Our Conference Apportionments
Agenda

❖ Welcome
❖ Devotion
❖ Prayer
In the DNA

Connectional Giving and the Ministry of The United Methodist Church
Connectional Giving

- Connectional giving is part of our shared offerings at work.
- Apportionments is the term we use to describe the portion that each congregation contributes to the AC and General Church operating budgets.
- Churches give to AC; AC gives to General (worldwide) Church.
- Apportionments are one outward and visible sign of the connection within the UMC.
First Benevolence Responsibility

...World Service on apportionment represents the minimum needs for the mission and ministry of the Church. Conference benevolences represent the minimum needs for mission and ministry in the Annual Conference. Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches is the first benevolent responsibility of the church.

¶247.14, Book of Discipline, 2012
Why Do We Pay Apportionments?

- Apportionments are opportunities to be in ministry beyond the local church.
- Apportionments allow us to work toward our goal of making Disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Apportionments, like all giving to the Church, is a way of sharing our blessings.
Why Be Connected?

- UMs believe we are stronger and can do more things better when we work together in community—“We are the body of Christ connected together.”
- Since our earliest days, Methodist giving has been both local and connectional.
- The Christian faith is a shared experience. Individuals cannot do Christian community on their own. Individual churches cannot be complete community on their own.
- The Christian Church is meant to be a spiritual community, working together to bring about the Kingdom of God—individuals cannot do that on their own and UMs believe individual churches cannot do that on their own either.
Why Be Connected?

1. What is our STORY?
2. What is our PURPOSE?
3. What is our WITNESS?
4. What is our IMPACT?
What is Our Story?

1. We are missional.
2. We are evangelical.
3. We are connectional.
4. We are global.

¶102, Book of Discipline, 2012
What is Our Purpose?

1. “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”
2. “Proclaim the good news of God’s grace.”
3. “Exemplify Jesus’ command to love God and neighbor.”

¶¶120 & 121, Book of Discipline, 2012
What is Our Witness?

“As United Methodists, we are called to identify the needs of both individuals and of society and to address those needs out of resources of the Christian faith in a way that is clear, convincing, and effective.”

¶105, Book of Discipline, 2012
What is Our Impact?

In the Wisconsin Annual Conference:

- Dozens of families receive safe, comfortable housing who otherwise would be living on the streets.
- Support and aid are delivered to dozens of abused women and children.
In the Wisconsin Annual Conference:

- Hundreds of people receive meals and clothing who would go without.
- Lives devastated by natural disasters are rebuilt through our mission efforts.
- Basic medical care is provided to over 100 children in need.
In the Wisconsin Annual Conference:

- Books and school supplies have been provided to over 100 children living below the poverty line.
- Missional aid is being provided through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).
- Ministries are provided to those whose lives have been damaged by drugs, alcohol, gambling, and other addictive behaviors.
In the Wisconsin Annual Conference:

- Resources and training are provided to laity and clergy across the Conference.
- Ministerial education and support is provided to strengthen ministries throughout the connection.
- Ministry is provided in dozens of places where inadequate resources limit self sufficiency.
- New and emerging ministries are funded.
In the Wisconsin Annual Conference:

- Hundreds of children, youth, young adults, adults, and special needs individuals engage in life-affirming camping and retreat experiences.
- The infrastructure costs for Volunteers in Mission and other mission project opportunities are provided.
- Support for ministry events for youth and young adults serve hundreds of young people state-wide.
In the Wisconsin Annual Conference:

- Ecumenical and interfaith partnerships are funded and strengthened across the Conference.
- The ministries of our Bishop, District Superintendents, and Conference staff receive support.
- Critically needed leadership support for racial and ethnic development serves to strengthen our diversity.
In the Wisconsin Annual Conference:

- Consultation and support is made available to local congregations, charges, and circuits.
- Special support is ensured for retired clergy and their families.
- Emergency funds are made available to assist clergy and congregations in time of exceptional circumstances.
- Global ministries and missions are made possible through both apportionments and special offerings.
In the Wisconsin Annual Conference:

- Communication through our website, Enews, email list serves, and emerging social networking technologies are available.
- Resources and support are provided for congregational revitalization.
- A Conference resource library is stocked with materials for use in local churches and circuits.
What is Our Story?

Apportionments are not something we do, they reflect who we are.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:21
Strengthening the Connection

It starts with the decision!
1. Partner congregations
2. Apportionment interpreters
3. Apportionment patrons
4. Apportionment fundraising
FAQs

1. Are there legitimate reasons not to pay apportionments?
2. Would we be better off using our money locally?
3. What if we don’t trust the way apportionments are being spent?
4. Should we be allowed more say in the way apportionments are used?
5. What if we simply can’t pay our apportionments?
Apportionment Formula

- 1/3 adjusted (minus 25) membership
- 2/3 local expenses (all expenses except apportionments, benevolences, principal and interest, and capital expenses)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!