



Why Give to Apportionments?

Apportionment giving is based upon the desire to meet the needs of God's family NOT just in our neighborhoods, but around the world. Apportionments are also based on our need to give in order to be spiritually healthy, complete children of God.

We send the Apportionment funds out of our blessing that Christ might be known in transformative ways. Apportionments provide avenues for giving so that we can be strong local churches & annual conferences and a strong connection throughout the world as we seek to be in mission and ministry together. The funds demonstrate our connectedness to one another, to God and to the body of Christ.

"World Service Fund is everything that defines our church. It is the way that we connect together, the way that we become powerful in our response to injustice and to poverty, and to tragedy, and to need." Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, retired Bishop from the Pacific Northwest, explained why the World Service Fund is vital to the ministry of the UMC.



It takes more than one person's generosity to change the world, it takes all of us.

What are Apportionments?

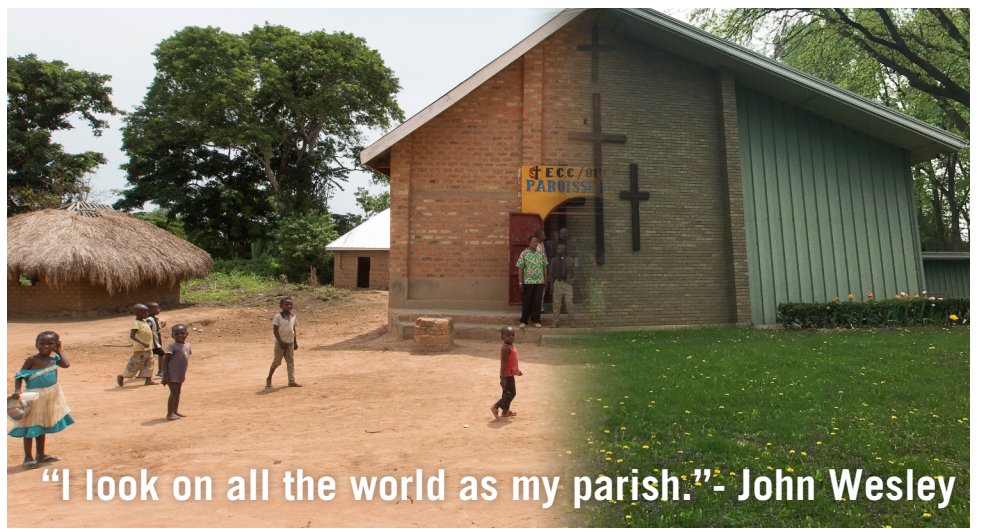
Apportionments are the way that congregations are connected to the conference and the world. Apportionments are used to fund the global mission and witness of our church, to help provide the necessary structure to respond in moments of crisis locally, nationally, internationally, and to develop and nurture the leaders we need today and tomorrow.

The basic idea behind apportionments is that local congregations send some of the money they collect to accomplish things that are either beyond their ability to do as individual congregations or that can be done more effectively or efficiently together. Apportionments allow the church to produce goods and services funded by all for the benefit of all – collective goods.



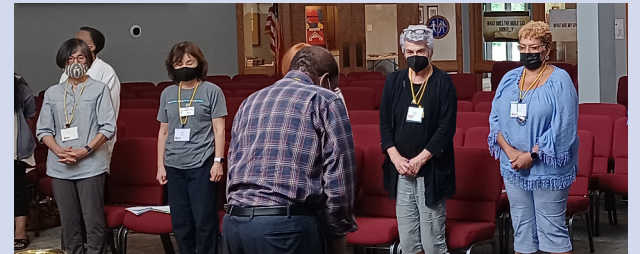
"What is your church's call to action? The call to action of the church is still the same. And in my opinion, we are living in the greatest evangelistic season of our lifetime." Rev. Olu Brown speaking at the Tending to the Harvest Discipleship Event, sponsored with funds allocated to Goal #1 - grow & reach new disciples.

Find out more, access resources, videos, downloads, sermon starters and more
umcnic.org/apportionments



"I look on all the world as my parish."- John Wesley

Apportionments denote an understanding that the purpose of the church is not just to care for its own members but also to reach out beyond itself to engage with the world, to minister to the world, to be in mission to the world.



"The focus is to ask forgiveness for our (each participant's) contribution, witting or unwitting, to the perpetuation of the machinery of systemic racism by any of myriad ways". Lennox Iton, NIC Co-Chair Religion & Race, talking about the Forgiveness Ceremony from the Becoming Beloved Workshop, which is an initiative of the Anti-Racism Task Force supporting the NIC Goal #2 - living out the conviction that racism is incompatible with Christian Teaching.

Are These "Special Gifts"?

Apportionments are not to be considered "special gifts," but rather, they are similar to our tithes that we give to our local church. These funds are to be set aside and given first priority in our church budgets.

Apportionments are our first-mile of mission giving. They form the framework for the rest of our connectional ministry & mission. First-mile giving ensures 100 percent of gifts to Advance Specials, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Imagine No Malaria, Love Offerings, Special Sundays, etc. benefit the desired mission or ministry.

We encourage all churches to go the second mile to become a Mission Links church by participating in The Advance mission giving and continuing to support the good work across the connection.



"Because of God's hand on my life through Paine College, all these things will come to pass for a young man who finished high school with the lowest GPA in the entire school and finished last in his class." Deonte Moses, Paine College Alumni. Paine College is supported by funds from the Black College Fund.

How are Apportionments Calculated?

Northern Illinois Conference Fund Apportionments are derived from the financial experience of your local church. It takes the previous five years of metrics into consideration. The highest and lowest numbers of the five are removed, and the other three years are averaged.

Your churches' General Church Apportionment is a percentage of each local churches share of the requested amount from the general church, calculated using the same formula as Conference Fund Apportionments. Find more details on umcnic.org/apportionments

Connectional Giving
demonstrates our
connectedness to one
another, to God and to the
body of Christ.



The connections of
the church are
more than
institutions; the
connections are
the means God
uses to convey
grace to the world.

Apportionments allow us to
do together what no church,
district, or annual
conference could do alone.



Mission Links help
you live out the
beatitudes and be a
blessing for projects
around the block and
around the world.

What is Connectional Giving?

Connectional Giving is one of the founding ideas that the United Methodist Church was built upon. Participating in connectional giving helps us to be in mission with people and congregations around the world - giving every church, regardless of size, a larger mission footprint.

Connectional giving includes Apportionment giving (Northern Illinois Conference Fund and General Church Apportioned Funds) as well as Mission Link (The Advance) giving.

Do you have a story of a sacred moment or mission work that is happening because of Apportionments? Share your story with us - communications@umcnic.org

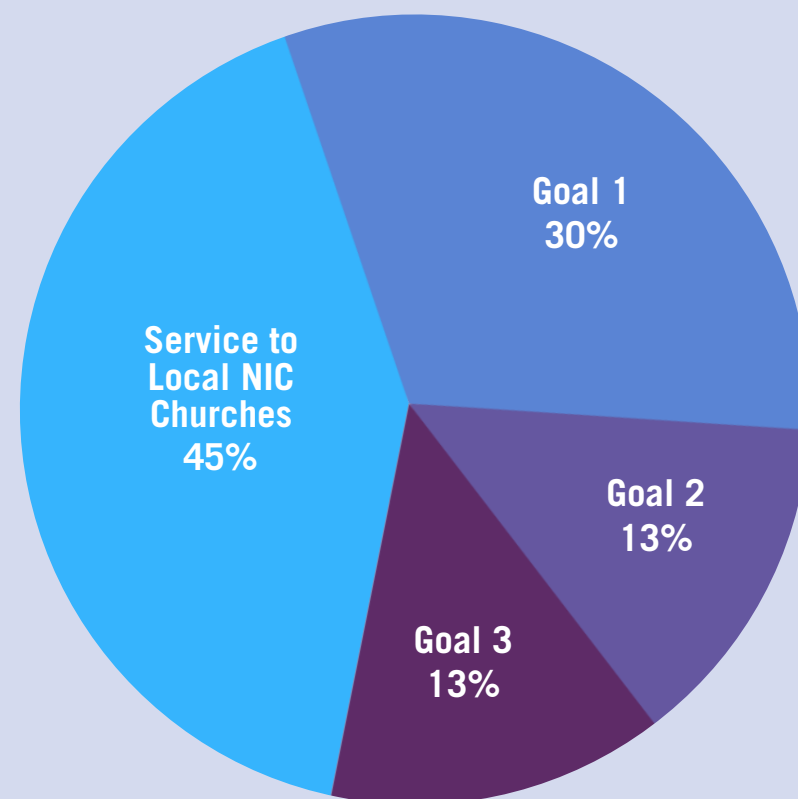


Do you have questions about Apportionments, Mission Links, Advances or specific projects? Please contact David W. Quinn, NIC Apportionments Administrator, at dquinn@umcnic.org

When we give, we have the power and potential of a scale of impact that no single church could have on its own.



Northern Illinois Conference Fund



Do all the good you can... in all the places you can... to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. - John Wesley

Apportionment contributions are essential to serving the local churches and to helping us achieve our goals as a conference.

Service to Local NIC Churches - 45%

The main goal of the conference is to give support and service to the local churches. The funds in these section support:

- Financial support to local churches including intervention and personnel
- Conference programming & meetings, and District events & ministries
- Board of Ordained Ministry and clergy relocation expenses

Goal 1 - To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ - 30%

The funds in this section support:

- New faith communities and Church redevelopment programming
- Board of Higher Ed & Campus Ministries, and Outdoor & Retreat Ministries
- Board of Laity, Pembroke Institute, Discipleship Strategic Goals (ACST) and Spiritual Formation Ministries

Goal 2 - To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching - 13%

The funds in this section support:

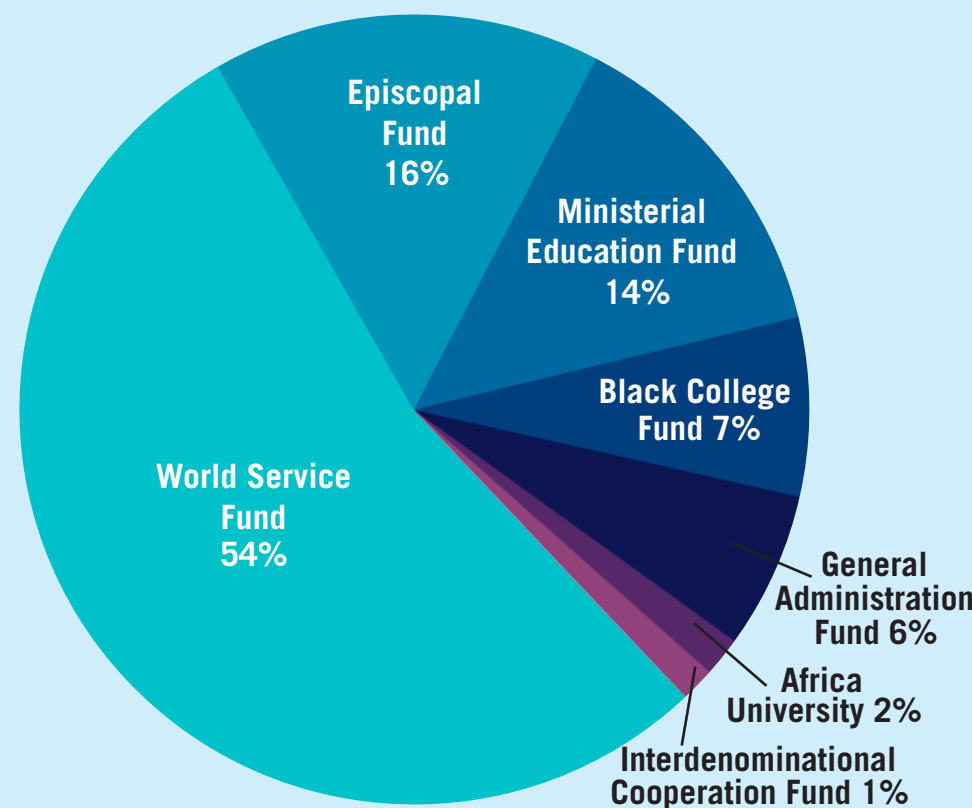
- Anti-racism Shepherding Team (ACST)
- Commission on Race & Religion, Black Family Link in the Chain, and Urban Youth Initiative
- Justice for Our Neighbors, Global Justice: Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN), and Refugee support

Goal 3 - To increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations - 13%

The funds in this section support:

- Congregational Redevelopment Grants, Creative Ministry Grants, NIC Ministerial Education Fund, Vital Congregations Strategic Goals (ACST) and Leadership Development
- Accessibility Ministry, Media Resources and Safe Sanctuaries training
- Asian American Fellowship, Black Church Mobilization, Hispanic Ministry Team, and Native American Community Support

General Church Apportioned Funds



With over 12 million members working in 136 countries, The United Methodist Church's global reach is made possible through these 7 funds.

World Service Fund - 54% When UM congregations give to the annual General Church apportionments, they contribute to work that is done around the world. This fund supports all UMC general agencies and supports missionary personnel and administrative costs of many areas.

Episcopal Fund - 16% Provides for UM bishops worldwide, including salaries, housing, office expenses and travel costs of active bishops, and provide pension and health benefit coverage for bishops and family members in a bishop's household.

Ministerial Education Fund - 14% Provides funds for recruitment of clergy candidates and provides financial support for 13 United Methodist seminaries, including Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Black College Funds - 7% Supports the programs and ministries of 11 historically black colleges and universities, including one medical school. These gifts reflect the value our Church has on education, especially those who have been historically excluded.

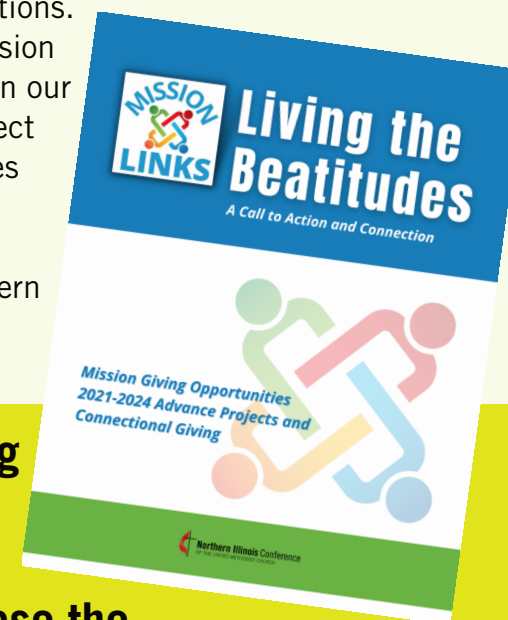
General Administration Fund - 6% Helps maintain a system of management oversight and fiscal accountability, and underwrites General Conference and the Judicial Council

Africa University Fund - 2% Supports the first fully accredited UM-related institution on the African continent. The University promotes independence and empowerment through a diverse student body from across the continent.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund - 1% Supports UMC's with ecumenical and interreligious partners such as the World Council of Churches, Churches Uniting in Christ, and World Methodist Council.

7 areas of giving within the Mission Links Program

1. **Special Sundays** - Sundays set aside and celebrated around the conference and the denomination as a way for your church to join with other congregations across our connection to recognize specific kinds of ministries.
2. **Global Advance Projects** - Advance funds are specifically designated for particular projects or ministries around the world working to care for the least of these.
3. **Missionary Support** - Missionary support providing direct support to specific United Methodist missionaries serving in over 60 countries.
4. **UMCOR / Emergency Relief Projects** - Projects providing immediate relief during disasters as well as ongoing support, and are directly related to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Learn more about UMCOR at umcor.org.
5. **US-Based Advances** - Mission projects located across the United States and correlate with the ongoing work of justice in the Northern Illinois Conference.
6. **Northern Illinois Conference Projects** - Mission projects located within the Northern Illinois Conference that have a far reaching impact. Includes campus ministries, outdoor and retreat ministries, and Northern Illinois projects and organizations.
7. **NIC District Projects** - Mission projects located within our districts effecting direct communities. Includes campus ministries, outdoor and retreat ministries, and Northern Illinois projects and organizations.



Find a detailed listing of the missionaries supported by our Conference and choose the projects to support in our Mission Links booklet at umcnic.org/missionlinks



To become a Mission Links 100% supporter, Apportionments (conference and general church) need to be paid 100% and at least one project in each of the giving areas needs to be supported.



Mission Links help us change our world as we work together locally and around the globe.



The Beatitudes are essential and relevant today.

The Advance for Christ and His Church (The Advance) is the United Methodist program for designated mission giving. The Northern Illinois Conference Global Board of Ministry has organized the options for giving through The Advance in our Mission Links program book. In Matthew 5: 1-12, Jesus offers a portrait of the ways in which it is possible to be a good person with respect to others within the eight categories of the beatitudes.

Each project in the Mission Links book connects to at least one of the beatitudes – and NIC’s direct call to action in response to Jesus’ words. The Beatitudes are identified with the following icons:



Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. Moved by God’s grace, we forgive ourselves and others as we pursue justice, peace and unity in our journeys together.



Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Called to service, we grow in faith while sharing in ministries that reveal God’s vision as we face and respond to challenges.
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Inspired by the Spirit, we seek God’s guidance as we accept new challenges in our faith journey, wherever it takes us.



Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Touched by the pain of those who suffer injustice and hopelessness, we demonstrate God’s compassion, love and acceptance.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Remembering Jesus’s humble journey to Jerusalem, we seek nonviolent, peaceful change and advocate for the powerless.



Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Recalling Jesus’ promise to heal the sick, free the prisoner and liberate the oppressed, we reach out in compassion.



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Remembering Isaiah’s promise to rescue the poor and the oppressed, we pursue social justice to restore wholeness to communities.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Heeding Jesus’ call to witness to God’s love, we work with others to restore local, regional and global communities and celebrate the faith and courage of those who risk persecution.

Tree of Life Ministry is a part of the working hands and feet of God to the Lakota Nation residing on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota serving body, mind, and soul. Tree of Life Ministry is supported by U.S. Based Advances and by volunteers on mission trips from our conference.



What is The Advance?

As the accountable designated giving program of The United Methodist Church, The Advance serves as the leading conduit that allows churches, individuals and organizations to support missionaries and projects throughout the world in order to strengthen and sustain one another.

Advance funds are specifically designated for particular projects or ministries, allowing the Church to advance the cause of Christ through new church development, disaster relief, missionary support, health services, and many other programs.

Your congregation chooses to partner with an existing project or ministry. Because other donations cover overhead costs, 100% of every gift to the Advance goes to the ministry designated.

“UMCOR has a wide reach internationally because we have a large network of trusted partners experienced in humanitarian relief that we can confidently support. We work with partners who can safely reach the affected populations.” Roland Fernandes, the general secretary of Global Ministries and UMCOR. UMCOR is supported by donations on UMCOR Sunday and through direct support of UMCOR/Emergency Relief Projects.



Special Sundays

Northern Illinois Conference Special Sundays

- Scouting Ministries Sunday - NIC Fund #783
Any Sunday in February or March
- Golden Cross Sunday - NIC Fund #775 - First Sunday in May
- Volunteers in Mission - NIC Fund #901375
Any Sunday in July or August
- Christian Education Sunday - NIC Fund #776
First Sunday in September
- Accessibility Sunday - NIC Fund #782
First Sunday in November
- World AIDS Day - NIC Fund #780 - First Sunday in December
- United Voices for Children Sunday - NIC Fund #778
Each fifth Sunday in months with five Sundays

General Conference-Designated Special Sundays

- January - Human Relations Day - Northern Illinois Fund #770
- March - UMCOR Sunday - Northern Illinois Fund #771
- April - Native American Ministries Sunday
Northern Illinois Fund #769
- May - Peace with Justice Sunday - Northern Illinois Fund #773
- October - World Communion Sunday - Northern Illinois Fund #774
- November - United Methodist Student Day
Northern Illinois Fund #772

Find out more and download the Mission Links booklet at umcnic.org/missionlinks