

“LIVING THE PROMISE” HOW OUR APPORTIONMENT GIVING CONNECTS US ALL



Conference launches campaign to help local churches share the impact of their apportionment giving with their members

Responding to a growing need for education and awareness across the South Carolina Conference, finance leaders are renewing their efforts to help local churches and their members better understand the purpose and impact of connectional giving.

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) says the challenge is not new but has become more acute in recent years. Historically, United Methodists in South Carolina had a clear understanding of apportionments and how those funds supported the mission and ministries of the wider church.

Smith Patterson, CF&A chairperson and a member of First United Methodist Church in Laurens, said that shared understanding can no longer be assumed.

“Our goal,” Patterson said, “is for every United Methodist in South Carolina to understand that their local church’s giving connects them to a much larger ministry – one that changes lives locally, regionally and globally. Apportionments serve as our financial partnership with all United Methodists, and as a unified body, we can reach out to our local communities and beyond in sharing God’s love.”

To help reach that goal, CF&A has assembled a collection of resources – including downloadable videos, printable pew cards, and links to even more informational materials – that local church leaders can use to help their members truly recognize the impact of their generous giving. Find them at umcsc.org/giving.



“LIVING THE PROMISE”



The conference also will be sharing on social media videos telling the stories of ministries funded by your apportionment giving.

Many church members – and even some congregational leaders – are unfamiliar with how apportionment dollars are used or why connectional giving matters. Without that awareness, leaders say, it becomes more difficult for congregations to fully embrace their role in supporting the ministries that extend far beyond their local communities.



“Our connection is one of our greatest strengths as United Methodists,” Bishop Leonard Fairley said. “Through apportionment giving, we join our resources so that ministry can happen in places and in ways no single congregation could accomplish alone.



“When we give faithfully, we are living out our commitment to be the church together – sharing the work of making disciples, responding to human need, and bearing witness to God’s love across South Carolina and around the world.”

Apportionments help pay for a wide range of ministries that no single congregation could accomplish alone. These include clergy support and benefits, ministerial education, disaster response, global mission partnerships, new church development, campus ministries, and programs that strengthen local congregations. Through connectional giving, United Methodists share resources so that the church’s mission can be carried out more effectively and equitably.



CF&A leaders emphasize that the issue is not simply financial, but theological and relational. Connectional giving reflects the United Methodist understanding that the church is stronger when it works together.



FIND RESOURCES AND LEARN MORE AT
umcsc.org/giving