



*How we  
share.*



**Michigan Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

**Ministry Shares Handbook**

**United Methodists in Michigan give more than \$14 million each year to mission and ministry. These gifts are known as “Ministry Shares” because we share some of the gifts with which God has blessed us. Together we support the work of the Church in mission and ministry. These gifts provide vital support to a wide range of ministry and mission.**



## **Conference Ministry Shares**

Conference Ministry Shares\* are the funds which 1) provide resources and services to local churches and their members and 2) operate the conference. They make up approximately 75% of the Conference Budget. The three funds included in Conference Ministry Shares and their descriptions are:

**Conference Benevolences** - Provide support for a wide range of programs and resources for the local church. These include funds for the Board of Global Ministries, Board of Ordained Ministry, Board of Congregational Life, Board of Young People's Ministry, Annual Conference, Communications, and many program related committees. It also provides the funding for the offices and staff of Connectional Ministry, Clergy Excellence and Congregational Vibrancy. Examples include new church starts, financial support of Wesley Foundations and Camping, grants for missional work, and local church resources for youth and children.

**Clergy Support** - Provides support for conference clergy. These include Equitable Compensation (as dictated by the 2016 Book of Discipline) and support for the expenses associated with moving clergy. These funds provide for District Superintendents and their offices who supervise and encourage pastors and congregations.

**Administration** - The smallest percentage of funds provides support for operations of Conference Centers, Area Center administration, Treasurer's office, legal fees, information technology and several administrative committees.

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***75% of all gifts support connectional ministry & mission in Michigan including programs for children, youth and young people.***

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\*Ministry Shares are divided between 2 large groups of funds, Conference Ministry Shares and General Church Apportionments. These funds are further broken down into 3 funds under Conference Ministry Shares and 7 funds under General Church Apportionments.



## General Church Apportionments

General Church Apportionments\* make up approximately 25% of the Conference Budget. There are seven funds that make up the General Church Apportionments. You can find detailed information on all of these funds at [www.umcsgiving.org](http://www.umcsgiving.org).

**World Service Fund** - More than half of Michigan Ministry Shares for the General Church are used to support the World Service Fund. It is the essential core of our global outreach ministry, supporting Christian mission around the world as neighbor helps neighbor and we live out the Gospel by providing clean water, food, medicine, education and hope to millions. By giving to World Service we empower United Methodist evangelistic efforts, stimulate Bible study and spiritual commitment, encourage church growth and discipleship and help God's children everywhere. It is the way that we connect together, we become powerful in our response to injustice and to poverty, and to tragedy, and to need.

**Africa University Fund** - This vital fund supports a United Methodist-related, degree-granting university on the continent of Africa-serving students from 21 African countries. Africa University is developing visionary leaders of tomorrow by providing excellent quality higher education, enriched with Christian values for men and women.

**Black College Fund** - The 11 U.S. historically Black colleges and universities supported by The United Methodist Church have played a unique role in U.S. higher education. The United Methodist Church established the Black College Fund to provide a reliable way to support United Methodist-related historically Black colleges. Their graduates-teachers and doctors, ministers and bishops, judges, artists and entrepreneurs-are leaders in the African-American community and in a rapidly changing, more diverse United States.

**Interdenominational Cooperation Fund** - We United Methodists acknowledge that we are but a small part of the worldwide Christian church-the living body of Jesus Christ. This fund allows us to partner with other Christians to witness together to the common hope we have in Jesus Christ.

**Episcopal Fund** - Bishops are elected and consecrated to speak to the Church and from the Church. Bishops guide the spiritual needs and leadership for annual conferences. This fund covers compensation, benefits, travel, and administrative costs associated with their service.

**Ministerial Education Fund** - Since 1968 the Ministerial

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***Half of all gifts to General Apportionments support world outreach providing food, water, shelter and response to injustice.***

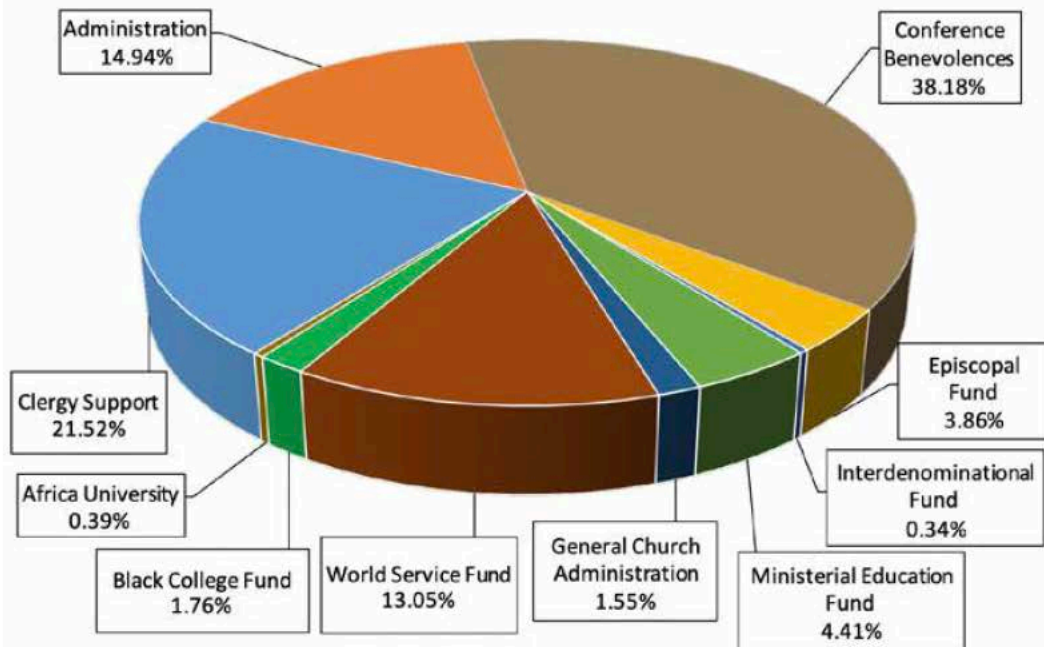
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Education Fund has helped thousands of men and women become pastoral leaders in The United Methodist Church. It is nurtured and funded by United Methodists to provide: 1) needed scholarships through annual conferences, 2) funding for the support of our thirteen United Methodist seminaries in the United States, 3) programs that encourage men and women to respond to the call to the ordained ministry, 4) continuing-education opportunities for pastors across the connection, and 5) course-of-study education for local pastors.

**General Administration Fund** - This fund underwrites and finances general church activities that are administrative in nature, rather than program-related—like General Conference, the legislative branch of the church. General Council on Finance and Administration coordinates and administers the finances of the church, receives, disburses and accounts for the church's general funds, safeguards the denomination's legal interests and rights, compiles and publishes denominational statistics and maintains the church's records.

## Michigan United Methodists approved at annual conference how gifts will be used to support mission and ministry in Michigan and around the world in 2020



38.18%	Michigan Conference Missions & Ministries	\$5,612,167
21.52%	Support of Michigan Clergy	\$3,163,488
14.94%	Conference Operations and Administration	\$2,196,618
13.05%	General Church Global Mission and Ministry	\$1,918,093
4.41%	General Church Ministerial Education Fund	\$647,843
3.86%	Jurisdictional Episcopal Fund	\$668,025
1.76%	Support for Black College Fund	\$258,419
1.55%	General Church Operations/Administration	\$227,758
.39%	Support for Africa University	\$57,833
.34%	Support for Interdenominational Fund	\$50,666

*To learn more about how your ministry shares are used, please visit the stewardship resource pages at [MichiganUMC.org](http://MichiganUMC.org) or [UMCgiving.org](http://UMCgiving.org)*



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