

**Wisconsin Annual Conference
Apportionment Changes – July 2019
Frequently Asked Questions**

Please make sure that your Pastor, Chair of Finance and Church Treasurer are aware of these changes. Below you will find background information as well as responses to questions we have received following this annual conference vote.

Background

In June 2019, the Wisconsin Annual Conference passed an action item that changed our Conference policy on General Conference apportionments and changed the way that our Annual Conference receives apportionments. Previously our local churches were apportioned a single amount to support our Conference budget. Beginning in July 2019, our local churches will be apportioned in three categories:

- General Conference Apportionments
- Jurisdictional Conference Apportionments
- Wisconsin Conference Apportionments

Questions

1. What was the **original policy** prior to the June 2019 Annual Conference vote?
Here is the policy as it previously appeared in the Conference Journal:

10.3.0 General Conference Apportionments

The Conference Treasurer shall pay General Conference Apportionments in twelve monthly installments of equal amount on or about the last day of the month.

2. What is the **revised policy**, as voted on at the June 2019 Annual Conference?

10.3.0 General Conference Apportionments *(prior to June 2019)*

The Conference Treasurer shall notify local churches of their share of apportionments, separated into three categories: 1) General Conference Apportionments, 2) Jurisdictional Apportionments, and 3) Wisconsin Conference Apportionments. Local churches submitting apportionment payments shall indicate on remittances how much is designated for the various General Conference Apportionments, Jurisdictional Conference and Wisconsin Conference Apportionments. The Conference Treasurer will make General Conference Apportionments as directed by the Council on Finance & Administration, in consultation with the Connectional Table and the Cabinet. When apportionment receipts are projected to be inadequate, priority for funding will be given to ministries within the bounds of the Annual Conference. The Conference Treasurer will send any money designated for General Church Apportionments to the General Church monthly.

3. If my local church Treasurer sends a check, but does not specify General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference or Wisconsin Conference Apportionments, how will my church's giving be allocated?

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
• General Conference Apportionments	24.3%	25.1%
• Jurisdictional Conference Apportionments	0.2%	0.2%
• Wisconsin Conference Apportionments	75.5%	74.7%

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Posted 07/19/19

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4. If my church gives to **only one category** of apportionment, how will our giving be used?
- **General Conference Apportionments** – all funds received for this category will be sent to the General Council on Finance & Administration monthly. This supports the seven General Church Funds. More information on these funds can be found at <http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/apportioned-funds>.
 - **Jurisdictional Conference Apportionments** – all funds received for this category will be sent to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference monthly. More information can be found at <https://www.ncjumc.org/>.
 - **Wisconsin Conference Apportionments** – all funds received for this category will be used for our ministries in Wisconsin, as budgeted and directed by our Conference's boards and agencies. Visit www.wisconsinumc.org for information on our ministries and our Conference budget page to see more financial details at <https://www.wisconsinumc.org/ministries/worship-witness/finance/conference-budget>.

5. If my church is apportioned \$1,000 in total (including all three categories), and we give the full \$1,000 to **only one category**, will we be recognized for paying 100% of our apportionment covenant?

No. In order to be recognized for giving 100%, your church would need to give the full amount apportioned for each category.

6. If the Conference Treasurer receives Wisconsin Conference Apportionments in excess of the amount budgeted in a given year, what will happen with those funds?

The excess funds will be used for ministries in Wisconsin, at the direction of the Council on Finance & Administration and in consultation with the Connectional Table and Cabinet. During the yearly budget process the Boards and Agencies complete a Plan for Ministry form in order to receive funding. We expect a similar process to be used when there are unbudgeted funds available for Wisconsin ministries.

7. The Conference Budget was cut mid-year last year. Will the Conference budget be reduced again this year?

The revision to Conference Policy 10.3.0 General Conference Apportionments puts our Annual Conference in a better cash flow situation. Previously we were sending 1/12 or 8.3% of apportionments to the General Church each month, when our apportionment receipts were much less. The Council on Finance & Administration (CFA) will continue to monitor apportionment receipts, reach out to churches that were previously withholding, and do our best to project this year's receipts based on the information available. We need your help and would appreciate if your church leadership would e-mail our Conference Treasurer if you are unable to give 100%. Please e-mail TreasurerOffice@Wisconsinumc.org with what you plan to give this year. At this moment in time, we do not expect to reduce the 2019 budget.