



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

General Council on Finance and Administration

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



LEADERSHIP.
EXCELLENCE
AGILITY.
DISCOVERY.

Budget Conversations

Reframing the Conversation

Reframing

- Stewardship is a spiritual practice, not just a financial task.
- Budget conversations are a way to help people see they are part of something bigger than their local church.
- Transparency is a form of care and accountability.
- Talking about money is part of discipleship, not something to be avoided.
- People want to give — they just need to know how their giving matters.

Avoiding Budget Conversations

Conversations

- Discomfort around money conversations often leads leaders to stay quiet.
- Leaders worry that budget discussions will feel like fundraising appeals.
- Avoiding the topic creates room for confusion, suspicion, or disengagement.

Transparency Builds Trust

Transparency

- Being open about finances builds trust and shows respect for the people you serve.
- Use plain language to explain income, expenses, and priorities.
- Share both challenges and good news to build credibility.
- Link the budget to the mission — people give to vision, not spreadsheets.

Communicate Effectively

Communicate

- Use stories and visuals — not just numbers — to bring the budget to life.
- Communicate regularly and consistently, even when there's no major update.
- Create space for testimony: let people share how giving has impacted ministry.

Apportionment Contributions

Apportionments

- The bishops of the central conferences have shown strong dedication to contributing to the general church.
- **EVERY GIFT MATTERS** — even a small increase from your church helps the whole connection.

Dialogue & Commitment

Commitment

- What's one thing you'll do differently the next time you talk about the church budget?
- What do you think people in your church need to better understand about giving?
- How can you help people connect their giving to God's mission in your church and beyond?

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!



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