

### **Current Financial State of the Church**

## Sheila Ahler

GCFA Board Member & Conference CFA Chair

# **Apportionment Trends**



### **General Church Budgets - 13 Year Trend**

YEAR BUDGET

2012 \$603

2016 \$604

2020 \$604

**-18**%

(\$109)

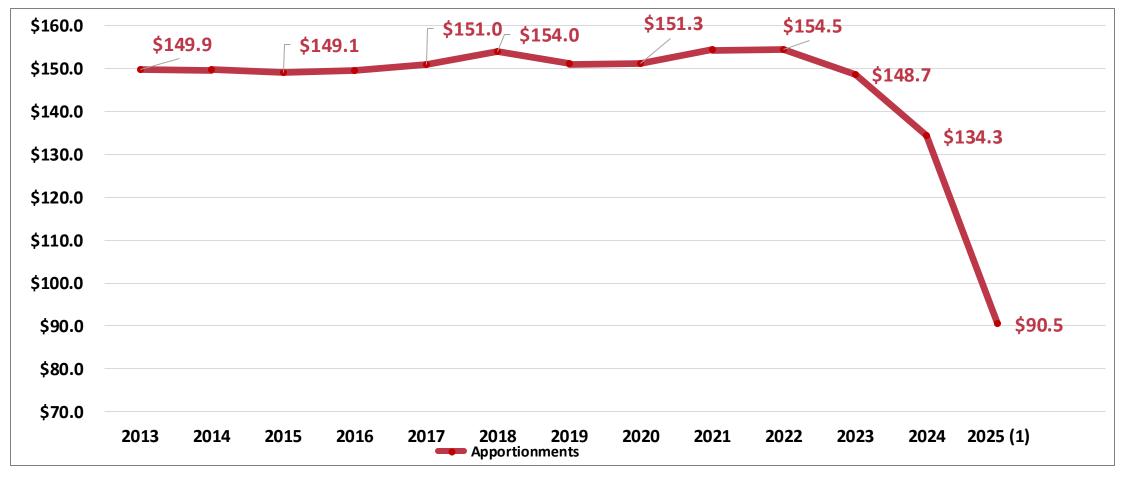
\$495

(\$257) -43%

2024 \$347

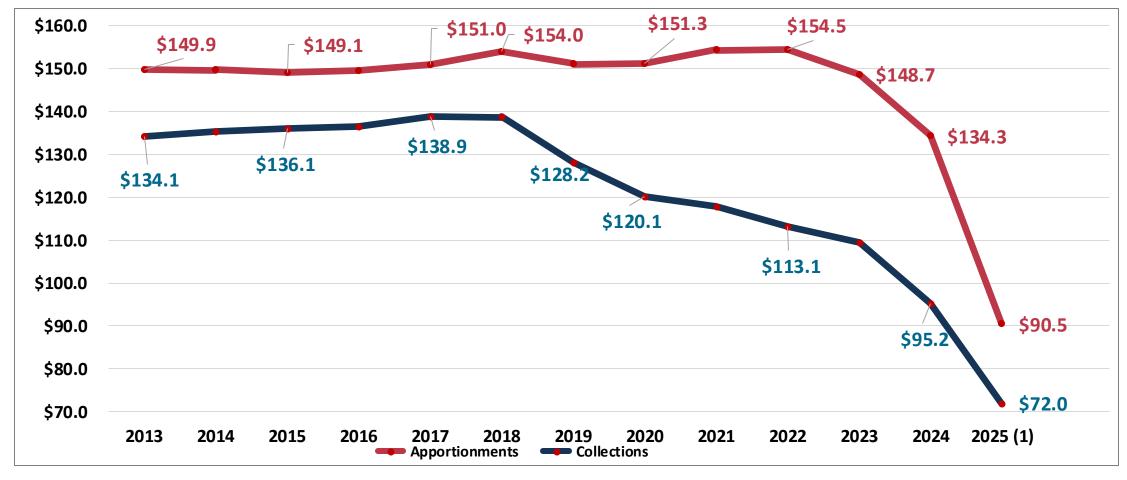
### **Jurisdictional Apportionments & Collections - 13 Year Trend**

#### Figures In Millions of dollars



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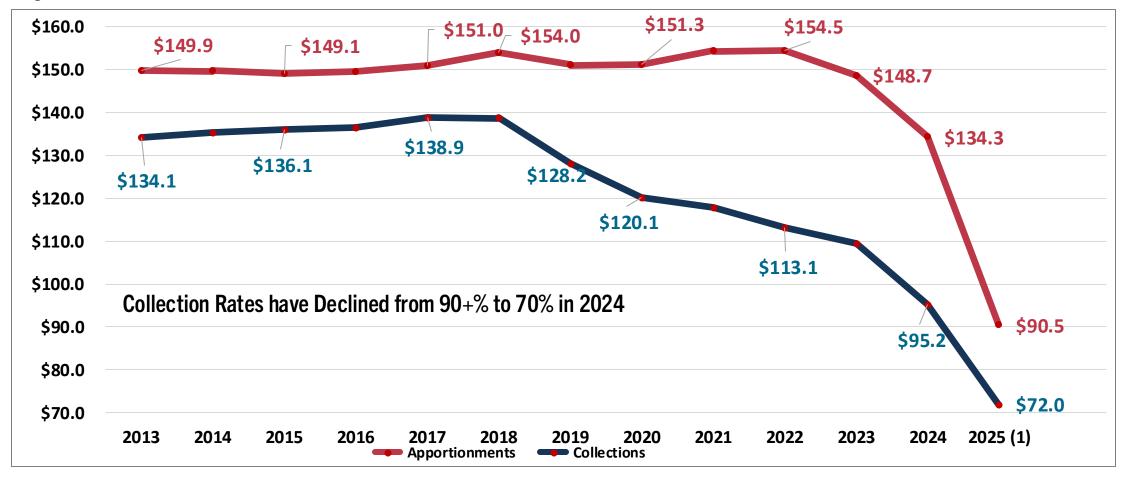
#### Figures In Millions of dollars



1) This is just an early estimate for 2025 collections to give perspective of current state.

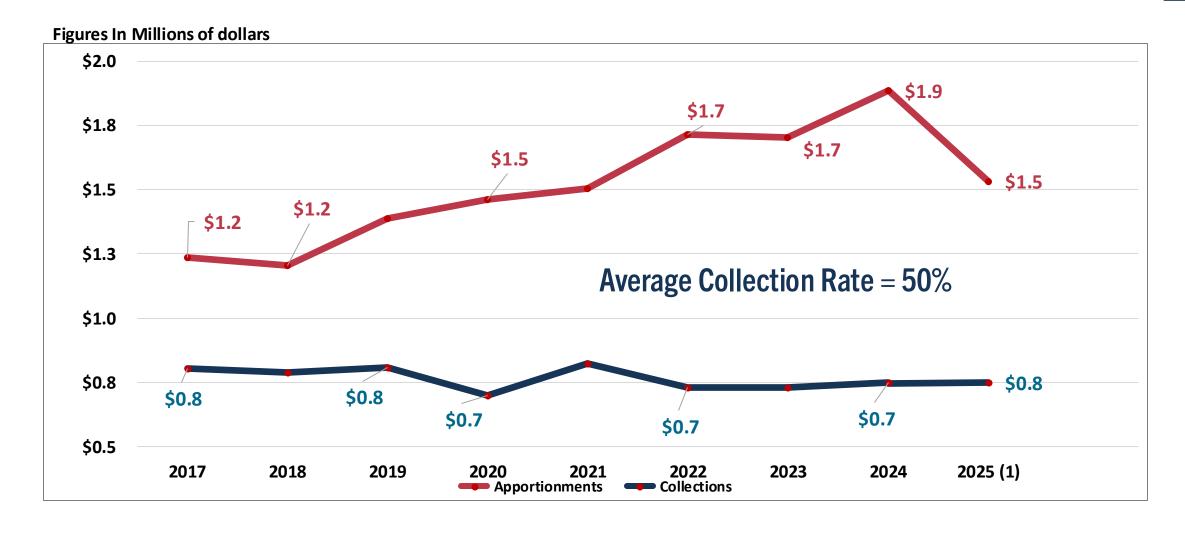
### **Jurisdictional Apportionments & Collections - 13 Year Trend**

#### Figures In Millions of dollars



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### **Central Conference Apportionments & Collections - 9 Year Trend**



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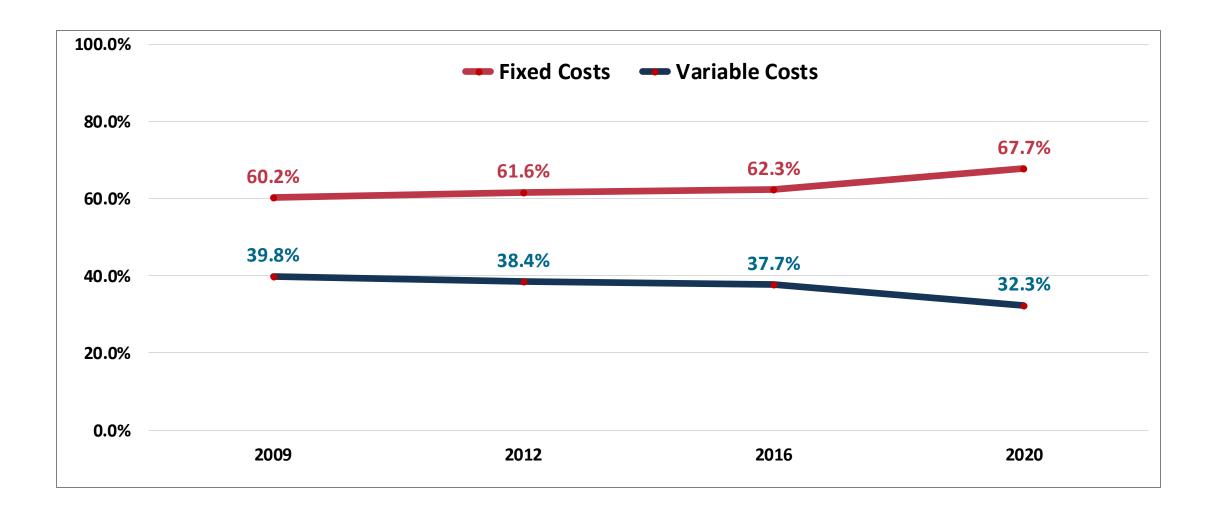
# Impacts of Disaffiliation and Other Factors



### Impacts on Jurisdictions

- 32% of local churches left the denomination.
- Churches that stayed United Methodist also lost membership and offerings.
- Total impact is still unknown.
- Local Churches are spending much more of offering on fixed costs (operating costs & pastor / staff salaries compared to prior Years)
- This leaves less Dollars for Apportionment giving, missional work & growth of facilities.

### U.S. Local Church Spending Trends - Percent of Total Spending



### Impacts on Central Conferences

- $\triangleright$  Annual Conferences leaving the denomination (600,000 Professing Members & 5% of apportionment giving).
  - Cote D'Ivoire
  - Bulgaria / Romania
  - > Russia
- Due to COVID and global politics, international travel has become more challenging. This hinders administrative and missional work of the Church.
- Less discretionary spending for U.S. churches leaves fewer funds for apportionment and missional support of Central Conferences.

# 2025-2028 Budget



### **General Church Budgets - 13 Year Trend**

YEAR BUDGET

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2020 \$604

**-18**%

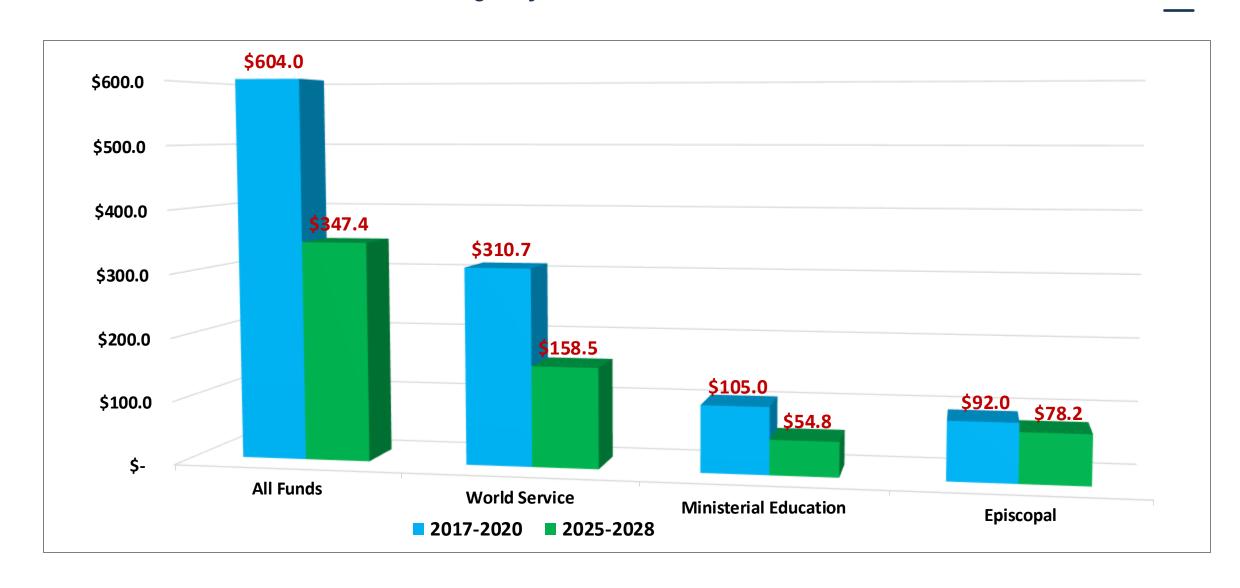
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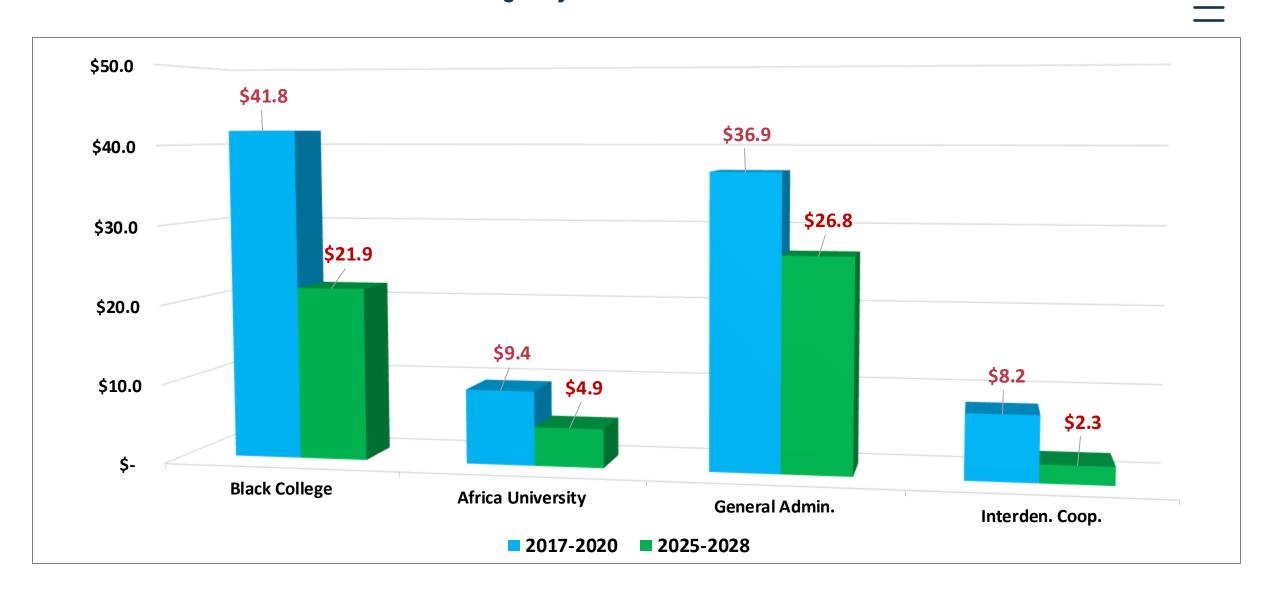
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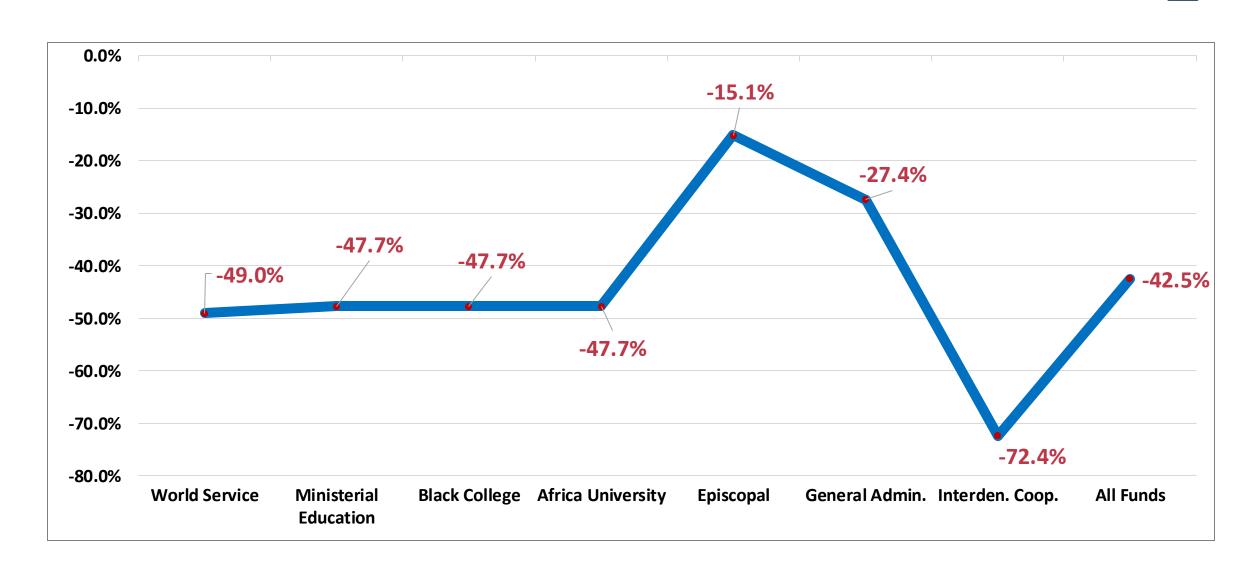
### **2025 - 2028 Budget By Fund in Millions of Dollars vs. 2017-2020**



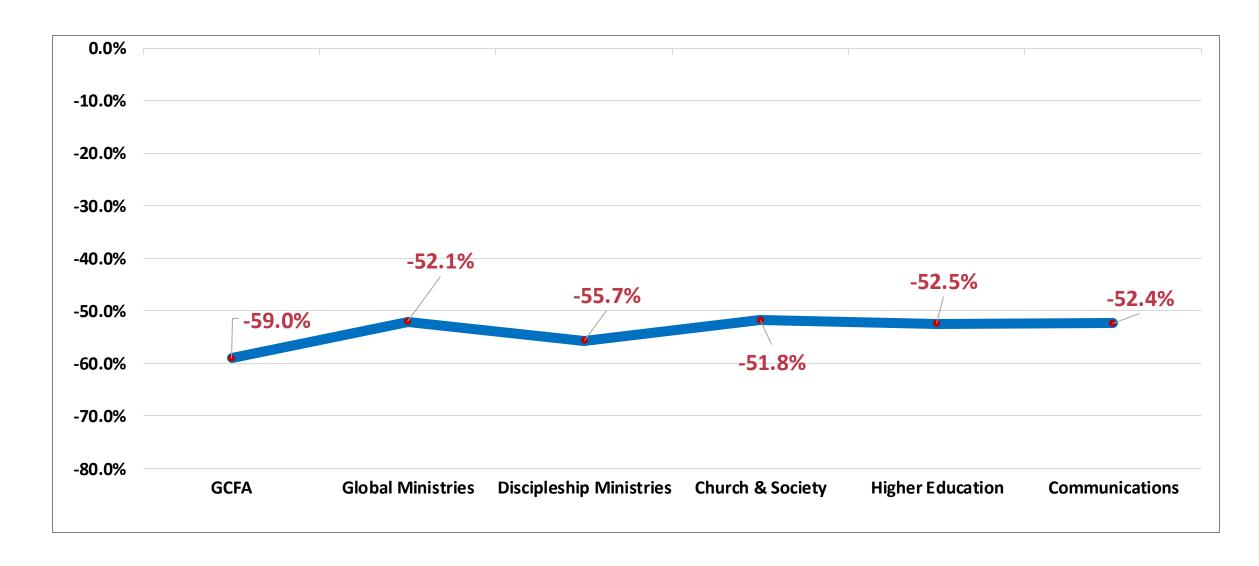
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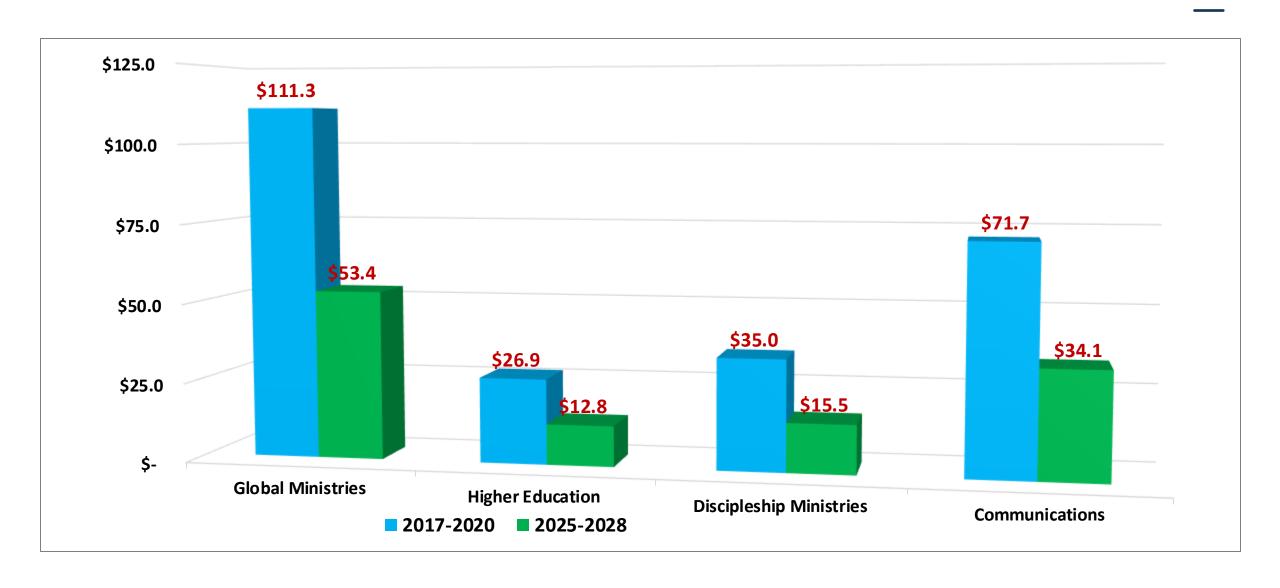
### **2025 – 2028 Budget Reductions in Percentages**



### **2025 – 2028 Budget Reductions in Millions of Dollars**



### **2025 - 2028 Budget By Fund in Millions of Dollars vs. 2017-2020**



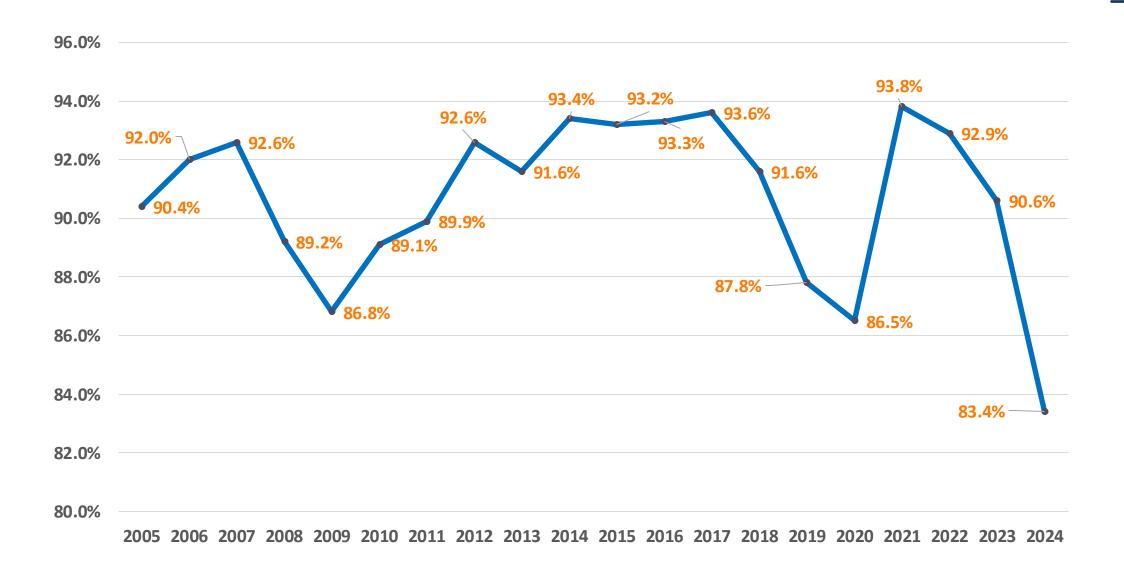
## **Episcopal Fund Status**



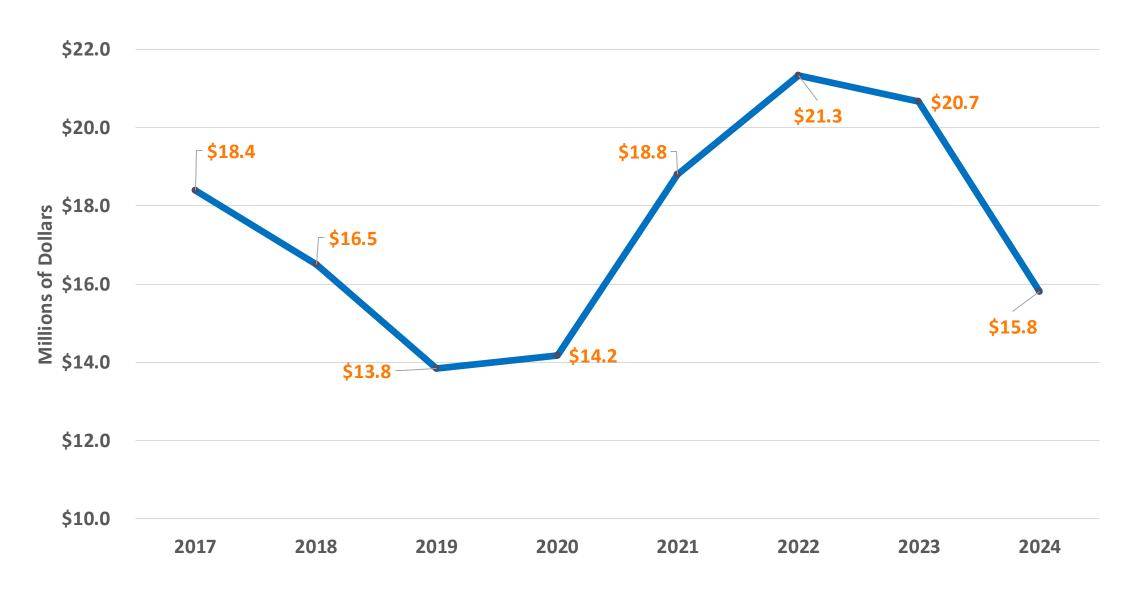
### **Episcopal Fund Trends - Dollars Collected (000's Omitted)**



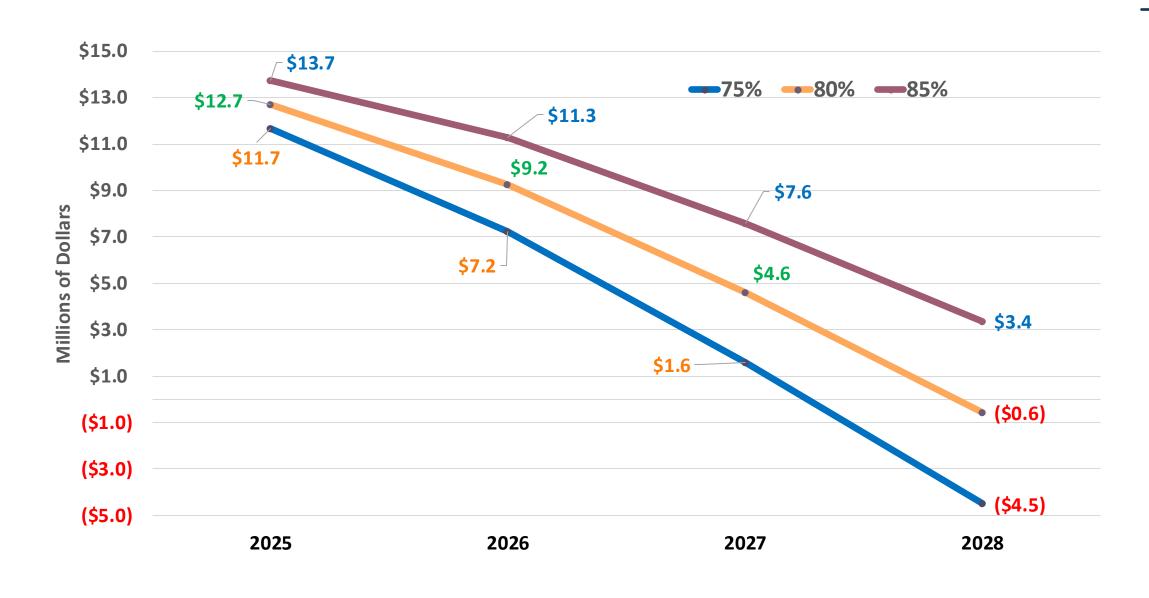
### **Episcopal Fund Collection Rate Trends - Percent Collected**



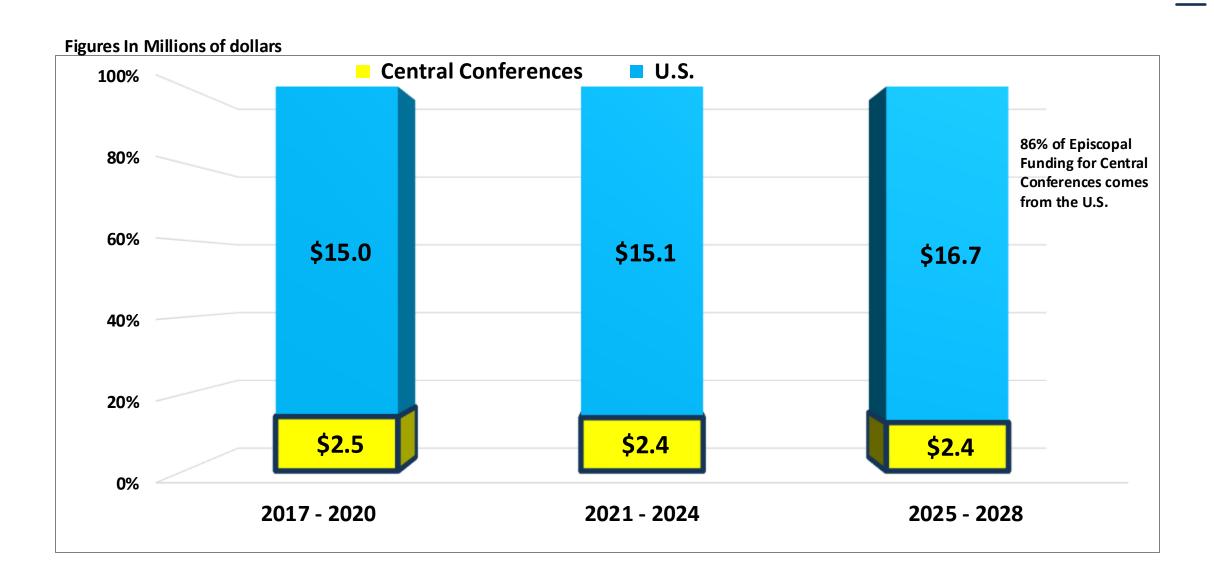
### **Episcopal Fund Reserve Trends**



### Episcopal Fund Reserve Projection with 75%, 80%, & 85% Collection Rates



### Sources of Funding for Central Conference Episcopal Expenses



# **Summary & Discussion**



### **Financial Realities**

Today, the jurisdictions have less capacity to support the General Church as a whole, including covering Episcopal costs in the Central **Conferences** and administrative costs such as **General Conference and the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters.** 

Increased Episcopal Areas in the Central Conferences (Africa) increases the total Episcopal costs.

How can the Central Conferences, including Africa contribute a larger portion of their Episcopal and General Administration expenses?