

“Do all the good you can, in all the places you can,
to all the people you can.” —John Wesley

John Wesley and the early Methodists saw our work in the plainest, simplest terms: do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can. Wesley lived each and every day, the lesson of Galatians 6:2, “Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” To relieve the burdens of the poor, he collected clothes, foraged the countryside for food and provided housing for the homeless. To improve the lives of children, he established schools all across England. And for the sick, he set up free medical clinics in his preaching houses. Today we United Methodists follow in the footsteps of the early Methodists, joining hands in service to support one another and to help God's children, whenever and wherever we can—through our apportioned funds, a connectional giving covenant that has become a strong, generous tradition and a lifelong personal commitment of United Methodists everywhere. We celebrate that covenant as we fulfill the promise we made the day we joined the United Methodist Church: to support the church with our prayers, our presence, our witness, our gifts and our service.

Improving the lives of children.

Reaching out to disaster victims.

Enriching our spiritual lives.

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God...through Him.” Colossians 3:17 NRSV

Thank you for sharing what God has
given you... our apportionments are
current through October!

In the process of getting our apportionments current, I have become aware of several misconceptions. I hope that the following information will help you understand why our consistent giving of God's portion to our apportionments is so important. Thank you again for your faithful giving.

Pastor Andy

Sharing God's Gifts

Because of Jesus Christ we share God's love. Because of Jesus Christ we join hands in service. We United Methodists join hands across our connected congregations to help all of God's children... whenever and wherever we can. Just as Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes when the crowd grew hungry. You—and your congregation—are the heart and spirit of this outreaching ministry of love.

Our apportionments are not based on membership but on a percentage of our church expenditures. United Methodist Churches in the United States, on average, give about 15.7 cents out of every dollar towards apportionments. So then 84.3 cents stay in the local church. Because our apportionments are not based on membership, the more you give the higher the percentage that can stay in the local church. God can use that 15.7 cents in miraculous ways to do work all over the world.

Of the average 15.7 cents of each dollar given, 12.4 cents funds the work of the Jurisdictions, areas, annual conferences and districts. The remaining 3.3 cents goes to support the work of the general boards and agencies including the United Methodist Women.

The following are the designated funds that your apportionments support.

World Service Fund—

This fund supports our Christian mission efforts around the world. Evangelistic efforts, spiritual commitment, church growth and discipleship are all supported around the world through this fund.

Africa University—

This fund supports the only United Methodist degree-granting university on the continent of Africa—serving students throughout sub-Saharan Africa, providing higher education of excellent quality nurturing students in Christian values and developing visionary leaders of tomorrow. Christian pastors, evangelists and leaders are among the graduates of this important institution.

Ministerial Education Fund—

Men and women choose the ministry because God calls them. The Ministerial Education Fund is our way of helping them answer that divine call. Our United Methodist seminaries lead the effort to proclaim God's word in a world desperately in need of that message.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund—

We United Methodists are a small part of the worldwide Christian Church—the living body of Jesus Christ. Our unity with other Christian communions is affirmed as we witness to a common Christian faith, meet human suffering and advocate for peace and justice all over the world.

Shared through designated Giving

Advance for Christ and His Church—

Gifts are designated by the donor to specific approved projects of the General Board of Global Ministries. One hundred percent goes to projects—with administrative costs paid by the World Service Fund.

Black College Fund—

The 11 historically Black United Methodist-related institutions play a unique role in U.S. Higher education. Their graduates—teachers and doctors, ministers and bishops, judges, artists and entrepreneurs—are leaders in the African-American community and a rapidly changing United States.

Episcopal Fund—

Bishops always have had a very special role in our church... elected and consecrated to speak to the church... and from the church. The apostle Paul called it a “noble task.” It is practical as well since our bishops oversee and promote the church's temporal and spiritual interests.

World Service Special Gifts—

This is a special channel of designated support for approved projects of general church agencies not eligible for Advance gifts. Again 100 percent goes to the selected projects.

Church-wide Special Sundays with offerings—

These are funded through offerings taken on the designated Sunday.

Human Relations Day—Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

One Great Hour of Sharing—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Native American Ministries Sunday—Third Sunday of Easter

Peace With Justice Sunday—First Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday—First Sunday of October

United Methodist Student Day—Last Sunday of November

The Iowa United Methodist Fund—

+ camp and Retreat Centers for children through adults spiritual growth

+ eight specialized ministers to consult with local congregations who want to grow in ministry and mission

+ a partnership with the United Methodist Church in Nigeria

+ a ministry of presence at four Wesley Foundations and four Iowa United Methodist based colleges.

+ an office of pastoral care and counseling for the emotional/spiritual health of our clergy families.

+ a network of advocacy for children and those who live in poverty.

+ salary supplements for clergy serving churches in difficult financial conditions

+ Matthew 25 funds that have helped to fund ministries in Clarinda—
Sew And Share

Faith Food and Fellowship

Nodaway Valley Free Clinic

Many ministries, churches, pastors and their families are supported through our apportionment dollars. When apportionments are not paid in full, someone does without. Someone isn't reached with the good news of Jesus. It could be a ministry in our own community.

The mission of the Iowa Annual Conference is to:

Develop Leaders who Proclaim the Gospel.

* recruitment/appointment/supervision of ministry and mission personnel

* academy for Lay Leadership, Stewardship, Christian Education and Preaching

* community centers such as Bidwell/Riverside, Waterloo Ministry Center, Shalom Zone,
Hawthorne Hill

And transform the world

* supporting mission personnel in Iowa and around the world.

* giving youth and young adults opportunities to develop leadership skills

* advocating for racial and gender equality as well as support for children at risk

* responding to disasters by volunteers in mission and gifts for immediate and long term relief and reconstruction.

...so that every Iowa United Methodist Church congregation and faith community can fulfill its mission through its primary task of making disciples.