

NOTES ON CHURCH TYPES for UMC STATS

BASIC INFO ABOUT CHURCH TYPES AND STATS REPORTING

Church Type	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
Chartered Church	Required	Required	Required
Mission Church	Optional but recommended	Optional – excluded from conference apportionments	Optional
New Church Start	Optional but recommended	Optional – excluded from conference apportionments	Optional
Satellite	Only required if information being reported separate from Parent Church		
Ecumenical Shared Ministries	See below.		

Chartered Churches:

If a church is chartered, it should be reporting membership and expenses at the very minimum. There are always exceptions as to why churches do not report participation information, but every chartered church should have membership or should not be labeled a chartered church.

What are Mission Churches and New Church Starts?

The guidelines for creating a new church can be found in ¶259 of the *Book of Discipline*. Essentially, ¶259.1 lays out the conditions differentiating a Mission designation from New Church Start, though to GCFA, they are treated the same way (not required). However, both GCFA and Path1 (a Discipleship Ministries church planting program) recommends tracking and reporting participation (Table 1) data as soon as possible for these churches. While any data submitted will be excluded from GCFA's apportionment calculations, church members and participants will be reported as part of the General Church membership and used to help gauge trends and share the story of the United Methodist Church.

There are TWO ways to report membership data for New Church Starts:

1. If the conference requests for the church to have a General Church Number (GCNO) from its inception, report data for the church as you would a chartered church.
2. If the church does not have a GCNO, membership for the church can be kept by the conference secretary on a general membership roll, which is reported to GCFA along with other church statistics. See ¶259.3 for more information. These members are sometimes referred to as "At Large" members and should be transferred as soon as possible to the roll of the new church once it reaches conference criteria for organization.

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What is an Ecumenical Shared Ministry, and how should they report data?

Definitions of Ecumenical Shared Ministries can be found in ¶1208. Essentially, these are ecumenical congregations formed by a local United Methodist church and one or more local congregations of other Christian traditions. There are found in several forms and reported to GCFA along with other churches and require different avenues of reporting statistics:

Ecumenical Type	Basic Definition	How to Report Membership
Federated Church	One congregation with at least two denominations. Members choose which denomination holds membership.	If church is holding two membership rolls, only report UMC membership and proportionally split expenses.
Union Church	One congregation with one unified membership roll is related to two denominations.	This is left up to the conference as to whether full membership is included. If not, do not report. If so, report as if 100% UMC.
Merged Church	Two or more congregations from different denominations form one congregation that only relates to one denomination.	If church chooses to relate to UMC, report 100%. If not, do not report.
Yoked Parish	Congregations of different denominations share a pastor.	Only report the churches considered UMC regardless of pastor denomination.