

# Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer's Report

David Dobbs | May 31, 2019

*Good Afternoon Church.*

*My name is David Dobbs and I am your Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer.*

*Today I am going to be speaking to you about two things: one, what has happened over the last year and two, a brief overview of how your spent is spent.*

*So, lets starts with what has happened over the last year. I don't know about you, but it has been kind of a quiet year in the Treasury. Nothing big.*

*Just to give you an idea of life has been like in Treasury I have come up with some of things that we have accomplished.*

Things Accomplished:

- One New Conference
- *Nine New Districts*

*Yes, there are only two items listed however let me tell you of the things involved in these two items.*

- *Legal business paperwork had to be accomplished including new EINs (or Employers Identification Number), insurance, IRS and State authorities for the new and then the paperwork for merging the old.*
- *The staff had to work in three different general ledger and donation systems for the majority of the year which is strenuous enough under most situations but at this year-end when accuracy was at a premium they rose to the occasion. There were many occasions when they had to decipher which conference was this invoice or donation for and then for what year.*
- *Implementation of new Ministry Shares formula including hosting numerous webinars to work with church treasurers and anyone else to help them understand the new system.*
- *Working with staff and committee members to determine new account numbers for their vouchers.*
- *Creation of a new chart of accounts and then transferring all of the end of year balances for the two conferences and the Area office into the new chart of accounts. This manual merging and matching of approximately 20,000 existing accounts were a time-consuming event that we finished just this week before we came to Annual Conference.*
- *We have been working with the districts to get them their funds from the conference and old districts.*
- *Implementation of a conference wide workers compensation insurance program.*
- *Working with the Trustees to purchase two new parsonages, sell two existing parsonages, renovation of several offices and closing of churches.*
- *Going to various districts and local churches to teach and answer questions.*

- *Finally, going through our last audit of all three entities and getting a clean bill which, you should be very proud of as a conference.*

*I want to thank this staff for everything they have done over the last few years to get us from many into one. This change may have seemed chaotic, but I can tell you that it has gone extremely well, and it is because of their dedication and willingness to go the extra mile that I am most thankful for.*

*Please allow me a moment of selfishness because I need to thank my family especially my wife. They have had to put up with me over the last several years, the early mornings, late nights and even being my inability to stop thinking about work when I am home.*

*There are way too many people to thank to do it properly during this presentation but please know that I value you have done to help me and the Treasury.*

*There is one person I do need to thank personally. I have a certificate and would like to present it now to Ron Iris who has served as Conference Statistician and his term is ending. He has worked extremely hard for first the Detroit Annual Conference, then both conferences and finally the Michigan Conference. It was his job to make sure that every church completed their year-end statistical report, verified those reports and then worked with GCFA to make sure the records are accurate. He has worked over the years to make sure that church records in the Ezra database were up to date. All of this with very little fanfare but I would like to acknowledge his hard work and say thank you.*

Ministry Shares for 2018:

736 churches, 425 churches paid 100%, 57.74% of all churches

736 churches, 82 churches paid 0%, 11.14% of all churches

*Here are the percentages paid for Ministry Shares in 2018. You can see that roughly 58% of all churches paid 100% which is slightly lower than the 63% paid in 2017 however I can tell you that 15 churches have already paid all of their 2019 Ministry Shares in full.*

*In 2018 82 churches paid 0% of their Ministry Shares which was an increase from 2017 when 71 churches paid 0% of their Ministry Shares.*

*One of the priorities for the new Conference Statistician/Ezra Database Specialist will be the analysis of year-end statistical reports to help the Council on Finance & Administration and Appointive Cabinet.*

*We, the Council on Finance & Administration and Treasury, take the financial struggles of our churches very seriously and are continuing to look for ways to help.*

Budget for 2020:

Common Budget	
Clergy Support	3,163,488
Administration	2,196,618
Conference Benevolences	5,612,167
Episcopal Fund	568,025
Ministerial Education Fund	647,843
General Church Administration	227,758
World Service Fund	1,918,093
Black College Fund	258,419
Africa University Fund	57,833
Interdenominational Fund	50,666
Total	14,700,910
Benefits Budget	3,720,000

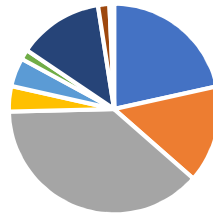
*One of those ways is to continually review the budget along with the Conference Leadership Council to find ways to reduce costs while maintaining the programs of the Conference.*

*I am going to just do a brief overview of the 2020 budget as I will be presenting it in full on Sunday morning. We will be voting on acceptance of the budget at that time.*

*The first thing to notice is that the Common budget of \$14,700,910 is a reduction of \$124,723 from the 2019 budget and a reduction of \$346,964 reduction from the 2018 budget.*

*As we now start to function as one it allows us a better opportunity to analyze the costs and what we can do to help reduce costs while spending your Ministry Share money more efficiently. In fact, let me show you how your Ministry Share money is spent.*

### Where Your Money Goes



- Clergy Support
- Administration
- Conference Benevolences
- Episcopal Fund
- Ministerial Education Fund
- General Church Administration
- World Service Fund
- Black College Fund
- Africa University Fund
- Interdenominational Fund

Clergy Support	3,163,488	21.52%
Administration	2,196,618	14.94%
Conference Benevolences	5,612,167	38.18%
Episcopal Fund	568,025	3.86%
Ministerial Education Fund	647,843	4.41%
General Church Administration	227,758	1.55%
World Service Fund	1,918,093	13.05%
Black College Fund	258,419	1.76%
Africa University Fund	57,833	0.39%
Interdenominational Fund	50,666	0.34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,700,910</b>	
<b>Benefits Budget</b>	<b>3,720,000</b>	

*Imagine you have a dollar and are wondering how it will be spent once you have given it to the Annual Conference. I have a pie chart to help explain it better.*

*You can see that the largest section of the pie is for Conference Benevolences or programs. Some of these programs encompass communications, board of global ministries, board of ordained ministry, board of young people’s ministry, board of congregational life and camping. This accounts for 38 cents of your dollar.*

*The second largest is Clergy Support. Some costs associated with Clergy Support are running the offices of the District Superintendents, equitable compensation and moving expenses. This accounts for 22 cents of your dollar.*

*The third largest is Administration which is the administration of the conference. Some of the expenses are treasurer's office, area administration, operations, trustees and legal fees. This accounts for 15 cents of your dollar.*

*These are the three conference portions of the common budget and they account for 75 cents of your dollar and stays in the conference to help do the ministry of the conference.*

*Therefore 25 cents of your dollar go to the General Church and of that 25 cents, 13 cents go to the World Service Fund. Some of the things done with the World Service Fund is build new churches, prepare clergy and lay leaders, increase the number of young clergy, pay missionary salaries, provide leadership for youth ministry and work with other denominations. The World Service Fund is the financial lifeline to a long list of Christian mission and ministry throughout the denomination.*

*No other general church apportionment gets more than 4 cents of your dollar.*

*Please understand that 88 cents of every dollar you give in Ministry Shares either stays in the conference or does the missional work of the denomination.*

*I want to thank each and everyone of you for your continued financial support of the conference.*

*Bishop, this is my report.*