



# Treasurer Tips

## Connectional Giving

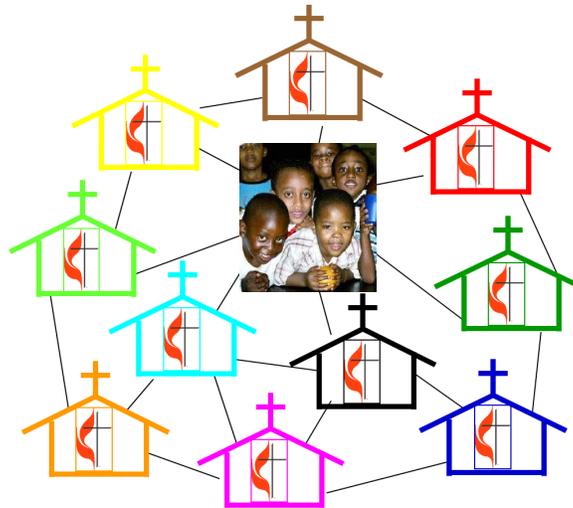
United Methodists may be amazed at the many organizational layers of church life, but members of other denominations have been heard to say: "If you want something done, get the United Methodists to do it." Followers of the Wesleys are indeed "methodical" about their approach to mission and ministry. One reason United Methodists can do great things is the church's emphasis on "connectionalism."

Connectionalism is a word unique and basic to United Methodism. United Methodist leaders often speak of the denomination as "the connection." This concept has been central to Methodism from its beginning.

So what is connectionalism? It means simply that all United Methodist leaders and congregations are bound

together by a common task and a common governance that empowers us to be in ministry around the world. We live out our connection through the clergy

people coming together, combining their money to accomplish something bigger than themselves, something that none of them could have accomplished on their own.



together by an appointment system, through the outreach United Methodists do together and through connectional giving.

And what is connectional giving? It's as simple as

United Methodists support apportioned and designated funds through their connectional gifts.

The General Conference establishes budgets for the

denomination's general funds. These are divided among annual conferences, based on a specific formula. Each annual conference, using its own formula, divides these fund requests, along with conference administrative and benevolence fund requests, among local churches. In addition, individuals, local churches, districts and annual conferences may make monetary gifts to the designated funds, of which 100 percent goes directly to a specific project or ministry. Together, apportioned and designated funds represent our connectional giving.

By combining several smaller gifts into a larger amount, we can effect change across the world. Individual churches can minister to a small area; however, as a connectional church, we can do big things, all in the name of Jesus Christ.

### OFFERINGS UPDATE

To date, we have received more than \$30,800 for the Pacific Emergency.

You may continue to send donations through this office. Make your checks payable to NMAC and memo them:

Pacific Emergency-  
Advance #3021317

## A Sense of Urgency

I recently attended a Financial Leadership Forum in Ft Worth along with six other people from the New Mexico Annual Conference. There were over 400 people in attendance including 35 bishops and numerous treasurers, benefits officers, lay leaders, district superintendents and chairs of both Conference Finance committees and Boards of

Pensions/Health Benefits.

Here are some things I learned:

After its merger with the Evangelical United Brethren church in 1968, the United Methodist Church was the largest protestant denomination in the United States with well over 10 million members. Since then,

we've lost 29% of our membership and 22% of our worship attendance. We've lost 20% of our churches. Since 1968 not one annual conference has grown their share of the population growth in their area.

In the last 20 years, Sunday School attendance is down 37.3% while indebtedness

## 100% Paid!

A big thank you to the following churches who have paid their 2011 Shared Ministries in full:

### Albuquerque District:

Central UMC

### Clovis District:

Grady UMC  
Hope UMC  
Maxwell UMC

Sacramento Mountain UMC  
Santa Rosa UMC  
First UMC, Tatum  
United Church of Roy

### El Paso District:

La Mesa UMC  
Grandfalls Union Church  
Toyah UMC  
First UMC, Van Horn  
First UMC, Wickett



## Africa University

If asked, would you be able to describe the ministries/organizations on that list of Shared Ministries your church contributes to every month? Here is a little information on one of them.

Africa University (AU) is a private, higher education institution that was founded by the United Methodist Church in March 1992 and is already changing the face of the continent. As an institution that is "pan-

Approximately 3,500 students have graduated from AU since it first opened with degrees in Sustainable Agriculture, Education, Business Management and Administration, Ethical Leadership, and Church Growth and Development. AU grants both Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

This is an African initiative, with African Methodists serving with United Methodists from all over the world to develop an institution for all of Africa.

Africa University relies on student fees and UMC support to sustain its operations. About one-half of the needed funding is apportioned to 34,000+ United Methodist churches.

Africa University is an example of connectionalism. Through the Africa University Fund, you provide consistent and reliable funding each year. No one congregation could have developed the university, but together we make a tremendous difference!



African" by design, AU enrolls students from throughout the continent without regard for race, ethnicity, social class or political or religious affiliation. It is the first private university chartered in Zimbabwe and currently has more than 1,200 students from 25 African countries.



Please do not send cash to the Conference office. And please do not send the offering envelopes from your special offerings. You need to open them, record the donations and send one check. Thanks!

## Urgency continued

has risen by 282%.

In the last year 40% of churches had no professions of faith.

Statistics on the home front are no better. While indebtedness is not nearly the problem here that it is nationwide, the New Mexico Annual Conference has lost 56% of its members since 1968 and Sunday School attendance has decreased 47% in the last 20 years. The last year we grew in worship attendance was 1997. Last year only one third of our

churches reported any growth in attendance.

The way we do church now is not sustainable.

But God's work is still getting done. Last year, we had 527 professions of faith and gave over \$602,591 in second-mile giving. 6,729 children participated in VBS and 230,316 lives were impacted by outreach ministries in our churches.

What can your church do to insure that God's work continues to be done?

## Suggestions?



This is your newsletter. Do you have questions you'd like addressed in future issues? Are there articles you'd like to see?

Send your suggestions to: [canderson@nmconfum.com](mailto:canderson@nmconfum.com).

I'd love to hear from you!

## Contact information

For Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits billing, contact Terry Shoemaker at [tshoe@nmconfum.com](mailto:tshoe@nmconfum.com).

For NM Conference Methodist Foundation endowment accounts, contact Molly Emkes at [molly@nmcnfi.org](mailto:molly@nmcnfi.org).

For Shared Ministries, Revolving Fund loan payments, background check billing, etc., contact Cathy Anderson at [canderson@nmconfum.com](mailto:canderson@nmconfum.com).

The New Mexico Annual Conference  
11816 Lomas Blvd NE  
Albuquerque NM 87112  
505.255.8786