



Local Church Mission Shares Narrative Budget 2009



***Transformed by the Holy Spirit,
united in trust,
we will respond to God's call
to proclaim Christ boldly to the world.***

“...the Church is either faithful as a witnessing and serving community, or it loses its vitality and its impact on an unbelieving world.”

The Book of Discipline ¶ 107

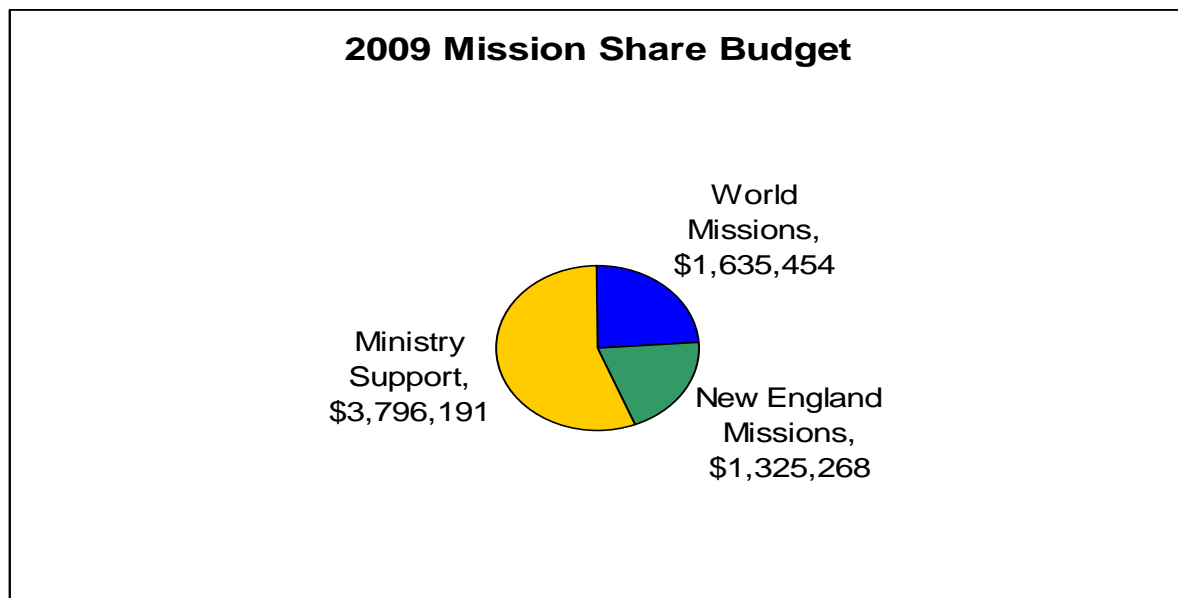
Beyond the reaffirmation of faith, each local congregation is an expression of the ministry of Jesus Christ and bears witness to reconciliation with God and one another. As each congregation prepares its annual financial program, the language of numbers gives shape and dimension to faithful response to ministry. These responses connect our denomination in a dynamic multi-dimensional way.

Overall, our resources are apportioned to various distinct, but interconnected, programs and ministries. While they may vary in priority, each one is worthy of your careful, prayerful and responsible consideration and decision.

To assist you in your review of how your apportioned resources work, we have divided the fundamental needs of our Conference and denomination into three fund areas. Each fund represents an important area in which we are keeping faith with the *Discipline* and our commitment as a connectional people:

- **Fund 1 – World Missions**
- **Fund 2 – New England Mission**
- **Fund 3 – Ministry Support**

Your response to each of these funds will truly be an expression of faith; for all these funds address not only current, but also future needs. As such, they are the substance of things hope for. In allocating apportioned funds, we are making tangible our confidence of the things we hope...for our communities, for our Conference, for our church, and for our world.



GENERAL CHURCH MISSION SHARE ASKING

Fund 1 – World Missions (\$1,635,454)

Through these funds, we make connections for ministry through our covenant to all those entities that comprise the General Church.

WORLD SERVICE

\$849,703

World Service is “the first benevolent responsibility of the Church” (¶812, 2004 *Discipline*). This fund provides the basic financial resources for the core ministries of our denomination. It serves both to provide resources to our local churches and as an extension of local churches in mission on a conference, national and world level.



The major thrust in mission giving in our Church begins with the World Service Fund, enabling United Methodists to be in mission and ministry in 167 countries throughout the world.

BLACK COLLEGE FUND

\$117,241

Immediately following the Civil War, the Methodist Church was the first to recognize its moral responsibility to provide educational opportunities for gifted young newly-freed blacks. Today, eleven schools remain and are supported by the United Methodist Church through the Black College Fund.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND

\$ 26,240

Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, has been educating and nurturing students for 13 years. This institution encompasses schools of agriculture, business, education, theology, health sciences, humanities and an institute for peace, leadership and governance. Funding assures its success.

EPISCOPAL FUND

\$230,804

The United Methodist Church is served by 68 bishops. Through the Episcopal Fund, we provide the salaries, pensions and conference-related expenses for all our bishops. This assures the vitality and continuation of the spiritual and temporal leadership of our denomination.



MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND

\$293,883

A well educated, well-trained clergy is the heart and soul of our denomination, but seminary education is expensive. Through the General Church, a significant portion of these resources assists our seminaries, recruitment and continuing education programs for professional development. A portion is used in our Conference to provide seminary scholarships for ordained and diaconal ministers.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND

\$ 22,904

Methodism has always been an ecumenical denomination. We allocate resources for our work with the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, Churches Uniting in Christ and the World Methodist Council. Every local church is enriched by and extends this ecumenical tradition.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND

\$ 94,680

This fund was established as a part of the original financial plan of the Methodist Church at its unification in 1939. It was continued in the United Methodist Church as the source of funding for the session of the General Conference every four years, the Judicial Council, and other general church agencies deemed to be administrative in nature including the General Council on Finance and Administration. Funds to support General Conference cover the cost of transportation of the official delegates, a per diem for food and lodging, rental of meeting facilities, equipment and services, and the printing of the *Daily Christian Advocate*.



*Serving Christ Through Our United
Methodist Connectional Giving*

General Church Special Sundays

Church-wide Special Sundays with offerings enable United Methodists to offer refuge in times of disaster, promote peace and justice, provide scholarships and student loans, teach skills to encourage self-sufficiency and share the love of Jesus Christ with God's people everywhere.

Human Relations Day
January 18, 2009

One Great Hour of Sharing
March 22, 2009

Native American Ministries
April 26, 2009

Peace with Justice Sunday
June 7, 2009

World Communion Sunday
October 4, 2009

United Methodist Student Day
November 29, 2009



One Great Hour of Sharing supports UMCOR responses to disasters world-wide in conjunction with local church donations of material supplies.

CONFERENCE MINISTRIES MISSION SHARE ASKING

Fund 2 – New England Missions (\$1,325,268)

“Each local church shall have a definite evangelistic, nurture and witness responsibility for its members and the surrounding area, and a missional outreach responsibility to the local and global community.”

The Book of Discipline ¶ 204

While we live and work locally, the reach of our faith and connectedness extends across our region and around the world. New England Missions Fund supports the ministries of people in local congregations and related ministries all over New England. Some of these ministries include:

PROGRAM MINISTRIES

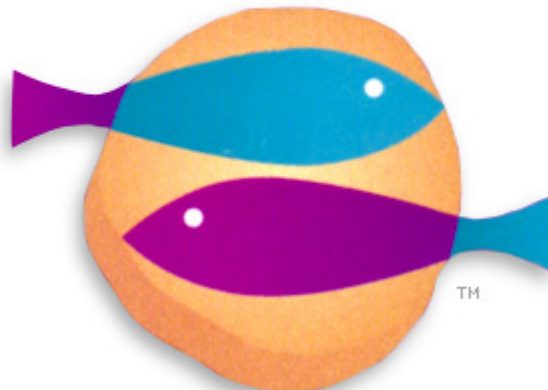
\$191,110

Congregational Development: The effort to support new churches and church expansion has a long history in the New England Conference. These funds provide a number of support efforts to deploy clergy to local churches, support their ministries with the laity, and develop new and revitalize existing congregations.

Covenantal Relationships: Mission shares help support the ministries of our covenants with through our Nicaragua Planning Committee and West Angola Planning Committee.

Regional ministries/grants: New England Missions supports grants to local churches, clusters, districts for new and ongoing ministries, and the local church resource library.

Sharing God's Gifts



CAMPING/RETREAT AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

\$353,947

Often, a person's first encounter with Christ comes through a camping/retreat and youth ministry experience. Your mission share dollars support the ministries of Camp Mechuwana, Camp Wanakee, Camp Aldersgate, and Rolling Ridge Retreat Center. Camping/retreat and youth ministries have and continue to be a priority of the Conference representing over 30% of total New England Mission funds.

OTHER MINISTRY COMMITTEES

\$ 3,700

The Conference has an historic commitment to inclusivity and racial/ethnic justice. Committees of the Conference monitor the efforts of the Conference to be a more inclusive Christian community.

OTHER NEW ENGLAND MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

\$503,053

Communicating with the more than 500 congregations, 92,000 United Methodists, and 1,000 clergy/spouses throughout the Conference is an important part of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. Print and electronic media is a critical part of nurturing our connectional life. In addition, Conference program staff in the areas of spiritual formation, congregational development, and resource library is supported through this fund.



The worth of our contributions can best be seen through the eyes of faith. Dollar figures are simply a representation of our faithful determination to impact the lives and hopes of countless individuals within our local communities and across our region.

**LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRY SUPPORT
MISSION SHARE ASKING**

Fund 3 – Ministry Support (\$3,879,380)

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS **\$ 605,000**

Our church has a long-standing tradition of providing health insurance benefits to retired and disabled clergy and surviving spouses who have often provided years of dedicated and faithful service to the Conference. Beginning in 2008, with the advent of the new clergy pension program, the pension benefit costs associated with disabled clergy became the responsibility of the Conference. Funds are provided to clergy who retire to assist in moving from their final appointment.

EPISCOPAL OFFICE **\$ 110,109**

The Conference is served by a bishop. Funds provide support for the Episcopal area including salary, salary related expenses, office and office expenses, travel & continuing education, housing related expenses and administrative support.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDING **\$1,509,037**

The 8 district superintendents of the New England Conference are the extensions and expressions of the office of bishop. Through our funding of their salaries, pensions and conference-related expenses including travel, housing, and administrative support, we are keeping faith with their determination to support and expand the work of the congregations in our Conference.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY **\$ 51,500**

The recruitment, credentialing, and on-going support of the ordained clergy and local pastors who provide leadership to our churches within the Conference is the responsibility of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION **\$ 230,000**

As “United” Methodists, we believe our ministry should not be limited only to areas where adequate support for the clergy exists. By uniting our resources, we make possible the expansion of our ministry and maintain a presence in the world that is unique to our denomination.

*Through these apportioned funds, we keep faith with our ministers and the lay staff,
providing the means to support ministry throughout the New England Conference
& beyond.*

COMMITTEES

\$ 6,600

Part of our Wesleyan tradition is the provision of accountability in our ministry and the administration of our connectional life through the committee on investigation, sexual ethics response team, rules committee and administrative review committee of the Conference.

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

\$ 829,289

This is a comprehensive area through which the work and life of our Conference administrative ministries are facilitated. These funds support the operation of the United Methodist Center in Lawrence, meet the expenses of our various administrative functions such as legal fees and conference property insurance/maintenance, and salaries and benefits for the Conference's administrative staffs. As part of the Northeast Jurisdiction we support our jurisdictional connectional ministry and the quadrennial Jurisdictional Conference through these funds.



Conference Visioning Table at work

APPORTIONMENTS

“Ever since John Wesley began to refer to the scattered Methodist classes, bands and societies throughout eighteenth-century England as ‘the connexion,’ Methodist everywhere have embraced the idea that as a people of faith we journey together in connection and in covenant with one another.”

The Book of Discipline ¶ 112

Since the creation of the New England Conference in 1994 the same formula has been used to determine your Mission Shares. Statistical Table II is the basis for determination of Mission Shares. (See note below) The basic formula is:

The worth of the work of these funds far transcends the numbers.

While we are calculating dollars and cents, we are affecting lives and souls around the block and around the world

the sum of:

- Compensation and benefits for pastor and all staff (Table II, lines 64-70)
- Program expenses (education, worship, etc.) (Table II, line 71)
- Operating expenses (supplies, utilities, etc.) (Table II, line 72)

minus:

Estimated expense of operating church buildings for outside groups (Chart A, line 9)

Then averaged for the last three years for which we have statistical data.

Please note: not included in determining your mission shares (apportionments) are capital expenses and improvements, spending on mission, membership, attendance, or church income.

Mission Shares for your church will change from year to year. There are three variable factors.

1. The voted budget of the Conference.
2. The amount the local church spends on itself as a percentage of what all the Conference churches spend on themselves. Quite simply put, if your church spent on itself (lines 64 -72, 2005, 2006, and 2007 less chart A, line 9) at the same rate that all the other churches spent for the last three years, your apportionment would increase/decrease the same percentage as the budget of the Conference. However, most churches spend more or less than the conference average; hence your apportionment will change accordingly. In addition, church closings and mergers historically reduce the total amount all the churches in the conference spend resulting in an increased individual church Mission Share factor.

3. A three-year rolling average is used to prevent drastic changes to a local church budget from impacting their Mission Shares in one year. For example, if your church takes on (or eliminates) an additional full-time staff person, it would constitute a major budget change. This change in Mission Shares would be averaged over three years. (Please note – exceptions are for new church starts, Lazarus churches, merged churches, and also for churches with a reduction in status of pastoral appointment.)