

# *The Connectional Ministry Share*

The Connectional Ministry Share is like the family covenant. In order for its smooth functioning, when a part of the covenant has trouble, the other parts of the covenant must do more. For example, in a family with young children if one of the parents gets sick, the other parent has to do more to insure the smooth functioning of the family.

The Connectional Ministry Share is a most basic expression of the Covenant we share as United Methodists. It is the belief that as **United** Methodists we are in covenant together, united toward a common goal. In this case our common goal is the mission and ministry that is expressed in the budget of the Annual Conference as **voted by the local churches** that comprise the Annual Conference at its annual session in June of each year.

The Connectional Ministry Share is very practical. It understands the obvious, that not every church will be able to pay its Mission Shares 100% every year. We average about 60% of our churches paying 100%, that means about 40% cannot. Indeed, there are very few churches in our Conference who can claim that during their entire history they have had 100% payment of their Mission Shares. And those that have are justifiably proud of their faithfulness! In practical terms, it means that some years your church helps other churches meet their part of the covenant, and some years other churches help your church meet its part of the covenant. Or put another way, when one church cannot fully pay all its Mission Shares it means another church (or churches) somewhere in the New England Conference helps them as together we enable mission and ministry.

The Covenantal Connection of United Methodism is the principal on which the connectional ministry share is based. We trust that all churches do the best they can, we trust that all churches are good stewards, acknowledging that when one church faces an economic downturn, other churches need to be able to do more to help out for the good of the entire conference.

Together, as part of the Covenant expressed in the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, we enable mission and ministry that is a saving force throughout the entire world!