

2026 BUDGET

May 2025 Annual Conference



UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY



The GNJ 2026 Budget strives to invest in the mission of GNJ

We do this by ...

- Making regional grants to churches for Congregational Development and Strategic Disciple making.
- Fulfilling our financial commitments for the Journey of Hope.
- Supporting the continued development of the leadership academy to equip transformational leaders.
- Making investments in Next Gen to raise up young people who will be new disciples and new leaders in the Conference.
- Continuing to invest in Hope centers to achieve our goals for mission and community development.



2026 Budget

- Consolidated budget includes:
 - ✓ All billings to congregations.
 - ✓ All spending on GNJ ministry and mission, administration and property.
 - ✓ All General Church apportionments.
- The aggregate shared ministry apportionment is 14.8% vs. 15.2% in 2025.
 - ✓ 12.3% for GNJ vs. 12.5% in 2025.
 - ✓ 2.5% for GCFA vs. 2.7% in 2025.
- Supports six district superintendents through June 2026, then drops to five.
- Compared to 2025, the apportionment base increased 0.6% to \$59.4M, indicating slight increase in local church spending (driven by billings).



2026 Budget

- Uses no dollars from property sales vs \$177,750 in 2025.
- Envisages the annual 5% Draw from GNJ designated funds which amounts to \$1,036,154 vs \$ 835,685 in 2025.
 - The draw amount is increasing because the 5% draw is on increased designated fund balances and this is helping to offset reduction in apportionments and property sales.
 - Note, \$133,366 from the Next Gen fund is captured in the Next Gen budget
- Draws \$142,000 from disaffiliation shared ministry funds.
- The MOU Contribution from EPA to GNJ is expected to be \$409,318 in 2026 vs. \$ 257,319 in 2025.
 - Increase driven by addition of Director of Administrative Services and Data Manager roles (both split 50/50).



2026 Budget – other assumptions

- Personnel:
 - 1% Merit increase.
 - Two new roles:
 - Director of Administrative Services (50%, split with EPA)
 - Additional Regional Administrative Assistant
 - Reduction of one District Superintendent in July 2026
 - Eliminated Episcopal Office Administrator (50% split with EPA)
 - Ongoing evaluation of staffing resources
- 50% reduction in Circuit Elder stipends vs. 2025 budget; 7% reduction in other regional grants
- Collection rates vs. 2025 budget:
 - Shared Ministry at 90% vs. 88%; 2024 actual was 87%
 - Billings held flat at 95%; 2024 actual was 95%
- Retiree Health changes to a stipend model vs. a one size fits all plan; information sessions have/ will be held for more details.
- **NOT yet included:**
 - Family Leave legislation; request for funding by the conference



2026 Budget

- Billing Assumptions:
 - ✓ Administrative and uncollectable fees reduced to 3% and 6% respectively (vs. 5% and 7%)
 - ✓ Unfortunately, the 2026 healthcare premium is increasing 12% (the cap Wespath passes along; would have been worse).
 - The blended rate is increasing accordingly by 12%, or \$2,900 (\$27,100 vs. \$24,200).
 - ✓ Property and Workers Compensation are assumed to increase 15% and 5% respectively; actual cost TBD - will only be known on renewal.
 - The property insurance market continues to be very challenging
 - ✓ Pension billings moves to new Compass Plan with CRSP ending 12/31/25
 - As a % of pastor's compensation, this reduces the billings paid by the local church to 9.5% vs.14%.
 - The church will also be billed for the pastor's contribution; paid by the pastor via payroll deductions.

