documentation of asset classification and fund reconciliations strengthens internal controls and provides more information for board and management decisions. Recommendations have been made to help ensure adequate documentation is available moving forward.

Episcopal Area Audits

Coordination of the receipt of the episcopal offices external audits is being handled by GCFA's Committee on General Agency and Episcopal Matters ("GAEM"). The Committee's internal audit firm works with GAEM by providing reviews of the audits.

All episcopal offices are required to have audited financial statements. The Episcopal Services Department at GCFA, along with the assistance of the internal audit firm, provides guidelines to the episcopal offices to help ensure they meet relevant expectations. The option of separate audits or the inclusion of a supplemental schedule in the related annual conference audit is acceptable. Upon review of the audited financial statements by the Committee's internal audit firm, any findings/observations noted of the external audits are reported to GAEM and the Committee.

Future Activities

The Committee remains committed to leading the Church in fiscal accountability and transparency. The Committee is continually working with its internal audit firm to perform risk assessments and to address those areas where gaps in internal controls may be present.

Report No. 11

DIRECTIVES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GENERAL FUNDS

1. Fixed Charges. Fixed charges in any of the general funds will be paid as expended within the limits of the approved budgets. However, the General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA") is authorized to adjust the fixed charges amounts in general fund budgets as emergencies, changing conditions, or the responsibilities placed upon the general agencies by the General Conference may require.

2. On-Ratio Allocations. All allocations from the general funds of The United Methodist Church shall be paid on ratio of net receipts after payment of fixed charges.

3. Validity of Claims. GCFA will be authorized to determine the validity of claims in all matters involving the World Service Fund, the Episcopal Fund, the General Administration Fund, the Black College Fund, the Ministerial Education Fund, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, the Africa University Fund, World Service Special gifts, the Advance, the Special Sundays offerings, or any other general fund, where these are not specifically set forth or determined by the General Conference.

4. Conformity with Other General Conference Actions. GCFA is granted authority to make such editorial changes in its reports as may be needed to bring them into conformity with the approved general fund budget amounts and totals, and any other applicable actions of the 2020 General Conference.

5. GCFA Funding. General fund allocations to GCFA fall into two categories, as provided in ¶ 805.6 – an on-ratio line item in the General Administration Fund budget and fixed charges in certain other funds for which GCFA incurs significant administrative costs, proportionate to their estimated receipts. GCFA's budget is presented in its Report No. 14.

6. Travel Expense and Meeting Policy for Special Committees Funded by the General Funds. Any special committee, study group, special commission, or any other special group created by the General Conference and funded by the general funds of The United Methodist Church will be subject to the travel and expense reporting and reimbursement requirements established by GCFA. If the special committee, study group, special commission, or other special group is not directly responsible to a general agency, it will make all meeting and travel arrangements through GCFA.

7. Application of Apportionment Formula. As the apportionment formula is applied during the quadrennium to actual events, the outcome of the calculation may result in a different amount being apportioned than those amounts contained in the published reports. When each annual apportionment is determined, GCFA will calculate the total amount to be apportioned for each of the general funds and to each fund line item, including fixed charges, in direct proportion to the amounts approved in its Reports numbered 1 through 7.

8. Consultants. As part of its oversight function, GCFA will prepare and make available an annual listing of all consulting contracts entered into by agencies and organizations amenable to the Connectional Table, as well as the Council of Bishops. This listing will be prepared by April 1 of each year and will include contracts in place during the preceding calendar year. The list will include the name of the individual or corporate entity, address, length and purpose of the contract, and the amount of money paid for the consultant.

9. General Agency Audits. All treasuries receiving general Church funds are required to have an annual audit as provided in ¶ 806.5.

10. Internal Audit Functions. GCFA has the responsibility to establish and conduct the internal auditing functions for all agencies receiving general Church funds. (¶ 806.6) All agencies receiving general Church funds are required to comply with fiscal accountability policies and practices established by GCFA. The Committee on Audit and Review will monitor compliance with such policies and practices. If the Committee determines there are any violations it shall proceed in a manner as outlined in ¶ 806.13 and within established policies of the Committee at that time.

11. General Agency Budget Review. As outlined in ¶¶ 806.3, .4, .7, .11, and .12, GCFA will review the proposed spending plan and the financial operations for each agency receiving general Church funds. If GCFA determines that an agency is not in compliance with the provisions of these paragraphs, it will proceed within its established policies at that time.

12. Approving Emerging Ministry Opportunities Between Sessions of General Conference. In the interim between regular sessions of the General Conference, potential programs and initiatives of Church-wide consequence may arise in response to unforeseen opportunities for mission and ministry. When these opportunities involve the expenditure of general Church funds, the proposed programs or initiatives shall require the joint approval of GCFA, the Council of Bishops, and CT. When timeliness of action warrants, the executive committees or equivalent of these bodies may act in such matters for the body itself, but only by a three-fourths vote. Such programs and initiatives shall be governed by established policies of the General Conference. A report on any such programs and initiatives will be made by CT to the General Conference at its next quadrennial meeting.

13. General Commission on Communication. The General Commission on Communication ("UMCom") serves as the central agency for promoting general Church funds throughout the Church, as provided in ¶ 1806.12.

Promotion is aimed at individual United Methodists and seeks to foster an understanding of how giving of one's financial resources is an integral part of the Christian life. The focus is on shared ministries that change lives. Print and digital resources help United Methodists see their mission outreach, understand how their diverse ministries make a difference in human lives, and learn how the local church benefits from shared outreach.

Interpretation is aimed at the leadership of annual conferences, districts, and local congregations. It provides specific information about Church funds and encourages leaders to be faithful in remitting funds to conference and general Church benevolent causes. UMCom provides resources in a variety of media to be used by conference leadership, pastors and local church leadership, and staff of other general agencies.

The cost of promotional resources related to a particular fund or group of funds is covered by a fixed-charge line item in the budget of the respective funds. UMCom, following consultation with the general agency responsible for administering the fund, recommends the annual budget of fixed-charge amounts, subject to approval by GCFA. For 2025-2028, the fixed charges line items total $2,166,277, which is a 29.6% decrease compared to 2017-2020.

For 2025-2028, as in the past, one resource item may interpret or promote several funds. UMCOM will be promoting all of the general apportioned funds using the monies provided by the fixed charges for the World Service Fund, as well as with other monies from its share of the World Service Fund. In such cases, UMCom is authorized to allocate costs for such items among the funds included in particular resources.

No promotional funds will be taken from general Advance Special gifts or World Service Special gifts except for the $947,240 for promotion of the Advance, a 20.4% decrease from 2017-2020. Any additional costs of promoting these funds are borne entirely by the administering agencies or from other funds approved by the General Conference.

The schedule of amounts authorized for program and benevolence interpretation resources for the 2025-2028 quadrennium are shown in the following tables:

Connectional Giving Interpretation Budget

	2013-2016	**2017-2020 (1)**	**2025-2028**	**$ Change**	**% Change**
World Service Fund	$1,442,000	$1,432,197	$ 762,277	$ (669,920)	-46.8%
Human Relations Day	255,000	255,000	208,000	(47,000)	-18.4%
UMCOR Sunday	400,000	400,000	416,000	16,000	4.0%
Native American Ministries Sunday	290,000	290,000	156,000	(134,000)	-46.2%
Peace With Justice Sunday	200,000	200,000	188,000	(12,000)	-6.0%
World Communion Sunday	260,000	260,000	248,000	(12,000)	-4.6%
United Methodist Student Day	240,000	240,000	188,000	(52,000)	-21.7%
Total Fixed Charges	**$3,087,000**	**$3,077,197**	**$2,166,277**	**$ (910,920)**	**-29.6%**
Allocation for interpretation resources for Special Gifts					
The Advance (paid by participating agencies)	$1,190,000	$1,190,000	$ 947,240	$ (242,760)	-20.4%
Grand Total	**$4,277,000**	**$4,267,197**	**$3,113,517**	**$(1,153,680)**	**-27.0%**

(1) 2017-2020 was the last quadrennial budget approved by General Conference.

Connectional Giving Interpretation Budget

	2025	2026	2027	2028
World Service Fund	$ 198,517	$ 192,038	$ 187,088	$ 184,634
Human Relations Day	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000
UMCOR Sunday	104,000	104,000	104,000	104,000
Native American Ministries Sunday	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000
Peace With Justice Sunday	47,000	47,000	47,000	47,000
World Communion Sunday	62,000	62,000	62,000	62,000
United Methodist Student Day	47,000	47,000	47,000	47,000
Total Fixed Charges	**$ 549,517**	**$ 543,038**	**$ 538,088**	**$ 535,634**
Allocation for interpretation resources for Special Gifts				
The advance (paid by participating agencies)	$ 236,810	$ 236,810	$ 236,810	$ 236,810
Grand Total	**$ 786,327**	**$ 779,848**	**$ 774,898**	**$ 772,444**

Report No. 12

PAY EQUITY IN THE GENERAL AGENCIES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Executive Summary

Paragraph 807.12*a* requires the General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA") to "gather from all general agencies, at such intervals and in such format as it may determine, information regarding salary remuneration and pay equity and number of agency employees and staff." Annually, GCFA's Committee on Personnel Policies and Practices ("CPPP"), per ¶ 807.12b, presents recommendations to GCFA on an appropriate salary schedule, based upon the responsibilities of covered personnel. Pay equity is at the core of these recommendations, as a means of ensuring there is no discrimination in the wage-setting system.

Current Reality

During 2017, CPPP facilitated and affirmed the work of an all-encompassing Compensation Study, which resulted in the development of Salary Administration Guidelines, a new job evaluation process, job families, and a new salary structure. The compensation philosophy and evaluation processes established covered all staff at all general agencies receiving general Church funds.

Equality in pay is a significant affirmation of our faith and is taken seriously. All agencies receiving general Church funds support the belief of a united pay structure that is fair to all, and we follow the structure provided to us from the pay equity study performed in 2017. As a result of that study, great emphasis was placed on supporting racial, gender, and ethnic equality.

CPPP has maintained its commitment to an annual review and evaluation process of internal wage structures and practices. As a result of these annual reviews, incremental adjustments have been made to the salary scale. A review of the compensation structure is conducted each year to determine if the salary structure needs to be adjusted based on cost of living. Such evaluation considers both salary and benefit packages. Furthermore, in 2018, CPPP established a Pay Equity Sub-Team to ensure no discrimination in the wage-setting system occurs. This team annually reviews the compensation data of all general agencies receiving general Church funds to ensure no racial, gender, and ethnic inequality occurs. The findings of the Pay Equity Sub-Team reviews are reported to CPPP and the GCFA Board.

Adopting these recommendations for an overall compensation philosophy statement and evaluation process have validated our beliefs of human value and equal worth for all those employed by the agencies receiving general Church funds.

Recommendations

GCFA recommends that General Conference:

1. Reaffirm the Church's commitment to pay equity;
2. Direct each general agency receiving general Church funds to continue to work collaboratively in efforts to gather, analyze, and report on pay equity issues within and across the general Church; and
3. Direct GCFA to obtain from its Committee on Personnel Policies and Practices recommendations relating to overall compensation philosophy and structure that will reach pay equity goals.

Report No. 13

REFERENCES FROM PREVIOUS GENERAL CONFERENCES

Portions of Plan UMC Revised Proposal The 2016 General Conference referred three petitions (60945, 60946, 60947) to the Connectional Table (CT), the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters (Standing Committee), and GCFA. Each of these petitions represented a portion of the "Plan UMC Revised" proposal. Specifically:

- 60945 would have revised the membership of the general agencies;
- 60946 would have modified the duties of the Connectional Table, including giving it the role of electing the general secretaries of the general program agencies; and
- 60947 would have changed the membership of both GCFA and its Committee on Audit and Review.

In relation to petition 60945, the 2016 General Conference directed CT, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, and GCFA to "consider the following issues as it relates to the original petition:"

The basic responsibilities of the boards of the general agencies include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. select general secretary;
b. support and evaluate the general secretary;
c. ensure effective planning;
d. monitor and strengthen programs and services;
e. ensure adequate financial resources;
f. protect assets and provide proper financial management;
g. ensure legal and ethical integrity;
h. enhance the agency's public standing

The following provisions shall govern the nomination . . .

For petition 60946, CT, the Standing Committee on Central Conference matters, and GCFA were to consider:

P. 713 Election of General Secretaries of Agencies. The general secretary of each general program board that is accountable to the Connectional Table shall be elected quadrennially by ballot of the board of the agency included . . .

3. In the exercise of its responsibility prescribed in S 2 hereof, the Connectional Table shall have authority during the 2017 to 2020 quadrennium to work with all program and administrative agencies and connectional bodies, to include the general secretaries, of The United Methodist Church to plan for and implement the overall restructure and reorganization approved by the 2016 General Conference for those agencies and bodies. One of the goals is ensuring that critical and important connectional ministries are functional and adequately carried forward.

P. 905 Objectives The essential functions of the Connectional Table are . . .

The 2016 General Conference did not provide any specific direction in relation to petition 60947. The above-quoted language for petitions 60945 and 60946 is taken directly from what was printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

CT, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, and GCFA reviewed these three referrals. Given that the 2016 General Conference decided not to adopt any portion of the Plan UMC Revised proposal and there are prominent, ongoing discussions on other issues within the denomination which could impact the topics addressed in the referred petitions, CT, the Standing Committee, and GCFA recommend that no further action be taken in relation to the three referrals.

Translation of the *Book of Discipline*

The 2016 General Conference referred petition 60591 to GCFA and The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH). This petition would have modified ¶ 1637 (in the 2012 *Discipline*)[1] as follows:

¶ 1637. *Service of the Entire United Methodist Church*—There shall be one complete, coordinated system of literature published by the board for the entire United Methodist Church, <u>including the translation, publication, and distribution</u> of the *Book of Discipline* i<u>n all the official languages of General Conference.</u> This literature . . .

The phrase "official languages of General Conference" is not currently found in the *Discipline* or in the General Conference's Plan of Organization. The rationale included with the petition mentioned "the official languages spoken in the General Conference."

Pursuant to ¶ 511.4*c*, the Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* must be provided in English, French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili (as must certain portions of the *Daily Christian Advocate*). Additionally, the Plan of Organization adopted by the 2016 General Conference, in Part VI.A.1 ("Languages of the General Conference") mentions English, French, Portuguese, Kiswahili, German, Russian, Spanish, and Korean. It is unclear which specific languages were contemplated by the petition. Thus, per language cost estimates were developed:

New Translations (French, Portuguese, Kiswahili, German, Russian, Tagalog)

- Initial translation: $94,000 each**
- Copy processing/prepress: $6,000 each
- Administrative costs (20 percent of costs): $20,000 each
- Contingency (15 percent of costs): $15,000 each
- Total cost per language: Approximately $135,000 each

Korean and Spanish Translations • Initial translation: $18,500 each**

- Copy processing/prepress: $5,400 each
- Printing and Distribution: $9,600 each
- Administrative costs (20 percent of costs): $6,700 each
- Contingency (15 percent of costs): $5,000 each
- Total cost per language: Approximately $45,200 each

**Initial translation includes per word translation fee, editing, proofreading, QC review, XML coding, formatting, and production editing using the same or similar translation service, additional personnel, and processes employed in producing the ADCA, DCA, and English language Discipline. Alternative translation and production methods, including use of volunteer translators under local supervision for management and quality control at the initiative of each central conference may be feasible at reduced costs.

In relation to the potential translation of the Discipline, GCFA and UMPH make the following recommendations:

- Translation of the Discipline into specified languages should be postponed until the work on the creation of the General Book of Discipline is completed. UMPH and GCFA will work together to formulate further details on funding and logistics to report to the 2028 General Conference.
- In preparing future legislation regarding the translation of the Discipline, stipulating the specific additional languages to which the legislation pertains will aid planning, budgeting, and implementation.
- Provisions for printing and distribution of translations other than English, Spanish, and Korean should be carried out by each of the relevant central conferences, in order to match production and delivery methods and decisions with local needs and to reduce the associated costs.

Apportionment Formula

The 2012 General Conference adopted GCFA Report 8 which stated: "GCFA commits to study the implications of implementing an apportionment formula for the support of the general Church funds based upon current income received by the local churches and report its findings and any recommendations to the 2016 General Conference." During the 2013-2016 quadrennium, GCFA formed a special committee, comprised of an annual conference treasurer from each jurisdiction, and selected GCFA board members in fulfillment of that directive.

The special committee analyzed different options for an income-based formula, but ultimately concluded further analysis and information was necessary. It was agreed that the analysis would continue into the 2017-2020 quadrennium.

Due to developing dynamics within the denomination, GCFA formed an Apportionment Sustainability Task Force to analyze several aspects of the apportionment process. The task force decided that the income-based apportionment analysis should be further postponed, but it did reach a conclusion that echoed a suggestion made by the special committee during the prior quadrennium—i.e., the removal of the "i" factor from the current apportionment formula. Additionally, the task force recommended a 25 percent reduction to the Base Percentage. The current proposal from GCFA is a 22.9 percent reduction to the Base Percentage approved in 2016.

[1] This is now ¶ 1636 in the 2016 *Book of Discipline.*

Report No. 14

GENERAL CHURCH SOURCES OF FUNDING TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA") fulfills a wide variety of oversight responsibilities within The United Methodist Church. Spending by GCFA is in support of various processes and activities mandated by *The Book of Discipline* and are entirely administrative in nature. The projected income for GCFA from general Church funds for the 2025-2028 quadrennium ranges from $11,826,360 to $12,337,279, depending on the ultimate Base Percentage used in 2027 and 2028. This level of funding represents a decrease between 52.9% and 54.0% compared to the 2017-2020 quadrennium. The funding comes primarily from the General Administration Fund, as well as fixed charges from the World Service and Episcopal Funds, collectively representing 93% of the total amount. GCFA's administrative ministries mandated by *The Book of Discipline* include:

1. Coordinating preparation of the quadrennial budget for the denomination's boards and agencies (¶ 806.1);
2. Administering the collection and distribution of apportionments (¶¶ 806, 806.2);
3. Reviewing annually the budget of each agency and treasury receiving general Church funds (¶ 806.4);
4. Coordinating external audits for all agencies and treasuries receiving general Church funds (¶ 806.5) ;
5. Maintaining an internal audit function to conduct audits of general Church agencies and treasuries (¶ 806.6);
6. Performing various fiscal responsibilities, such as accounting for the general funds, GCFA, the United Methodist Church Foundation, the Permanent Fund, The Board of Trustees, certain other general Church agencies, and may perform payroll, banking, and check preparation responsibilities for all general agencies receiving general Church funds (¶ 806.7);
7. Ensuring no board, agency, committee, commission, or council expends funds in a manner that is in violation of the expressed commitments of The United Methodist Church (¶¶ 806.9-.11);
8. Serving as custodial trustee for donations or bequests given to the denomination (¶ 807.1);
9. Protecting the legal interests, rights, and intellectual property of the denomination (¶¶ 807.9-.11);
10. Developing and overseeing investment policies and guidelines for all agencies receiving general funds, including managing an investment pool for the general Church agencies (¶ 806.12);
11. Maintaining a consultative travel and meeting planning service to assist general agencies in planning and making arrangements for national meetings, conferences, and convocations (¶ 807.13);
12. Managing, interpreting, and maintaining various statistics and records for the denomination (¶¶ 807.15-.16);
13. Providing guidance and consultation to various groups within The United Methodist

Church, including through training programs and workshops, establishment of professional standards, certifications, informational resources, and staff support (¶ 807.18);

14. Overseeing an insurance program for the denomination (¶ 807.19);
15. Assisting in the preparation for, and management of, General Conference (¶ 807.20); and
16. Administering the Episcopal Fund (¶ 818).

In addition to those *Disciplinary* mandates, GCFA, in the form of shared services, performs other administrative functions in support of general agencies, annual conferences, local churches, affiliated ministries, and the denomination as a whole. Examples of shared services include:

1. Human Resource services, such as recruiting, onboarding, and compensation studies;
2. Travel and meeting planning services that include online event registration, meeting planning, and travel arrangements;
3. Information technology services that include financial accounting software, database creation and maintenance, and an online systems to track individuals who are entering the ministry;
4. Legal services related to intellectual property, tax exemption status, and other areas of legal consultation: and
5. Data services, including systems allowing electronic submission of data to GCFA from annual conferences, and an online tool providing the general public certain information and statistics about the United Methodist connection.

General Church Sources of Funding to
The General Council on Finance and Administration
Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028

	2017-2020	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
On-Ratio Allocations:				
General Administration Fund (1)	$ 14,359,269	$ 5,641,725	$ (8,717,544)	-60.7%
Fixed Charges: (2)				
World Service Fund	$ 7,414,788	$ 3,920,585	$ (3,709,588)	-50.0%
Episcopal Fund	2,896,000	1,900,000	(996,000)	-34.4%
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	205,788	31,969	(175,575)	-85.3%
Human Relations Day	82,000	82,000	-	0.0%
One Great Hour of Sharing	453,000	453,000	-	0.0%
United Methodist Student Day	79,000	79,000	-	0.0%
World Communion Sunday	154,000	154,000	-	0.0%
Peace With Justice Sunday	31,000	31,000	-	0.0%
Native American Ministries Sunday	44,000	44,000	-	0.0%
Total Fixed Charges	$ 11,359,576	$ 6,695,554	$ (4,881,163)	-43.0%
Total General Church Funding	**$ 25,718,845**	**$ 12,337,279**	**$ (13,598,707)**	**-52.9%**

(1) This represents the actual collections for 2017 - 2020 and estimates for 2025-2028. The projected collection rate for 2025-2028 is 75% from the Jurisdictions and 50% from the Central Conferences. The total 2025-2028 apportionments to the Council from the General Administration Fund is $7,664787 as shown in Report # 6.

(2) The collection rate for fixed charges is 100%.

General Church Sources of Funding to
The General Council on Finance and Administration
Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in All Four Years

	2017-2020	2025-2028	$ Change	% Change
On-Ratio Allocations:				
General Administration Fund (1)	$ 14,359,269	$ 5,341,357	$ (9,017,912)	-62.8%
Fixed Charges: (2)				
World Service Fund	$ 7,414,788	$ 3,711,737	$ (3,709,588)	-50.0%
Episcopal Fund	2,896,000	1,900,000	(996,000)	-34.4%
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	205,788	30,266	(175,575)	-85.3%
Human Relations Day	82,000	82,000	-	0.0%
One Great Hour of Sharing	453,000	453,000	-	0.0%
United Methodist Student Day	79,000	79,000	-	0.0%
World Communion Sunday	154,000	154,000	-	0.0%
Peace With Justice Sunday	31,000	31,000	-	0.0%
Native American Ministries Sunday	44,000	44,000	-	0.0%
Total Fixed Charges	$ 11,359,576	$ 6,485,003	$ (4,881,163)	-43.0%
Total General Church Funding	**$ 25,718,845**	**$ 11,826,360**	**$ (13,899,075)**	**-54.0%**

(1) This represents the actual collections for 2017 - 2020 and estimates for 2025-2028. The projected collection rate for 2025-2028 is 75% from the Jurisdictions and 50% from the Central Conferences. The total 2025-2028 apportionments to the Council from the General Administration Fund is $7,664787 as shown in Report # 6.

(2) The collection rate for fixed charges is 100%.

General Church Sources of Funding to
The General Council on Finance and Administration
Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in 2025-2026 and 2.9% in 2027-2028

	2025	2026	2027	2028
On-Ratio Allocations:				
General Administration Fund (1)	$ 1,388,555	$ 1,349,606	$ 1,461,094	$ 1,442,470
Fixed Charges: (2)				
World Service Fund	$ 966,633	$ 935,087	$ 1,016,096	$ 1,002,769
Episcopal Fund	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	7,882	7,625	8,285	8,177
Human Relations Day	20,500	20,500	20,500	20,500
One Great Hour of Sharing	113,250	113,250	113,250	113,250
United Methodist Student Day	19,750	19,750	19,750	19,750
World Communion Sunday	38,500	38,500	38,500	38,500
Peace With Justice Sunday	7,750	7,750	7,750	7,750
Native American Ministries Sunday	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
Total Fixed Charges	$ 1,660,265	$ 1,628,462	$ 1,710,131	$ 1,696,696
Total General Church Funding	**$ 3,048,820**	**$ 2,978,068**	**$ 3,171,225**	**$ 3,139,166**

(1) The projected collection rate for 2025-2028 is 75% from the Jurisdictions and 50% from the Central Conferences. The total 2025-2028 apportionments to the Council from the General Administration Fund is $7,244,035 as shown in Report # 6.

(2) The collection rate for fixed charges is 100%.

General Church Sources of Funding to
The General Council on Finance and Administration
Base Percentage Rate of 2.6% in All Four Years

	2025	2026	2027	2028
On-Ratio Allocations:				
General Administration Fund (1)	$ 1,388,555	$ 1,349,606	$ 1,309,947	$ 1,293,249
Fixed Charges: (2)				
World Service Fund	$ 966,633	$ 935,087	$ 910,983	$ 899,034
Episcopal Fund	475,000	475,000	475,000	475,000
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	7,882	7,625	7,428	7,331
Human Relations Day	20,500	20,500	20,500	20,500
One Great Hour of Sharing	113,250	113,250	113,250	113,250
United Methodist Student Day	19,750	19,750	19,750	19,750
World Communion Sunday	38,500	38,500	38,500	38,500
Peace With Justice Sunday	7,750	7,750	7,750	7,750
Native American Ministries Sunday	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
Total Fixed Charges	$ 1,660,265	$ 1,628,462	$ 1,604,161	$ 1,592,115
Total General Church Funding	**$ 3,048,820**	**$ 2,978,068**	**$ 2,914,108**	**$ 2,885,364**

(1) The projected collection rate for 2025-2028 is 75% from the Jurisdictions and 50% from the Central Conferences. The total 2025-2028 apportionments to the Council from the General Administration Fund is $7,244,035 as shown in Report # 6.

(2) The collection rate for fixed charges is 100%.

Report No. 15

INCOME FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE PERMANENT FUND

The General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA"), by action of the 1972 General Conference, serves as the successor to The Board of Trustees of The United Methodist Church and its predecessor bodies (¶ 803). In this capacity, GCFA provides for the management of assets that have been added to the Permanent Fund (¶ 807.3b) and those under the purview of The Board of Trustees for the benefit of specified ministries.

GCFA maintains records of all distributable income managed via The Board of Trustees and the Permanent Fund. The Permanent Fund provides funding for the World Service Fund from its distributable income as affirmed by successive General Conferences. In the seven-year period of 2016 to 2023, the Permanent Fund has provided a total of $4,640,228 to the World Service Fund, for an annual average of $580,029. Thus, the Permanent Fund has continued to help underwrite the mission and outreach of The United Methodist Church.

GCFA recommends that a portion of the Permanent Fund distributions be made a part of the World Service Fund receipts annually for distribution during the 2025-2028 quadrennium.

Report No. 16

REPORT ON GENERAL AGENCIES HEADQUARTERS/STAFF LOCATION

Background and Mandate

Via ¶ 807.6 of *The Book of Discipline*, the General Conference has assigned the General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA") the following responsibility:

> To establish general policy governing the ownership, sale, rental, renovation, or purchase of property by a general agency in the United States. [GCFA] shall consider the plans of any general agency proposing to acquire or sell real estate or erect a building or enter into a lease in the continental United States and determine whether the proposed action is in the best interest of The United Methodist Church. On the basis of that determination it shall approve or disapprove all such proposed actions. In the case of such proposed action by a general program agency, it shall solicit and consider the recommendation of the Connectional Table.

Procedure

Paragraph 807.7 requires GCFA "[t]o establish a procedure for making a quadrennial review, initiating proposals and/or responding to proposals by the general agencies regarding the location of headquarters and staff and reporting the same to the General Conference."

GCFA's Committee on Fiduciary, Foundation, and Property Matters reviews any proposal and other relevant information, including input from the Connectional Table, then makes a recommendation to GCFA's Board for its action.

Activity Concerning Headquarters/Staff Relocation

GCFA received and considered two proposals from other agencies in relation to their headquarters since the 2016 General Conference:

1. In 2021, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry ("GBHEM") and the General Board of Discipleship ("Discipleship Ministries") proposed the sale of the Kern Building, which was jointly occupied by the two agencies in Nashville, Tennessee as well as an adjacent commercial property. Historically, the Kern Building housed all GBHEM employees and some employees of Discipleship Ministries.
2. In 2023, the General Commission on United Methodist Men ("GCUMM") proposed the sale of its headquarters in Nashville.

GCFA's Board of Directors, after reviewing the information submitted by these agencies and the recommendation of the Connectional Table (as required by ¶ 807.6), approved both proposals. The sales were each completed in the same years they were proposed. GCUMM now uses spaces in the building owned by the General Commission on Communications and GBHEM moved office space to a neighboring building owned by Discipleship Ministries/The Upper Room.

Additionally, in 2020 GCFA began to analyze the best use of its own headquarters location in Nashville. After exploring various ways in which to move forward, GCFA's Board of Directors ultimately approved the sale of its headquarters. After the sale was completed in 2022, GCFA relocated to space rented from Discipleship Ministries/The Upper Room.

Headquarters Property Report

The Headquarters Property Report is summarized in another GCFA Report to General Conference in Volume 3 of the Advance Daily Christian Advocate. It will detail the resources and methodologies used to compile the information contained in the report. Findings relevant to the location, condition, and status of agency properties are also presented in that report.

Recommendations

GCFA recommends that general agencies continue to review and evaluate their headquarters needs during the upcoming quadrennium, in light of what is "in the best interest of The United Methodist Church" (¶ 807.6). This recommendation is contingent upon any actions of the General Conference that may affect general agency headquarters locations.

Report No. 17

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOUNDATION INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Progress in the Face of Change

As we approach the twenty-fifth anniversary of The United Methodist Church Foundation d/b/a Foundation Investment Management (FIM), we are proud to have grown as a ministry of The United Methodist Church. Our mission is to promote growth and vitality throughout the Church. Our board has set the direction and policies to accomplish this mandate through two key initiatives.

Firstly, we have established a multi-faceted investment program that offers common investment funds and specialized portfolios to all general agencies, organizations, and conference foundations (excluding local churches). We use avoidance screens and actively promote shareholder advocacy consistent with the United Methodist Social Principles. Secondly, we have established general agency endowment programs that collaborate with United Methodist agencies and organizations to establish 25 endowment efforts to date, ensuring the future financial efficacy of the ministries of the agencies and organizations we support.

Endowments and Donor Advised Funds: Foundation Investment Management has successfully initiated and is growing 25 endowments and donor advised funds for various ministries, including those funded by the Council of Bishops and agencies receiving general Church funds. The trust and confidence gained by FIM's services and administration are evidenced by the endowment efforts that come its way. Upon reaching an agreed-upon threshold, these efforts provide annual distributions for ministry funding. Today, almost $20 million has been invested to support future ministry, thanks to this vital service.

Fund Management: FIM's funds management program delivers exceptional investment performance with a focus on environmental, social, and governance factors. Our range of investment strategies caters to participants seeking to protect their principal or grow their investments. We customize portfolios to meet each participant's long-term needs, emphasizing total return from capital appreciation, dividend, and interest income. Our primary objective is to achieve current income while preserving the purchasing power of investment principal. Over a long-term investment horizon of ten years or more, we aim to meet or exceed the return required to fund FIM's strategic programs as defined in our mission and vision statements.

FIM's funds management program employs a downside capture strategy that is specifically designed to minimize loss and maintain value during periods of market decline. Since 2016, market conditions have served to vindicate the sound decisions made by FIM's Investment Committee in this regard. To further diversify our portfolios and create additional opportunities for long-term growth, the Foundation Investment Management Board of Directors voted in 2018 to establish a new series of funds that track various equity indexes. In 2021, the Board voted to move to an equity indexing strategy to comprise the majority of our portfolio. With this move, FIM remains committed to its mission of providing exceptional investment management services. Furthermore, our Board of Directors benefits from the collective wisdom and expertise of some of the most accomplished professionals within our denomination.

Since its inception, FIM has incorporated social screens into its investment policies to further the principles and policies outlined in the United Methodist Social Principles. FIM remains dedicated to enhancing its socially responsible investment ministry through the application of portfolio screening. FIM promotes positive behavioral changes in areas such as board diversity, EEO reporting, the reduction of violence in video gaming, greenhouse gas emission reduction and reporting, and the fight against human trafficking. FIM has been a key participant in initiatives regarding climate change and has effectively advocated for enhanced commitments to diversity in board policies, particularly relating to persons of color and women, amongst many others.

Foundation Investment Management remains grateful for the opportunity to be a participant in the ministry of administration to support the Church. With an unwavering commitment to growth and stewardship, FIM strives to establish a solid financial foundation for the future of denominational ministries. FIM's leadership and board members are well-prepared to amplify the dimensions of general Church caretaking and giving to unprecedented levels.

Report No. 18
UNITED METHODIST INSURANCE CO., INC.

(A non-profit insurance company owned by the General Council on Finance and Administration)

Introduction

Since 1976, the General Conference has required the General Council on Finance and Administration ("GCFA") to make available a "church-wide [property and liability] insurance program." The General Conference revisited the issue of property and liability insurance in 1992, and local church boards of trustees were required to do the following:

> [R]eview annually the adequacy of property, liability, and crime insurance coverage on church-owned property …. The board shall include in its report to the Charge Conference the results of its review and any recommendations it deems necessary. (See ¶ 2533.2, *Book of Discipline*)

Without affordable, and widely and consistently available comprehensive property and liability insurance, the assets with which the Church wins disciples to Christ and the gifts of generations of United Methodists given for that purpose are at risk. The journey toward fulfilling the potential of the connection for protecting its own ministries and ministry resources remains important to us today.

Mission

The United Methodist Insurance Program ("UMIP") fulfills the mandate to GCFA by General Conference to create a church-wide insurance program. UMIP's sole mission is to protect the property and ministries of the United Methodist Church connection, including any ministry with historical ties to Methodism.

The "business" of UMIP is to provide access to comprehensive insurance coverage with limits sufficient to cover property losses and liability claims in the current litigious environment, and to stabilize (and ultimately reduce) the cost of insurance by leveraging the combined purchasing power of the ministries within the United Methodist connection. UMIP is particularly concerned with providing access to proper insurance coverage to parts of the connection that are traditionally underserved. This includes small churches, urban churches, churches with poor loss history, and churches with exposure to natural disasters such as tornadoes and hurricanes.

Our ministry includes using revenue generated by the business of providing insurance for the benefit of the entire connection, including, but not limited to, local churches, annual conferences, and general agencies. In addition, our focus is on helping all parts of the connection protect resources and the people they seek to serve. For example, UMIP actively helps the entire connection by providing access for local churches, conferences, and general Church agencies to obtain background checks for clergy and volunteers. UMIP works with Sovereign Insurance Group, its insurance partner, and experts within the Church to provide access to risk management programs and information to assist local churches in establishing policies and programs designed to protect finances, people, and property.

As stewards of the denomination's financial resources, local church and annual conference trustees have a duty to focus on the cost of coverage because the purchase of insurance is a "business transaction." However, as stewards we are also obligated to ensure our churches have coverage limits sufficient to respond in the event of loss and to recognize the importance of denomination-specific resources and training in preventing losses.

History

UMIP engaged Sovereign on July 21, 2022. Sovereign has been very successful in acquiring new business for the program, saving ministries money, and making additional insurance companies available to the program. In addition, Sovereign has expanded UMIP's availability to foundations, camps, retreat centers, schools, universities, and other parts of the United Methodist connection not previously served by UMIP or its predecessors.

UMIP is available to any ministry with historic ties to Methodism. It honors all expressions of Methodism and disaffiliation does not affect eligibility to keep or obtain coverage through UMIP.

Moving Forward

The availability of GCFA-sponsored insurance programs has laid the foundation for a new understanding of insurance as a tool for living out "trust-related stewardship." We have, in turn, set a new standard for the commercial insurance market. Following are a few examples:

- UMIP offers limits and coverages previously unavailable, forcing the commercial insurance market to improve their offerings to match ours.
- Along with several annual conferences, GCFA regularly consults UMIP in establishing minimum levels of insurance required for local church boards of trustees to use in evaluating whether a church had adequate insurance. These minimum levels of insurance are printed and available on both UMIP's and GCFA's website under 'Proper Coverage Standards (previously entitled Minimum Insurance Requirements.'
- UMIP's presence in the property and liability insurance market benefits the entire denomination.
- UMIP continues to make resources available to reduce the frequency and severity of loss through its newsletter, website, webinars, and social media.

To be of service to as many churches as possible, The United Methodist Insurance Program has expanded the number of carriers it represents. The carriers will include those dedicated to serving the church market and other carriers providing specialty coverage for difficult-to-place risks and specialty lines of coverage. With the elimination of the risk of underwriting losses, UMIP will be better positioned to provide additional services and resources to local churches, annual conferences, and general Church agencies. More information can be found at www.UMInsure.org.

Report No. 19

WORLD SERVICE SPECIALS

Program Definition

The Book of Discipline defines a World Service Special as “a designated financial contribution made by an individual, local church, organization, district, or annual conference to a project authorized as a World Service Special project.” (¶ 820.2) These are approved by the General Conference and, in the interim, by the General Council on Finance and Administration (“GCFA”) and the Connectional Table. The World Service Special projects are listed below with their applicable receipts:

World Service Specials

Project	2001-2004	2005-2008	2009-2012	2013-2016	2017-2020	2021-2024
Africa University	2,956,727	4,402,684	3,098,083	5,187,083	3,857,914	3,211,683
Perryman Scholarship	3,541	1,800	5,535	900	0	0
Global Education	0	0	4,436	800	0	0
Total Receipts	**$ 2,960,268**	**$ 4,404,484**	**$ 3,108,054**	**$ 5,188,783**	**$ 3,857,914**	**$ 3,211,683**

With certain conditions, general agencies receiving support from the general funds of the Church are eligible to participate in this program. Those units of general agencies authorized to receive general Advance Special support are not eligible to participate in this giving program.

Administration of Program

GCFA has the responsibility for receipt and distribution of World Service Special Gifts funds.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
General Council on Finance and Administration

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH