

2014

OFFICIAL JOURNAL & YEARBOOK

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The One Hundred Eighty-ninth Session
(Forty-fifth since Union)
Grove City, Pennsylvania
June 5-8, 2014

Editor: John Robert Wilson

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The United Methodist Church

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Publishing House , The United Methodist	615/749-6000
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P.O. Box 340006 Nashville, TN 37203-0006 615-340-1770 (fax) www.gcumm.org	

UNITED METHODIST GIVING PROGRAM

The United Methodist Church has eight apportioned funds, six church wide Special Sundays with offerings and two designated giving programs--all which need your support. In addition, annual conferences take special offerings on Christian Education Sunday, Golden Cross Sunday and Rural Life Sunday. The United Methodist Children's Fund for Christian Mission and the Youth Service Fund provide opportunities for young people to share their resources.

Apportioned Funds

World Service Fund supports outreach through the work of general agencies and other national and international mission programs. It also underwrites a comprehensive television and telecommunications ministry, and pension and salary equalization. 2015 apportionment: \$1,289,737

Ministerial Education Fund provides educational support for ordained elders, ordained deacons and diaconal ministers of the church through funding for theological schools, recruitment, professional development and continuing education. 2015 apportionment: \$332,086

Black College Fund provides operating funds and capital for 11 historically Black colleges including a medical school. 2015 apportionment: \$176,630

Africa University Fund helps support a new university in Africa providing post-secondary education for African students. Africa University is partly funded by World Service Special Gifts in addition to the apportionment. 2013 apportionment: \$39,523

Episcopal Fund is for salaries, pensions, office operations, official travel and other expenses for the bishops. 2013 apportionment: \$386,820

General Administrative Fund supports general agencies whose work is administrative in nature, the cost of General Conference and other items essential to the operation of The United Methodist Church. 2013 apportionment: \$155,678

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund supports United Methodist participation in the World and National Councils of Churches and the Consultation on Church Union. It also pays the travel expenses of United Methodist delegates to those bodies. 2013 apportionment: \$34,645

Jurisdictional Fund supports the collective ministries of the conferences in the northeastern United States, including Western Pennsylvania. 2013 apportionment: \$28,429

Designated Gifts

Advance Specials permit churches and individuals to support mission and relief projects with voluntary gifts. Every dollar given to the Advance goes to the project designated by the donor.

World Service Special Gifts permit churches and individuals to contribute to approved projects of World Service-related agencies. Every dollar goes to the project designated by the donor.

Special Sundays with Offerings

Human Relations Day, the Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr's birthday observance, supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

One Great Hour of Sharing, the fourth Sunday of Lent, provides major support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which aids in refugee ministries, disaster-response ministries and hunger ministries.

Native American Awareness Sunday, the second Sunday after Easter, funds urban ministries with Native Americans, scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist seminaries and annual conference Native American ministries.

Peace with Justice Sunday, the second Sunday of Pentecost, supports peace with justice ministries through the General Board of Church and Society and the annual conference.

World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, supports Crusade Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

United Methodist Student Day, the last Sunday in November, provides loan and scholarship funds for United Methodist college, university, and graduate students.

Other Special Offerings

Christian Education Sunday. The conference determines the date and how the offering is used to strengthen Christian education.

Disability Awareness Sunday, Special offering to promote awareness issues and ministries that provide opportunities for fuller inclusion of people with disabilities.

Golden Cross Sunday (Red Stocking Sunday), The annual conference determines the date and how the offering will be used to support health and welfare ministries.

Rural Life Sunday. The annual conference determines the date and how the offering will be used to strengthen the nurture, outreach, and witness of congregations in town and rural areas.

Other Conference Special Offerings

Camping Sunday supports the summer program in order to reduce registration costs for participants.

Doors to Hope at Home for continued support of the six Western PA Conference regional mission agencies, within the Conference boundaries with additional funds to continue and expand their work.

UMVIM Sunday support the Conference and Jurisdictional UMVIM offices and programs, with 90% of funds collected going to the Conference VIMship Advance Special, and a tithe of 10% to the Jurisdictional UMVIM programming efforts.

Youth Service Fund supports projects of mission and ministry by and for youth as well as administration of the fund.

Conference Special Sundays without Offerings

Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union Month to promote being good and faithful stewards of God's gifts by learning about the resources and benefits of becoming members of our credit union.

Retired Clergy Sunday to honor retired clergy, spouses or surviving spouses

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday to support our United Methodist beliefs highlighted in our *Social Principles* that celebrate the wondrous gift of life for all and for creation.

Sanctity of Marriage Sunday to strengthen marriages in their ministry in the body of Christ and give prayer and spiritual support for stronger marriages.

Sanctity of Singleness Sunday to honor those who are single and their contributions to their families, congregations and communities and to promote ministries to and with those who are single.

2015 Special Days and Program Calendar

Jan 4	Epiphany to commemorate the coming of the Magi
Jan 18	Human Relations Day to encourage better human relations; offering funds community developers, voluntary services, and youth offender rehabilitations.
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Jr Birthday Observed
Jan 18-25	Prayer for Christian Unity Week
Feb	Black History Month to celebrate the historical contributions of African Americans to the worship life, mission and ministry of the church
Feb 8	Scouting Sunday to emphasize scouting as ministry to children
Feb 15	Disability Awareness Sunday to promote issues as well as ministries providing opportunities for fuller inclusion of those with disabilities.
Feb 18	Ash Wednesday to begin Christian self-examination for Lent
March	Women's History Month
Mar (any)	UMVIM Sunday a day for promoting Volunteers in Mission.
Mar 6	World Day of Prayer to link Christian women of the world in prayer.
Mar 8	Daylight Savings Time begins –Spring Forward
Mar 15	One Great Hour of Sharing to share the goodness of life with those who hurt; offering funds, programs of relief, rehabilitation and service
Mar 29	Palm Sunday to commemorate Christ's entry into Jerusalem
Apr 2	Holy Thursday to celebrate the institution of the Eucharist
Apr 3	Good Friday to commemorate Christ's death
Apr 5	Easter Sunday to celebrate Christ's resurrection
Apr 19	Native American Sunday to recognize Native Americans in society, offering funds to ministries, urban initiatives and seminary scholarships
Apr 25	World Malaria Day
May 4-10	Christian Family Week to focus on families in the church & community
May 10	Mother's Day
May 10	Golden Cross Sunday to further the work of health & welfare ministries in the annual conference (or another date chosen by local church)
May 24	Heritage Sunday to call the church to remember the past by committing to God's continuing call
May 24	Pentecost to celebrate the birthday of the Church
May 31	Peace with Justice Sunday to call the church to peace with justice, offering funds annual conference and General Board of Church & Society peace with justice ministries
May 31	Trinity Sunday
June 11-14	Annual Conference held at Grove City College
June 21	Father's Day
August 9	Rural Life Sunday to emphasize the value of rural life & agriculture
Sept 13	Christian Education Sunday to call the church to be open to growth and learning
Sept 20	Retired Clergy Sunday to honor retired clergy, spouses or surviving spouses
Oct 4	World Communion Sunday
Oct 9-11	Children's Sabbath
Oct 11	Camping Sunday
Oct 18	Laity Sunday to celebrate the ministry of all Christians
Nov 1	All Saints Day to remember departed Saints
Nov 1	Daylight Savings Time ends clocks fall back
Nov 1	Youth Service Fund Sunday offering to assist youth programs locally & globally
Nov 22	Bible Sunday to acknowledge the place of the Bible in today's world
Nov 26	Thanksgiving Day to thank God for blessings, commemorating our national heritage
Nov 29	United Methodist Student Day to call the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge; offering funds scholarships & loans
Advent	Doorways to Hope at Home for continued support of the six Western PA Conference regional mission agencies within the Conference boundaries
Dec 24/25	Christmas to celebrate the birth of Christ
Dec 31	Watch Night to usher in the New Year with covenant renewal.

Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church
Plan for Ministry

MISSION

To provide leadership, connection, and resources to make disciples of
Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

VISION

To ignite and sustain a passionate, spiritual connection with Christ among
all people in Western Pennsylvania.

CORE VALUE

Our core value is love: We love the Lord our God with all our hearts,
souls, minds and strength and our neighbors as ourselves.

This value is commanded by Jesus, inspired by our Wesleyan heritage
including to spread scriptural holiness over the land, and witnessed
through our integrity, accountability and inclusiveness.