

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.

