

Why We Pay Apportionments



Apportioned funds enable United Methodists to do together what no church, district, or annual conference could do alone.

By paying our apportionments in full, we are taking part in many different ministries all around the world that we could not do on our own. Apportionments support outreach programs, our bishops, seminary and college students, and much, much more.

Some Common Questions:

What is an “apportionment”? – Plain and simply an apportionment is the amount each local church gives to the annual conference to support international, national, and regional missions.

Why don’t we just do it ourselves? – Whereas it may be tempting to think that we can accomplish the same goals if we just ‘go it alone’, we would never be able to spread the gospel or the love of Christ as far and to as many people as we do when we are “connected”. By uniting our efforts, each dollar spent goes further, reaches more people, and does more good.

What does it mean to be part of the “connection”? – The connection is an idea or principle United Methodists hold. Basically, by being in the connection we are recognizing that our loyalty to God’s kingdom is bigger and goes much further than our local concerns. And we recognize that others in the United Methodist denomination are connected to us, whether they are down the street or on the other side of the globe.

What is “connectional giving”? – This is simply another way of talking about apportionments. It is the amount each church is asked to pay in order to support the workings of the larger church as a whole. We call it “connectional” because we are aware that other churches are also giving to the same causes so that we can work together to make tremendous things happen.

So Where Do Our Apportionments Go? – Our apportionment dollars go into several funds, all designed to further the work of the church in building the Kingdom. Some of the funds include:

The World Service Fund – This fund is the essential core of United Methodist outreach. Giving to this fund empowers evangelistic efforts, stimulates Bible study and spiritual commitment encourages church growth and discipleship, and helps God’s children everywhere. Each dollar we give to this fund will support children who are beginning to ask about God, or adults who is either reaffirming their beliefs or who are coming to Christ for the first time.

Ministerial Education Fund – This fund is dedicated to preparing men and women for effective ministry. The purpose is to enable the Church to recruit and educate ordained and licensed ministers and to enable annual conferences to meet increased demands for quality leadership.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund – Because we recognize that the United Methodist way is not the only way to find Christ or serve Christ, we are dedicated to working with other denominations in doing God’s work.

General Administration Fund – This support the critical administrative functions of the Church. It helps to maintain a system of checks and balances to ensure that the denomination operations efficiently and honestly.

Episcopal Fund – The “episcopacy” is a fancy word for Bishop, and the Episcopal Fund is to support the work of Bishops all over the world who are charged with leading our denomination in our walk with God, but also expected to speak to the world as representatives of our church, and more importantly, Christ.

Black College Fund – This ministry can trace its roots back to the Civil War when over 4 million freed slaves were unable to read and write, putting them at a disadvantage in the world. Over time, Methodist colleges were established for blacks who were not permitted to attend other colleges. Today, the United Methodist church supports 111 historically black colleges and universities as a part of the church’s commitment to ensuring all people will be able to obtain a sound education.

Thanks to St John’s UMC in Spencer, WV for summarizing this valuable information.