

UNDERSTANDING SHARED MINISTRY

Council on Finance and
Administration



UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY



The United Methodist connection means we can do more good together than we can do alone.

God's kingdom is bigger and goes much further than our local church and concerns. In the United Methodist Church, we recognize that others in the United Methodist faith are connected to us, whether they are down the street, or on the other side of the globe.

Each local church is connected through an annual conference which is a regional body led by a resident Bishop. In 2018, our Greater New Jersey Annual Conference includes more than 500 churches in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania and is led by Bishop John Schol.

To support our mission together, each local church contributes a portion of its budget to Shared Ministry which supports the ministry of our annual conference, the global church and special funds set up by the denomination to move our ministry further.

Did you know?

30% of GNJ churches have participated in Team Vital, a program developed by Greater New Jersey to equip our congregations with strategic ministry plans to focus on mission, worship, small groups, generosity and making disciples. Shared Ministry supports the work of this connectional ministry.

THE GREATER NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE PROVIDES

- Administrative structure and functions
- Clergy recruitment, ordination and appointment
- Spiritual and missional leadership
- Training for clergy and lay leaders
- Services to support congregational vitality
- Event management for annual conference sessions
- Property services including church insurance and building concerns
- Support services including clergy and family health insurance and clergy pension
- Legal status to the local church as a tax exempt organization

Did you know?

GNJ launched a new resource to provide pastors and laity awareness of the barriers, challenges and blessings of cross racial and cross cultural appointments. In partnership with the General Commission of Race and Religion, this training is part of GNJ's 10 year commitment to intercultural competency and helps our congregations build new skill sets by embracing our differences within and outside of the walls of the church building. We're able to live out our goal of intercultural competence because of our shared commitments to Shared Ministry.

SHARED MINISTRY

Shared Ministry (sometimes called apportionment) connects the local church to the conference, the denomination and our global ministries. Each conference has a commitment to participate in Shared Ministry to global church through the denomination.

Shared Ministry is a method of giving that proportionally allocates our commitment to the global church and the conference to the local churches they serve. Shared Ministry makes us a Connectional church because our shared mission is supported by the work we do together.



Local Church Expense for 2017 X 16.1% = Shared Ministry for 2019



SHARED MINISTRY FORMULA

The Shared Ministry formula is determined by the Greater New Jersey Council on Finance & Administration (CF&A) each year. It is a fixed percentage of the local church budget and based on the conference's budget and denominational commitments.

To determine the Shared Ministry for each church, the fixed percentage is applied to the local church budget (Expense Formula) from the previous budget year. This number represents the local church's Shared Ministry commitment for the coming year.

Starting in 2018, CF&A set the formula at 16.3%. For 2019, CF&A has set the formula at 16.1%.

Recognizing that the best place for ministry dollars is within the local church, CF&A has made a commitment to gradually reduce the fixed percentage over the next five years. The proposal is reliant on local churches fulfilling 100% of their Shared Ministry each year, and the percentage would drop gradually from 16.3% in 2018, to 15.6% in 2022.

If a local church budget remains steady during this time, the church would see a decrease in Shared Ministry commitments during this period.

HOW DO YOU CALCULATE SHARED MINISTRY?

Shared Ministry is based on church expenses. Simply add all church expenditures and subtract mission and capital expenses. Shared Ministry prioritizes mission in the local church, so all mission expenses are backed out of the formula for calculations.

CALCULATING 2019 SHARED MINISTRY: AN EXAMPLE

Church Name: First UMC

Church No: 0000

2019 Shared Ministry Formula: First UMC Expenses for 2017: \$142,237

- Local Church Expenses for 2017 multiplied by 16.1% equals Local Church Shared Ministry Assessment for 2019 *or*
- Local Church Expense for 2017 X 16.1% = Local Church Apportionment for 2019
- \$142,237 X 16.1% = \$22,900 for 2019 or \$1,908 per month for 2019



Did you know?

In 2014, GNJ relaunched its youth weekend to create a transformational experience for young disciples called IGNITE. Since that time, IGNITE has welcomed thousands of students and young people to Christ and affirmed the next generation of new disciples. Shared Ministry helped incubate IGNITE which has helped sparked Next Generation Ministry, a vital mission partner that will be financially regenerative falling outside of Shared Ministry in the future.



REPORTING 2019 SHARED MINISTRY INFORMATION: AN EXAMPLE

Please RETURN this page with signature(s) to the Conference Office.

Church Name: First UMC

Church No: 0000

Total 2018 Shared Ministry: \$24,173

Total 2019 Shared Ministry: \$22,900

- The church has reviewed and accepts its portion of the Shared Ministry based on church expenses.
- Shared Ministry Information has been shared with the congregation.
- The Church commits to meet its Shared Ministry obligation.

Signatures:

Pastor:

Lay Leader:

Administrative Counsel Chairperson:

Treasurer:

Finance Chairperson:

WHERE DO OUR SHARED MINISTRY FUNDS GO?

Shared Ministry funds from throughout the denomination support several funds to further the work of the global church. These funds include:

The World Service Fund

A core of United Methodist outreach, this fund encourages church growth and discipleship, and helps God's children everywhere through evangelism, Bible study and spiritual commitment.

General Administration Fund

Supporting critical administrative functions of the conference and the denomination, this fund helps maintain a system of checks and balances to ensure that the church operates efficiently and honestly.

Episcopal Fund

The Episcopal Fund supports the work of Bishops all over the world who are charged with leading our denomination in our walk with God.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund

Recognizing that the United Methodist way is not the only way to find Christ or serve Christ, this fund is dedicated to working with other denominations in doing God's work.

Ministerial Education Fund

Preparing men and women for effective ministry is the main purpose of this fund which recruits and educates ordained and licensed ministers to meet increased demands for quality leadership.

Black College Fund

Tracing its roots to the Civil War, this fund supports 111 historically black colleges and universities as part of the church's commitment to ensuring all people will be able to obtain a sound education.

Africa University Fund

Located in Zimbabwe, Africa University (AU) is the first fully accredited Methodist institution on the African continent. It opened in 1992 and today boasts of a student body of about 1,200, representing 22 countries. The university's goal is to provide quality education and to encourage students to grow spiritually and to develop strong values and leadership skills.



Mission and Resource Center

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