

Inside this issue:

Why We Apportion: A Guide for Minnesota Churches

1, 4-6

Announcements/ Prayer Requests

2-3, 7

Nurse's Notes

7

UMW Updates

7

Special Points of Interest:

- **Monthly Meet-Ups, Page 7**
- **Diaper Day, Page 8**
- **April Birthdays and Anniversaries included with Calendar**

Administrative Assistant Office Hours:

Monday:

8:00 AM-4:30 PM

Tuesdays-Fridays

8:00-10:30 AM



APRIL 2016

*Faith United Methodist Church
"Engage, Equip, and Empower!"*

**Volume 2016.
Issue 4**

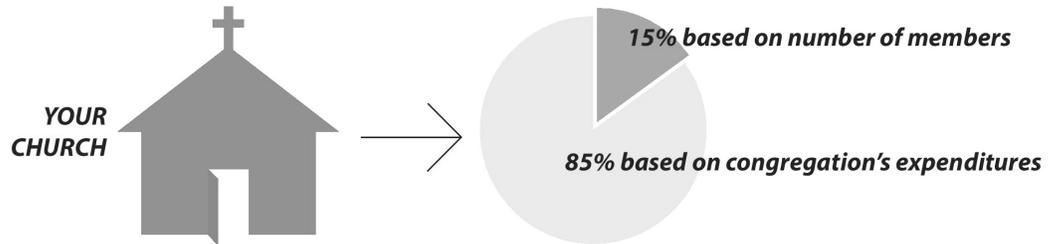


Why We Apportion:

A Guide for Minnesota Churches

WHAT ARE APPORTIONMENTS?

The main way we support the ministries of the church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the global and Minnesota church budgets to local congregations. Each year, every local church is assigned "a portion meant for others." The amount of money each congregation is asked to pay is determined by a formula that, in Minnesota, is based 15 percent on each congregation's number of members and 85 percent on each congregation's expenditures.



Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district, or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, and each congregation contributes to the church's work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts, and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God's people.



John Wesley

THE HISTORY OF APPORTIONMENTS

Apportionments started with John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement. He realized that people in the small faith groups he helped organize could do more with their combined resources than they could as individuals in terms of funding new preaching houses, supporting clergy who traveled among worshipping congregations, and providing relief for those in the paupers' prisons where Methodists also shared the good news of Jesus Christ. As the church grew, the Methodist connection spread across the world, delivering hope. (Continued on page 4.)

Prayer Requests

Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

Colony Court Memory & Care Suites: Ann Swenson

Colony Court: Millie Groh, Ardella Draheim, Nina Youngberg, Leona Quast, Muriel Jenkins

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Hazel Henkensiefken

Latham Place: Liz Corchran

Oaklawn Health Care Center: Jim Keller, Bill Brooks

Tower Light, St. Louis Park: Darlene Lynch

Those who also need our prayers: Willie Mahler [Home Hospice]

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Bruce and Deb Hering, Leona Quast, Kookie Kukacka, Peter and Verna Fog, Marilyn Possin, Chuck Youngberg, Brenda and Kipp Westrum, Jim Keller, Bill Brooks, Lynne Swenson, Les Wells, Dick and Elaine Westrum, the Kellers.



Hospitality Meeting

The Faith Hospitality Team is meeting **10:00 am on Monday, April 18th** in the Lakeview Room. We encourage people to attend. We get together and discuss ways we can make our church more welcoming. This is vitally important to the health of our church. Your presence is needed. Thanks, from the Hospitality team.

COMING SOON TO THE "CHURCH BY THE LAKE"

"M & M"* Sunday!

An opportunity to feast and fellowship together!

When: 5:30 PM on Sunday, April 24th

What: A light supper of hotdogs, chips, & cookies followed by the movie:

"God's Not Dead"

After he refuses to disavow his faith, a devout Christian student must prove the existence of God or else his college philosophy prof will fail him.

Why: It is good to gather with others for fun & food!

Bonus: No Admission Charge
Nursery will be provided

Be there for the first, biggest and best *Meal and Movie night ever!

Relay for Life Garage Sale

If you have any items that you are putting away for Christmas or anything that you would like to donate, we would appreciate it. Examples of donations would be: furniture, clothing, jewelry, etc. If you do not have room for it, we can take it and store it now. All our proceeds go towards cancer research. Please contact Dave Baldini at 835-3697 or Vada Dahnert at 833-5477.

Church Finance Update

Following the last newsletter, we received 9 Estimates of Giving with about \$2,000 more revenue for the operating fund that previously estimated. They also included plans for giving for apportionments and for the capital improvements fund. This brings our projected shortfall in the operating fund down to \$24,000 for the year with 31 Estimates of Giving submitted (out of 110 giving units).

We still have a long way to go to assure the available revenue to our operating fund to be able to pay all of your bills...salaries, heat, light, administrative and program expenses, etc. If you haven't already sent in your 2016 Estimate of Giving, we urge you to do so. It really does help us chart our financial path. If you already have sent in your 2016 Estimate of Giving and want to increase it, we welcome that as well.

This topic will be a regular discussion at each church council meeting. Remember, you don't need to be a regular council member to attend those meetings. Plan to attend and learn more about Faith Church's operations and plans.

Neil Fruechte, Finance Chair

Hunger Impacts Learning

Have you ever wondered how being hungry affects our ability to learn new information?



For children, poor nutrition may lead to stunted growth, increased susceptibility to infections, missing school and failure to thrive. In addition, hunger impacts mood, behavior, energy and ability to learn.

The facts are that in our Waseca schools, nearly 50% of students qualify for free or reduced cost lunches. The school officials feel that no child should go without a meal or be made to eat a lunch different from other children. The **Angel Account** was established to help when children forget their lunch money or their account is temporarily out of funds. The student calls their parent immediately to inform them of the situation. The school also informs families of shortages in their child's account which is sometimes reimbursed.

United Methodist Women, as an organization, is particularly supportive of issues involving women and children. With this in mind, the **Faith United Methodist Women** voted at their February meeting to donate \$300 to the Angel Account at the Intermediate School (grades 4-6).

Photo: Sherry Scholljegerdes and Linda Lohse present a check from UMW to principal, John Huttemeier

Faith Crafters and Stitchers

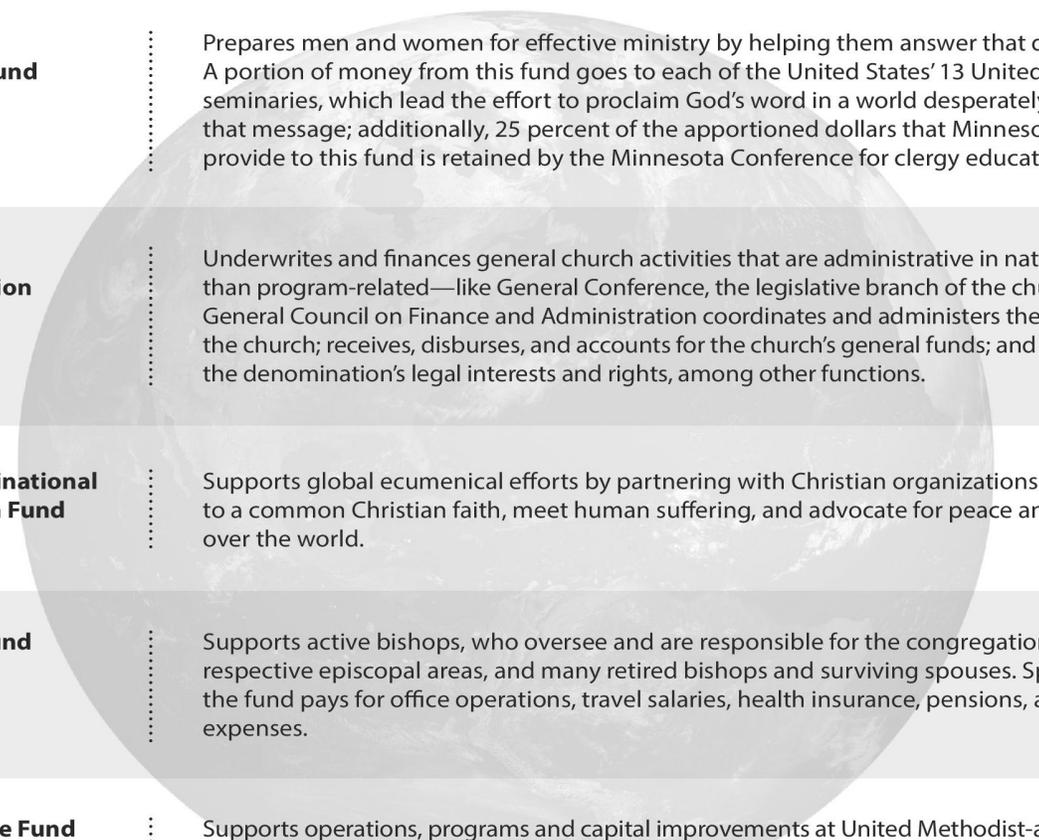
Faith Crafters and Stitchers will meet **Thursday, April 14th**, from **1:00-3:00 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall**. You are invited to bring your own project to work on or share ideas and supplies for Bazaar 2016 items that we can all work on. Snacks will be provided. Call Sandy Voshell at 835-4122 if you have any questions.

SUPPORTING GLOBAL EFFORTS

Did you know that your apportionment dollars are helping break the cycle of poverty in Laos? Or that they are helping to reduce hunger in Africa?

Important and life-changing ministries around the world are made possible thanks to apportionments. For example, a United Methodist missionary named Emmanuel Barte is in Laos teaching auto mechanics, English, computer skills, and driving instruction as part of a vocational training program called Faith Engine Ministry, which helps break the cycle of poverty. Meanwhile, Mozart Adevu is a missionary in Ghana, Africa, and provides training on improving food production and reducing hunger and malnutrition there.

In addition to paying missionaries' salaries, apportionment dollars fund the delivery vehicles that enable 100 percent of the money you donate to special offerings to go directly to the causes of your choosing. Apportionments also support global efforts through these **seven general funds** within The United Methodist Church:



World Service Fund	Underwrites Christian mission around the world; connects churches to a long list of missions and ministry efforts throughout the denomination that occur through general church agencies and other national and international programs.
Ministerial Education Fund	Prepares men and women for effective ministry by helping them answer that divine call. A portion of money from this fund goes to each of the United States' 13 United Methodist seminaries, which lead the effort to proclaim God's word in a world desperately in need of that message; additionally, 25 percent of the apportioned dollars that Minnesota churches provide to this fund is retained by the Minnesota Conference for clergy education.
General Administration Fund	Underwrites and finances general church activities that are administrative in nature, rather than program-related—like General Conference, the legislative branch of the church. The General Council on Finance and Administration coordinates and administers the finances of the church; receives, disburses, and accounts for the church's general funds; and safeguards the denomination's legal interests and rights, among other functions.
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	Supports global ecumenical efforts by partnering with Christian organizations to witness to a common Christian faith, meet human suffering, and advocate for peace and justice all over the world.
Episcopal Fund	Supports active bishops, who oversee and are responsible for the congregations in their respective episcopal areas, and many retired bishops and surviving spouses. Specifically, the fund pays for office operations, travel salaries, health insurance, pensions, and other expenses.
Black College Fund	Supports operations, programs and capital improvements at United Methodist-affiliated, historically black colleges across the United States; The United Methodist Church supports 11 historically black colleges and universities, more than any other religious denomination.
Africa University Fund	Supports the only United Methodist-related, degree-granting university in Africa—serving students from all countries across the continent. Africa University provides higher education of excellent quality, enriched with Christian values, for both men and women, thus developing visionary leaders of tomorrow.

(Continued on page 5.)

BENEFITS TO YOUR CHURCH

In addition to helping people in other countries, paying your apportionments also provides direct benefits to your local church. Apportionments support:

- **Your pastor**, who was trained, credentialed, appointed, and is supervised through the Ministerial Education Fund, the conference’s Board of Ordained Ministry, the bishop, and the district superintendents, which are supported by apportioned funds. Ensuring that each church has a spiritual leader is vitally important but so basic that it often gets taken for granted. Ongoing training and resources are also provided to clergy and lay leaders.

- The complicated task of **administering pension and health insurance plans** for your pastor.

- **Grants** from the conference to help churches grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people and, and heal a broken world. Your church may have previously benefited from such a grant, or perhaps it will in the future. There are two primary types of grants administered: Investing in Congregations Grants, which support emerging ministries like new worship services, outreach strategies, and staff positions—and Equitable Compensation Grants, which provide temporary assistance to pay for appointed leaders.

- The Minnesota conference’s **camping ministry**, considered to be one of the best across the United Methodist connection, which is there to support your local church’s spiritual development efforts by providing time apart in God’s creation.

- A wide variety of **Christian education tools**, Bible and adult small group studies, DVDs, curriculum, and other resources available to your church through the Resource Center for Churches.

NEW CHURCH STARTS

Launching new faith communities is one of the ways we fulfill the United Methodist mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world—and apportionments provide necessary funding for those new faith communities.

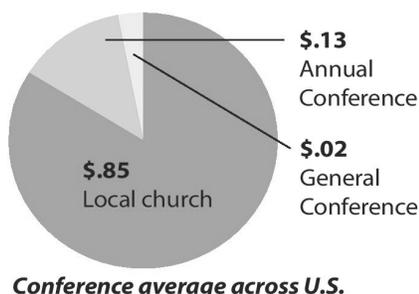
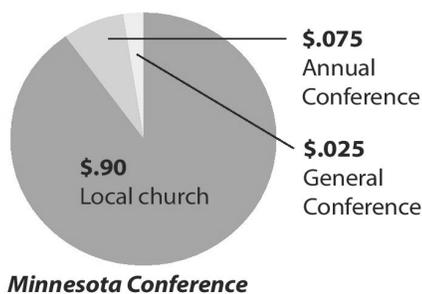
Almost every church within the state was started with financial and other support from the Minnesota Conference and/or from “mother churches.” There are currently close to a dozen Minnesota churches in their infancy, each of which requires startup funds from the conference.

In other words, your apportionment dollars are directly helping to build the kingdom of God and make more disciples to transform the world.



APPORTIONED DOLLARS

Where each dollar given to churches goes



Most of us experience increases in our cost of living over time—including rising utility and fuel costs. Despite these increases, the Minnesota Conference’s apportioned budget has declined 15 percent since 2007, and the 2015 apportioned budget is lower than it was in 2002.

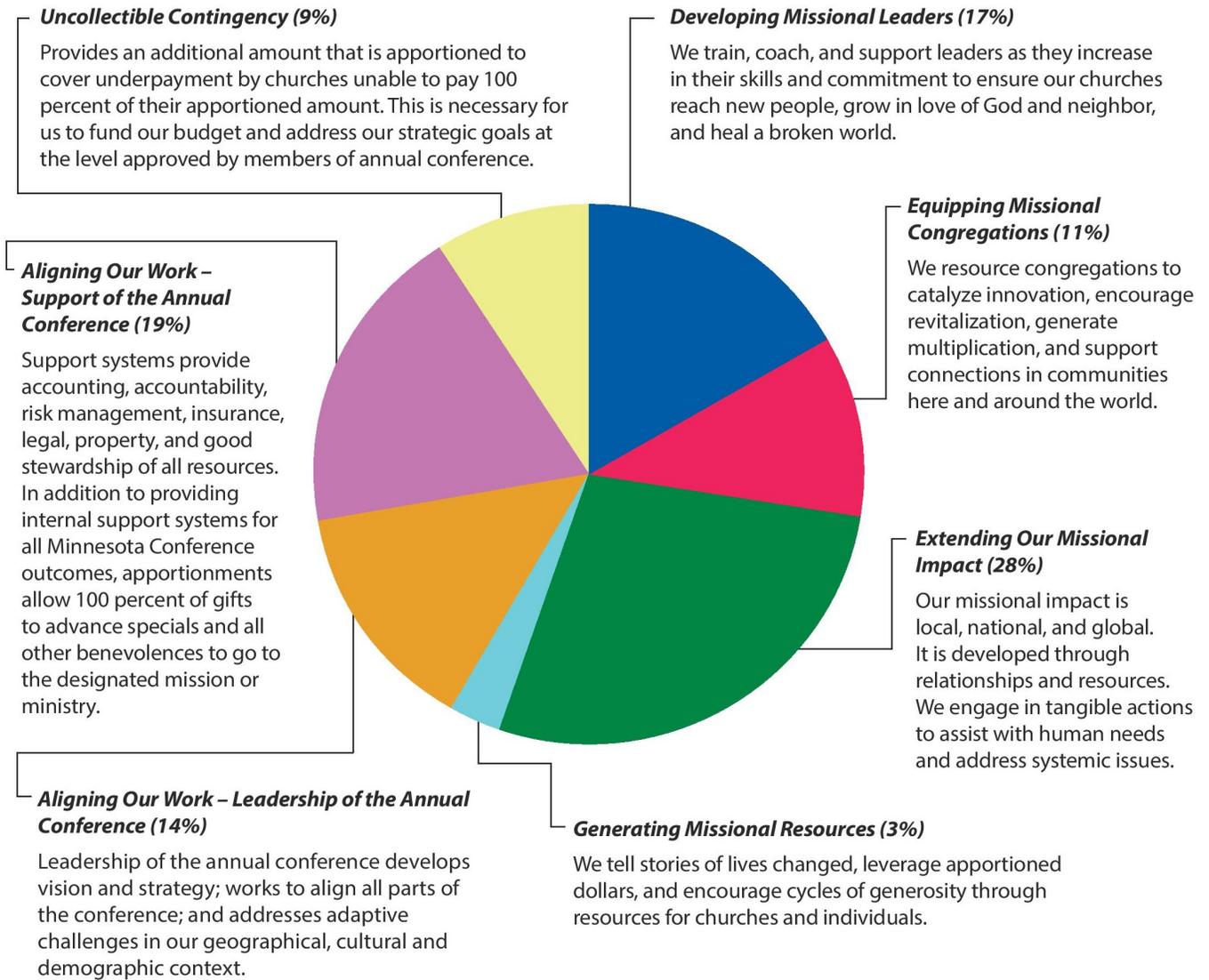
Minnesota United Methodist churches spend an average of 10 percent of their budgets on apportionments—less than the denominational average of 16 percent.

(Continued on page 6.)

2016 APPORTIONED BUDGET

Members of the 2015 Annual Conference Session voted on May 29, 2015 to approve a 2016 apportioned budget totaling **\$6,120,770**.

With an “uncollectible contingency” of \$605,000, the total apportioned amount for 2016 is \$6,725,770. The uncollectible contingency accommodates anticipated shortfalls in some churches’ apportionment payments.



RESOURCES

www.umc.org

This official website of The United Methodist Church provides information about our church's history and structure, devotions and faith formation resources, and news.

www.umcsgiving.org

This is the go-to source for information on connectional giving, including apportionments and other types of financial stewardship.

www.minnesotaumc.org

The Minnesota Conference website highlights stories that show how the state's United Methodist churches are making a difference.



Contact **Barbara Brower** (barbara.brower@minnesotaumc.org), director of finance and administration, for information about the Minnesota Annual Conference budget.

UMW Spring Gathering-April 16th

This year the Spring Gathering is at Belgrade UMC in North Mankato. Cindy Saufferer is the speaker. We are so lucky to have a national leader right here in Blooming Grove. If you plan to go, contact Sherry at 835-4304 before April 10th. Thanks.

UMW Mission Pie Auction-April 10th

The pie auction is raising money for Beth Stankiewicz's airline ticket to go to Haiti in November. She will be working with the orphans and assisting the dentist as needed. Larry Born is the auctioneer. The fun will start in the Fellowship Hall after church.

Nurse's Notes, How to Pray...

Recently, I was at a parish nurse meeting and this card was one of the handouts. The thought is that some people just don't know where to begin with praying. Here are the suggestions:

How to Pray, Ten Simple Rules

1. Pray where you are. God is present everywhere and ready to listen.
2. Pray when possible, in a quiet place when you can be alone. It is well to fix your mind deliberately on God, apart from confusing distractions.
3. Pray to God simply and naturally, as to a friend. Tell Him what is on your mind. Get help from the prayer of others.
4. Pray, remembering the good things God has done for you. Reckon up your blessings from time to time, and give thanks for them.
5. Pray for God's forgiveness for the unworthy things that you may have done. He is near to a humble and contrite heart.
6. Pray for the things you need, especially those that will make your life finer and more Christlike.
7. Pray for others, remembering the situations they confront and help they need.
8. Pray for the world in its need, asking God to bring better things and offering your help.
9. Pray above everything else that God's will may be done in the world. His purposes are deeper and wiser than anything you can imagine.
10. Pray, and then let God use you in answering your prayer.

Happy Spring, Sherry Scholljegerdes, RN, Your Parish Nurse

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle will meet **Wednesday, April 20, at 2:00 p.m.** in the **Lakeview Room**. Our hostess will be Sherry Scholljegerdes with Karen Ferch leading devotions. Visitors and guests are welcome.

Mary Circle

UMW Mary Circle will meet **Tuesday, April 19, at 1:00 p.m.** in the **Lakeview Room**. Lorraine Wick will host.

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday, April 12th, from 10:30-Noon** at **Margaret Hasslen's home**.



Faith United Methodist Church

"Engage, Equip, and Empower"

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Change Service Requested

Diaper Day, Tuesday, May 10th 8:30-11:30 a.m.

We will be sewing youth diapers for the kids at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Limbé , Haiti. It will be assembly line sewing. We will need about 10 women with sewing machines. There will be a sign-up sheet for those who want to join the fun. Sherry and Beth will take the diapers with them in November to Haiti.

