

Process for Approving Conference Advance Specials / Guidelines

The Advance is an official program of The United Methodist Church for voluntary, designated, second-mile giving. Through The Advance, United Methodist annual conference, districts, local churches, organizations, individuals, and families may choose to support particular, approved mission programs or mission personnel with their financial gift.

The Advance is “designated” giving because it gives donors an opportunity to select specific mission programs or persons. The Advance is “second-mile” giving because in The United Methodist Church, the first mile (priority) is for local churches to support World Service and other apportioned funds.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Advance is an accountable, designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures 100% of each gift reaches its intended mission or ministry. Our work fulfills both physical and spiritual needs through a variety of partnerships statewide to reach mutual goals that make a life-changing and long lasting impact.

Conference Advance Special Ministries (ASM) are ministry agencies within the bounds of the South Carolina Annual Conference whose purposes are consistent with the goals of the United Methodist Church and the South Carolina Annual Conference and have been approved by the conference Board of Global Ministries, the conference Connectional Table, and the Annual Conference.

CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES

- a. Projects shall conform with the Disciplinary provisions for conference Advance Specials.
- b. Projects seeking approval as conference Advance Specials shall be located within the bounds of the South Carolina Annual Conference.
- c. Conference Advance Specials shall have an on-going liaison relationship with a Conference Board of Global Ministries (CBGM), or the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) on request by the CBGM, to assure that the program or project maintains consistency with the conference Advance Special criteria. All projects shall have United Methodist representation of the governing board to be eligible for approval as conference Advance Specials.
- d. Priority-Programs and projects to be endorsed as conference Advance Specials should be in accord with the highest priorities of the annual conference in mission ministries and consistent with the Advance.
- e. Feasibility-Programs and projects seeking approval as conference Advance Specials should be considered in light of (a) the availability of personnel, (b) the facilities required, and (c) a plan to provide funding.
- f. Viability-Advance Special giving is voluntary in nature. It is expected the program or project not be entirely dependent upon Advance giving. A reasonable amount of financial support should be cultivated from other sources, including persons participating in the program.

- g. Support Responsibility-Approval of programs and projects should imply reasonable expectation of financial support from congregations and individuals within the conference. By approval, ASM will be able to contact local churches, districts, and conference organizations to solicit support for their ministries. The CBGM will publicize and urge support for the ASM through the annual “Missions In South Carolina” offering. The CBGM may also request conference apportioned moneys for the ASM through the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration. Alternative funding sources may better be sought when the nature of the program or specific need presents unusual difficulties for effective communication and cultivation of the project as an Advance Special.
2. Conference Advance Special Ministries applications must be approved by the district connectional ministries team in the district where they are located. State-wide ministries may apply to the DCM in the district where their main office is located. Ministries that may cross district lines but which are not state-wide, must have the approval of all districts in which the ministry operates.
 3. The application will be reviewed for approval by the CBGM’s Committee on Advance Special Ministries and the conference Board of Global Ministries.
 4. Conference Board of Global Ministries, once the provisions in 2 and 3 are met, shall submit conference Advance Specials for approval to the Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Connectional Ministries will then submit it to the Annual Conference for their approval.
 5. Conference Advance Specials shall be listed in the annual conference journal.
 6. Applications for approval as an Advance Special to be considered will be submitted/resubmitted every four years, in conjunction with the quadrennial meeting of the United Methodist Church. Applications will be received the year prior to General Conference.
 - a. Funding Applications will be submitted for approval and received in the Connectional Ministries Office by the June 30th deadline printed in red on the applications with all required signatures.
 - b. Applications will be reviewed for recommendation by the Advance Special Ministries Committee of the CBGM.
 - c. There must be an on site visit by a representative of the Advance Special Committee or District Missions Secretary as part of the application process.
 7. Evaluation will be held annually to assess the need for continuation of conference Advance Specials status and funding of the project. If it is determined that the criteria as an Advance Special is not met, apportionment funding will be withheld.

The mailing address for everything is:

South Carolina United Methodist Center
 Office of Connectional Ministries
 4908 Colonial Drive
 Columbia, SC 29203