



MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The World is Our Parish



W

WORLDWIDE MINISTRY BEGINS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH. THE UNITED METHODIST CONNECTIONAL system allows every local church to take part in big ministry outside its four walls.

By connecting with the other 1,134 congregations in the Mississippi Conference, 11,932 congregations in the Southeast Jurisdiction, more than 34,398 congregations in the United States and the 47,442 congregations and preaching stations worldwide, United Methodists are stronger collectively than we can ever be individually.

"I believe in the connectional system because I have seen the connection alive and at work," said Michelle Foster. "The connection is power, love and grace."

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, once said, "The world is my parish." Through connectional giving and action, United Methodists today still live by that commitment.

"We have a strong tradition of creating partnerships with others around the world," said Bob Rambo. "A great example is our partnership with the church in Zimbabwe. Beyond that, countless churches in Mississippi are engaged in various mission projects all over the country and world."

"The conference is the basic unit, reminding us

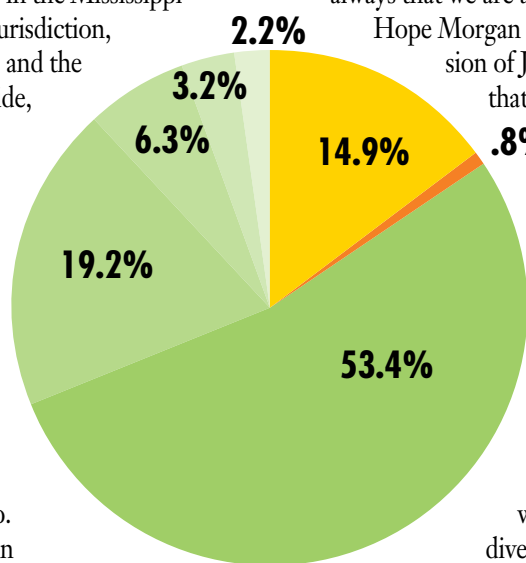
always that we are an expansive church connected to other churches," said Bishop Hope Morgan Ward. "The local church is the mission place where the mission of Jesus Christ meets the world. Wherever we are in the world; that is our parish. In this way the church is truly global for God's people are everywhere."

The goal of the Mississippi Conference is both simple and complex: Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. How are we doing to that in 2010?

"Every local church carries out its ministry each and every day," said Danny Rowland. "At the top of our to-do list should be to make disciples. When enough of us do that regularly, we literally will transform the world."

"We will find ways to live more beautifully together as Christ's people and therefore to attract others in authentic ways — to reach more people, more younger people and more diverse people," Ward said.

Thanks to the 184,453 United Methodist in Mississippi for funding the financial plan in the following pages. As you read where your money goes, we pray that faces will appear on each need and you will be led to give.



Where Does the Money Go?

- Conf. Clergy Support (14.9%)
- Jurisdictional (.8%)
- Clergy Support (53.4%)
- Leadership Area (19.2%)
- Higher Education (6.3%)
- Extended Ministry (3.2%)
- Camping & Retreat Centers (2.2%)

Number 1 Avenue of Giving



FUND 1: World Service T \$1,550,387

www.umcgoing.org

Extends the ministry of Jesus Christ across the world. The World Service Fund is the heart of our church's ministry together. Support of World Service is a call and a challenge to each United Methodist. As *The Book of Discipline 2004* states, the full payment of the World Service Fund is each congregation's "first benevolent responsibility" (Paragraph 812).

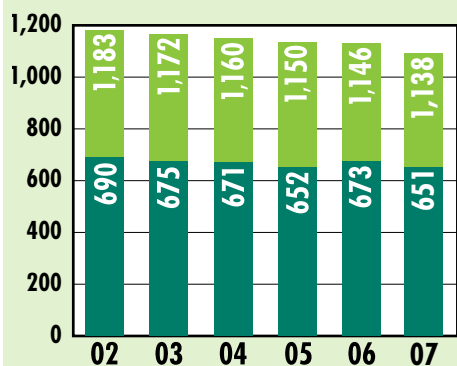
The World Service Fund provides basic operating resources to nine general church agencies, and this support

- undergirds a network of missionaries and others who serve in the name of Christ and The United Methodist Church around the world
- enables specific local church work with all age levels
- provides leadership and coordination for denominational ministry with youth
- continues nearly 200 years of commitment to quality college and graduate education
- gives our denomination a presence in the mass media and makes new communications technologies accessible to the church
- provides interpretation resources that promote giving and stewardship

Paid in Full

■ Number of churches in the conference paying conference apportionments in full each year from 2002 to 2007

■ Total number of churches



- continues a proud tradition of cooperation and dialogue with other faith traditions through interdenominational and ecumenical work and
- assures United Methodists speak and work to help encourage a more ethical, just and humane world.

Mississippi UM Extended Ministry

United Methodists believe strongly in ministries beyond the local church that extend the witness and service of Christ's love and justice. Our extended ministries serve the least, last and lost every day, making a difference in their communities one person at a time.

At Good Shepherd Center in Vicksburg, Mayra James, a woman in her late 30s who had to drop out of high school to help at home, entered the general equivalency degree program. She studied hard and passed the GED exam on her first try. After earning her GED, Mayra began working part-time in the Good Shepherd after-school tutoring program and quickly progressed to a full-time position. "With the help and support of United Methodists in Mississippi we are able to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and spread the love of Jesus through our programs so that needs are met and lives are changed," said Tommy Miller, center director.



FUND 2: Community Centers T \$315,000

Helps nine community centers around the conference minister to children, youth and adults. The centers serve the poor and disadvantaged by offering affordable childcare and after-school care and other children's programs, training and educational opportunities, abuse prevention and intervention, summer enrichment, feeding ministries, older adult services and other ministries.

Bethlehem Center, Jackson	\$54,000
Edwards Street Community Center, Hattiesburg	\$36,000
Good Shepherd Center, Vicksburg	\$58,500
Mississippi Rural Center, Columbia	\$31,500
Moore Community House, Biloxi	\$31,500
St. Andrew's Mission, McComb	\$40,500
Wesley House, Meridian	\$63,000

FUND 3: Children's Home T \$140,265

www.mcbms.org

Provides clothing, food, school supplies, medical care and toiletries for the vulnerable children and youth living in therapeutic group homes, home parent salaries and other operating expenses. Young people referred to the group homes have typically had little stability in life and need the specialized care of the teaching family environment.

Turnarounds: The majority of line items in the budget are "turnarounds." They are indicated by the T icons. This is the funding that allows each local church to be in "big ministry" throughout the world. Just over 67 percent of the budget, or nearly \$13.5 million, goes straight to our related ministries and institutions through turnarounds. No amount is withheld for administrative work. The remaining \$6.4 million, or nearly 33 percent is used in the conference to support local church ministry.

FUND 4: Choctaw Mission T \$72,000

Provides pastoral leadership and programming in the Choctaw communities of Pearl River, Red Water and Bogue Chitto and utilities and general maintenance for the mission facilities.

FUND 5: The United Methodist Hour T \$58,500

Assists Mississippi's unique television and radio ministry in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ on its weekly programs and through its prayer and serving ministries.

FUND 6: Baddour Center T \$45,000

Provides scholarships that help defray costs for 27 of the 150 mildly retarded adult residents who call the Senatobia campus home.

Mississippi UM Conf. Clergy Support

Ministry requires hands and feet — flesh and blood servants called by God. That's why educating, training, supporting and caring for pastors and their families is a priority for the conference. As in most service occupations (law, medicine, education, public accounting, etc.), more than half our budget is dedicated to our human resources. Our conference will begin the four-phase direct bill in 2009.



FUND 7: Board of Medical Benefits T \$5,026,516

Provides medical, prescription and wellness benefits for retired clergy, surviving spouses and active clergy appointed to a local church or the conference through the conference's self-insured medical plan, which the Board of Medical Benefits oversees. Participants' premiums cover a portion of their cost and the cost of their dependents.

The wellness benefit includes The Amazing Pace Bible-based walking program and the Optimal Health Guide disease management system, both free to all health plan participants. As of August 1, 2008, we began using the providers from Blue Cross Blue Shield network. BCBS began providing the TPA services.

FUND 8: Board of Pensions T \$3,692,977

Supports Mississippi's retired clergy and surviving spouses who participate in General Board of Pension and Health Benefits plans, provides future benefits for active clergy appointed to a local church and provides disability and death benefits for all full-time clergy. A four phase direct bill plan will go in to effect January 2009. The Comprehensive Protection Plan will be direct billed to the local church in 2009.

FUND 9: District Superintendents \$1,375,143

Compensates the 11 district superintendents. The 2008 salary for each superintendent is \$81,153. The superintendents share a travel budget of \$96,968 for Cabinet responsibilities and each has an individual reimbursable business plan of \$9,363 for in-district work. Each district provides housing, utilities and office space.

FUND 10: Board of Ordained Ministry and Related Funds \$342,656

Ministerial Education Fund Seminary Scholarships	\$117,156
Course of Study	\$60,000
Board Operations	\$38,000
Training, Student Movement and Exploration	\$28,500
Pastoral Care and Counseling	\$20,000
Supervision	\$18,000
Residency in Ministry	\$18,000
Moving Supplement for Disabled and Retiring Clergy	\$15,000
Nurse Education/CPE T	\$26,000
Clergy Spouse Fellowship T	\$2,000

Provides strong clergy leadership for the church through the care, supervision and training of ordained deacons and elders. Ministerial services also include training and licensing local pastors through the Mississippi Course of Study, administering seminary scholarships, offering continuing education opportunities, providing confidential professional counseling for clergy families in need and giving guidance to candidates for ordained ministry.

People Behind the Scenes

Receiving budget requests and submitting an annual spending plan to the Annual Conference is the role of the Council on Finance and Administration. Members are Rev. Danny Rowland, Tommy Barrett, Rev. Don Bishop, Rev. Rod Borders, Ray Gafford, Rev. Grover Glenn, III, John Harper, Beth Hartness, Rev. Vicki Landrum, Rev. Joe May, Rev. Mitchell McDonald, Red Moffat, III, Duane O'Neill, Rev. Andy Ray, Ellen Short, Bill Smallwood, Gatha Wallace, and Rev. Martha Williams. Serving in expertise positions are Rev. Jimmy Carr and Larry Davis.

Treasurer David Stotts and his staff are happy to provide information and answer questions about conference, jurisdictional and general apportionments. They regularly conduct training for districts and local churches. To contact the treasurer's office, call 601-354-0515 or toll-free 866-647-7486 and use the extensions listed; write P.O. Box 1201, Jackson, MS 39215; or FAX to 601-948-5980.

Visit the conference Web site, www.mississippi-umc.org and click on Finance and Administration for the very latest updates.



■ **Rev. Danny Rowland**
Council on Finance and Administration
Chairman



■ **David Stotts**
CPA
Conference Director of Finance and Administration
Extension 2000
david@mississippi-umc.org

FUND 11: Equitable Compensation
\$235,914

Supplements compensation for pastors serving charges where the salary package is below the conference-approved level as well as those serving in new churches, cooperative ministries or other unique situations. Charges receiving assistance are expected to provide 75 percent of the minimum compensation.

Mississippi UM Conf. Leadership Work Areas

At the 2008 General Conference, leaders of the denomination called for The United Methodist Church to center its ministry on the following four key areas: 1. Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world; 2. Creating new places for new people by starting congregations and renewing existing ones; 3. Engaging in ministry with the poor; 4. Stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally.

These areas align closely with the five core values for mission and ministry in the Mississippi Conference which are: 1. Stewardship; 2. Mission; 3. Spiritual Leadership; 4. Reconciliation; 5. Young People.

Instead of a long list of committees with separate budgets, Connectional Ministries has created a ministry grant pool that will be used to fund the mission and ministry initiatives the conference pursues. The travel pool will cover the necessary meeting and training expense. "We want the local church to believe that the annual conference is a real partner in ministry and stewardship," said Rev. Steve Casteel, director.

health benefits, and payroll taxes for conference staff working in the areas of Ministerial Services, Connectional Ministries and Communications and the administrative assistant to the bishop.

Staff Compensation – Finance and Administration \$289,646

Provides salary packages, including pension and health benefits, and payroll taxes for staff working in the areas of Finance and Administration and Medical Benefits.

Communications \$93,700

Promotes and interprets ministries through publications, video, Web, advertising and other means of communication; provides training, equipment, Web site support and e-mail; helps local churches expand their outreach and public witness through Igniting Ministry grants and advertising.

FUND 13: Congregational Development

\$1,042,813

New Church Development \$580,625

Supports the planting and nurture of new churches with the goal of starting at least three new congregations each year.

Revitalization \$352,500

Assists congregations that relocate or merge and congregations in the process of transformation.

Vital Congregations/Schools of Congregational Development \$109,688

Provides training and resources for pastors and churches to strengthen areas of their ministry identified through the A2 Indicators self-assessment and A29 Ministry Plan. The Mississippi School of Congregational Development consists of three tracks: New Church Planters School, Pastor's Leadership School and Transformational Leaders School.

FUND 14: Connectional Ministries

\$552,645

Annual Conference \$128,825

Pays for 2009 Annual Conference facility and program expenses including printed materials; honoraria and travel for speakers; per diem for persons included in conference policy; and planning committee expenses.

Grants \$106,870

Supports conference mission and ministry initiatives. This funding was formerly broken out by committee lines, but the grant pool allows flexibility to fund any configuration the conference takes in the new quadrennium and puts the focus on ministry, not meetings.

Ministry \$154,000

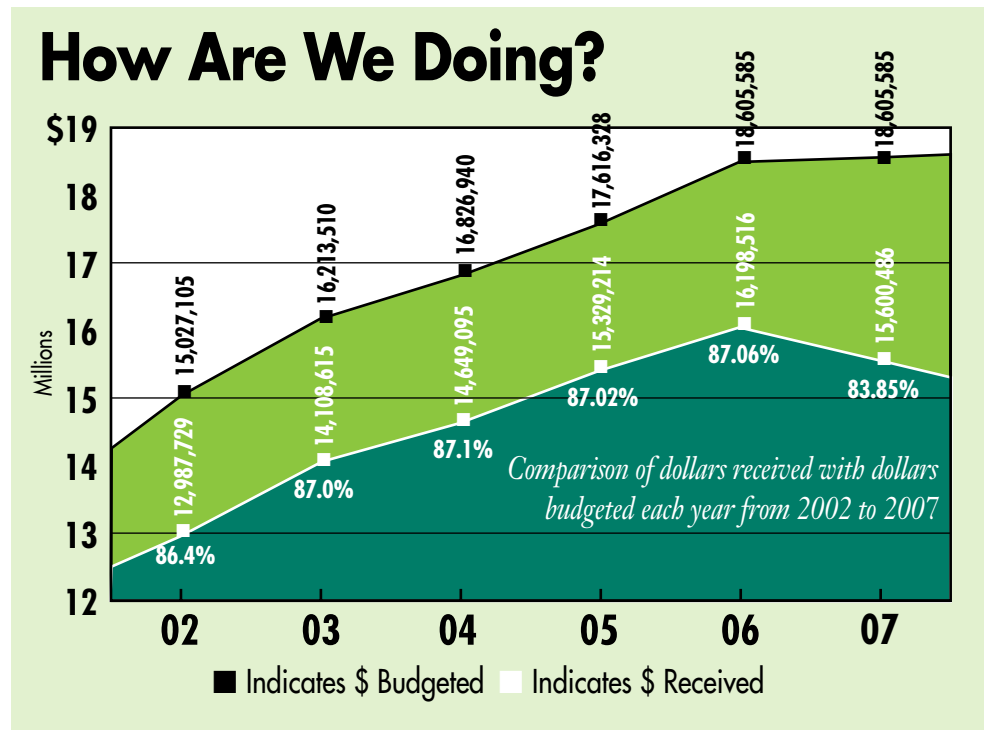
Funds the ongoing conference-level programmatic ministries for children, young people and others. The small church leadership programs provided in the past by Wood Institute will become part of Connection Ministries work.

Travel \$45,900

Covers travel expenses for ministry groups as they develop and execute their ministries.

Events \$41,250

Develops and equips leaders and strengthens local churches through events focused on leader-



ship and community building.

Training \$31,450

Provides quality training experiences for conference leaders.

Resources \$27,300

Provides needed tools for conference leaders and ministry groups, ranging from printed material to electronic equipment.

Dues \$1,450

Pays membership fees for staff and lay leadership in professional and ministry organizations that require dues.

Contingency \$15,600

Covers unbudgeted expenses that emerge.

pus minister training, property insurance and funding for the annual statewide Wesley retreat and Student Forum.



UM Higher Education Support

Our Wesleyan roots are on a college campus. The Holy Club that Charles and John Wesley founded at Oxford University helped birth the Methodist movement. Today, our tradition of supporting higher education and campus ministry continues, impacting the lives and futures of thousands of students. Celeste Sauls is one of those students. She attends Africa University in Zimbabwe.

"Assisting Africa University is investing in Africa's future," said Sauls, a native of South Africa. "The seed it has planted in me is, one, I will have my degree in the next three years. (Then) I'll be a graduate student through The United Methodist Church at Africa University. I can become a leader in my community, in my country, in Africa as a whole. And if, when, I have the opportunity, I'll also want to sow in other people's lives – other Africans' lives – to study further."

FUND 15: Mississippi Campus Ministries

\$721,706

Provides salaries and housing for campus ministers and supports Wesley Foundation programs on the campuses of 25 universities and community colleges, including all eight of Mississippi's four-year state universities. Also provides cam-

FUND 16: Ministerial Education Fund

www.umcsgiving.org

Apportioned by General Church

\$536,225

Helps recruit and educate persons for ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church through the 13 United Methodist seminaries in the U.S., global initiatives through General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, local pastor courses of study, continuing education for clergy and other programs. Each annual conference retains 25 percent of funds received. Our conference portion supplements the amount in Fund 11 for scholarships for seminary students.

FUND 17: Millsaps College

www.millsaps.edu

\$360,000

Provides scholarships and financial aid to United Methodist students attending the United Methodist-related liberal arts college in Jackson.

FUND 18: Black College Fund

www.umcsgiving.org

Apportioned by General Church

\$213,921

Assists the programs of 11 United Methodist-related institutions of higher education that have historically served the educational needs of black students, including Rust College.

Budget continued on back page...



FUND 12: Connectional Resources
(Annual Conference Administration)

\$2,236,644

Conference Administration \$863,585

Includes conference property and liability insurance, building maintenance and upkeep, office supplies and equipment, utilities, telephone service, computer hardware and support and other expenses related to operation of the conference office, as well as the honoraria for the conference secretary and conference statistician; bishop's discretionary fund; and the conference operating reserve for unanticipated needs and fixed expenses when local church remittances are not forthcoming.

Staff Compensation – Conference \$989,713

Provides salary packages, including pension and

Stotts,

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FUND 19: Rust College T

www.rust.edu

\$180,000

Provides general support and scholarships for this historically black United Methodist-related liberal arts college in Holly Springs.

FUND 20: Africa University Fund T

www.africau.edu or www.umcsgiving.org

Apportioned by General Church

\$47,877

Enables the growth and expansion of the only degree-granting United Methodist university on the continent of Africa. More than 1,200 students from nations across Africa attend the university each year.



Mississippi UM Camping & Retreat Centers

Even in a rural state, we need to get away to quiet places for rest and reflection. From the Mississippi Gulf Coast to the piney woods, God's great outdoors provide a beautiful setting for the ministries of our camping and retreat centers. Away from television and video games, kids learn about God surrounded by his creation. "This is a very great kids camp because there are so many things you can do, and you can just worship God and know he loves you," said a young camper at Lake Stephens. Older adults enjoy singing, horseshoes and fellowship. The facilities host retreats and events year-round.

FUND 21: Camp Lake Stephens T

www.camplakestephens.com

\$144,000

Serves as primary United Methodist camp for central Mississippi, hosting a full schedule of summer camps, retreats, and other events in a beautiful environment near Oxford.

FUND 22: Camp Wesley Pines T

www.campwesleypines.com

\$144,000

Serves as primary United Methodist camp for central Mississippi, hosting a full schedule of summer camps, retreats, and other events in a beautiful environment near Gallman.

FUND 23: Seashore Assembly T

\$112,500

Serves as primary United Methodist camp for coast region and Mississippi United Methodist Katrina Recovery headquarters. Although seriously damaged by Hurricane Katrina, Seashore has been a hub for relief and rebuilding efforts and is resuming its regular camp and retreat operations.

FUND 24: Gulfside Assembly T

www.gulfsideassembly.org

\$36,000

Hosts Mississippi United Methodist Katrina Recovery efforts on the west end of the coast. Gulfside was a historic jurisdictional mission and retreat center prior to Hurricane Katrina. Following the total destruction of all facilities by Katrina, its board is evaluating options for the future.

Note: The Mississippi Conference jointly supports Gulfside with other members of the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

UM General/Jurisdictional

Mississippi United Methodists are part of an 8-million-member global church. Beyond our conference we are part of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the general, or worldwide, United Methodist Church.

FUND 25: Episcopal Fund T

www.umcsgiving.org

Apportioned by General Church

\$421,130

Provides salaries and expenses for active bishops and supports retired bishops, surviving spouses and minor children of deceased bishops. The Episcopal Fund supports the operation of the Mississippi Episcopal Area office and provides \$10,000 for the upkeep of our Episcopal Residence.

FUND 26: General Administration Fund T

www.umcsgiving.org

Apportioned by General Church

\$172,756

Funds the General Conference and church agencies that are specifically administrative – rather than programmatic, missional or ecumenical – in nature. These include the General Council on Finance and Administration, General Commission on Archives and History and Judicial Council.

FUND 27: Southeastern Jurisdiction Programming T

www.sejumc.org

\$129,885

Supports, along with the 14 other SEJ conferences, these jurisdictional ministries: Jurisdictional Conference, Jurisdictional Connectional Table, Lake Junaluska Assembly including the Intentional Growth Center and World Council of Methodism headquarters, Hinton Rural Life Center, Gulfside Assembly, SEJ United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, SEJ Ethnic Minority Local Church, SEJ Native American Ministries, and the Protestant Radio and Television Center in Atlanta.

FUND 28: Interdenominational Cooperation Fund T

www.umcsgiving.org

\$41,791

Apportioned by General Church

Provides basic support for ecumenical agencies through which The United Methodist Church participates in God's mission in cooperation with other Christian communions.

FUND 29: Lake Junaluska Levee Renovation Project T

www.sejumc.org

\$32,000

Helps restore and repair the dam at Lake Junaluska Assembly, the Southeastern Jurisdiction's retreat and conference center in Lake Junaluska, N.C. All conferences in the jurisdiction are supporting this project during the 2009-2012 quadrennium.

Apportionment Q & A

Q: What are apportionments?

A: Apportioned giving is "fair-share" giving. The general church and conference budgets are proportionally allocated to the local churches. This method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition for United Methodists.

Q: How is my local church's apportionment determined?

A: The amount a local church spends on itself for salaries, programs and operations directly determines the church's apportionment. Information provided by pastors of the conference's 1,142 local churches in the end-of-year statistical reports is used to figure each church's fair share of the budget. The following statistics, reported on lines 64-72 of the statistical report, are used to compute the church's "index":

- 64. Pastor's base compensation
- 65. Associate pastor's base compensation
- 66. Housing-related allowances paid to the pastor, associate(s)
- 67. Reimbursements paid to the pastor, associate(s)
- 68. Other cash allowances paid to the pastor, associate(s)
- 69. Diaconal minister's/deacon's total compensation
- 70. Other staff compensation and expenses
- 71. Current program expenses
- 72. Other current operating expenses

You will note that the church's membership or attendance is not figured into the formula. To calculate your church's index, you would divide the amount your local church spent on line items 64-72 averaged over the last two years by the average amount all churches in the conference spent on those items the last two years.

$$\frac{\text{Local church average}}{\text{All conference churches average}} = \text{Index}$$

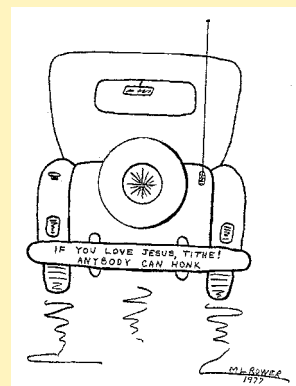
Multiplying your church's index by the conference's total budget yields the amount of your church's apportionment for the year.

Q: Who adopts the conference budget?

A: The Annual Conference session approves the budget each year. The Council on Finance and Administration recommends a budget, and the lay and clergy members vote on it.

Q: How can I help make sure my church gives 100 percent of its apportionment?

A: There are many ways to encourage your congregation's giving. Model and teach stewardship by tithing and encouraging others to tithe. Help your church understand where its connectional dollars go and the lives that are changed through your church's giving. Encourage your congregation to give systematically by contributing to apportionments each month, and ask your church treasurer for regular updates. Highlight ministries supported by your giving through the church bulletin, newsletter, Web site, special events and activities.



TOTAL APPORTIONED FUNDING PLAN: \$19,980,251

2009 Special Sundays & Offerings

- Jan. 18: Human Relations Day*
- Jan. 25: Golden Cross
- March 16: Baddour Center
- March 22: One Great Hour of Sharing*
- March 29: Methodist Rehab. Center
- April 26: Native American Ministries*
- May 10: Senior Services "Sunday Fund"
- June 7: Peace with Justice*
- June 17: The Children's Home
- July 26: Conference Emergency Preparedness Sunday
- Aug. 30: Council of Bishops' Katrina Church Recovery Appeal
- Sept. 13: Camping
- Sept. 20: Bethlehem Center
- Oct. 4: World Communion*
- Nov. 8: United Methodist Hour
- Nov. 29: United Methodist Student Day*
- Dec. 13: The Children's Home

*Special Sundays approved by General Conference for churchwide emphasis