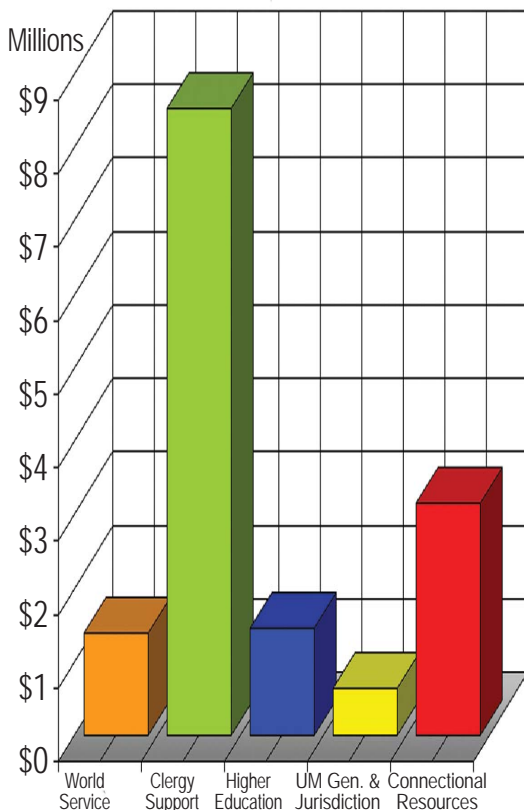


The 2010 Holston Conference Budget helps each local church



Recommended 2010 Budget ~ \$15,157,042



The 2010 budget is established to provide a means to finance ministry within Holston Conference and the world. These funds, provided by each of Holston's 906 local churches, will be used to Offer Christ in various ways. As you read the financial plan for 2010, please recognize ways this budget will assist your church in making disciples for Jesus Christ, both here and around the world. By being partners in ministry we are able to accomplish more collectively than we possibly can individually. As you read about where your money will be spent, we hope you will pray for those who receive support through the conference funds provided by your church.

By recalling past memories of special Holston people, we pray that you will see faces and remember names of those who have been or will be transformed through your gifts to Holston Conference in 2010. Do you see favorite pastors, now retired and receiving retirement and health benefits for faithfully serving the church; or children, youth and adults thriving because of the work of missionaries around the world as result of our partnerships? Do you see great

experiences and lives changed at a Conference Camp; or see the excitement of new seminary students who are able to pursue ministry through scholarships you will provide; or churches receiving grants being used to assist in their growth or formation? Or do you see the life changing commitments made by new Christians? All of these are made possible by your generous giving.

While recognizing the current economic climate and needs for ministry, we are excited about the things that God is doing and know that this is a great time to be the Church. In an effort to be good stewards of the resources provided by your church, and to be responsive to the current economic conditions, the 2010 spending plan is almost 5% less than the 2009 adopted budget. While many of the costs of the Annual Conference are fixed costs such as utilities, pensions, and health care, these challenging times have forced us to evaluate every area within our budget and seek new means of becoming more intentional with the resources that are provided. Please let us know of any ways we can assist your church to Offer Christ to a suffering world.

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~ \$1,393,698

www.umcsgiving.org

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Just a word of personal gratitude and appreciation for your continued support of the Holston Conference and commitment to winning people to Jesus by offering them Christ through the gifts of your apportionments. Through the commitment of your church we are using the money that you send each month to send children to camp, support active and retired pastors by offering pension and health benefits, equipping those to serve and lead our church into the future, and to share resources with other churches both here and around the world. We thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Holston Conference and its mission to Offer Christ. As always, we consider it a privilege to serve you and the needs of your church through the various ministries and resources provided through your generous support.

Your servants in Christ,

Kathy Ratchford, Valarie Gallant, Sandra Seay, Angela Lee, Frances Lovell, Kathy Parker, John Tate, Rick Cherry

Holston Conference Financial Services

P.O. Box 850 • Alcoa, TN 37701 • 865/690-4080
www.holston.org/finance • JohnTate@holston.org

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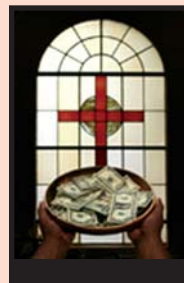


Apportionment

Q&A

Q: What are apportionments?

A: Apportioned giving is “fair-share” giving. The general church and conference budgets are proportionally allocated to the local churches. This method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition for United Methodists.



Q: Why do our church apportionments continue to increase, but our membership has been decreasing?

A: The Conference Budget contains two large expenditure items that have had and will have a significant impact on the cost of doing ministry. Currently, the Conference Budget contains funds that pay 100% of a pastor’s pension, 25% of their cost of health insurance, and approximately 89% of the retiree health insurance program.

These benefit costs have increased substantially over the past several years, as it has in the for-profit sector. The cost of pensions has increased over the past several years with the recent decline in investment earnings and the reinstatement of a defined benefit program (January 2007) that is anticipated to increase significantly over the next several periods. Some of these costs will be buffered with restricted funds available to reduce the amount of apportionments needed to fund the pension programs.

Q: How can I help make sure my church gives 100 percent of its apportionment?

A: There are many ways to encourage your congregation’s giving. Model and teach stewardship by tithing and encouraging others to tithe. Help your church understand where its connectional dollars go and the lives that are changed through your church’s giving. Encourage your congregation to give systematically by contributing to apportionments each month, and ask your church treasurer for regular updates. Highlight ministries supported by your giving through the church bulletin, newsletter, web site, special events and activities. You may review your church givings at www.holston.org/finance.

Q: Who adopts the conference budget?

A: The Annual Conference session approves the budget each year. The Council on Finance and Administration recommends a budget, and the lay and clergy members vote on it.

Q: How is my local church’s apportionment determined?

A: For the 2010 budget, CFA has recommended that each church will be apportioned the same amount in 2010 that it was apportioned in 2009. This will allow churches that pay 100% to receive a temporary freeze in their amount apportioned for 2010 while also allowing those that might pay less than 100% to increase their giving percentage for 2010. Please see page 193 of the 2008 Journal to review the current formula for the amount apportioned in 2009.

For 2011, CFA is currently studying variations to its previously adopted formula which may include a tithe or other formulas currently being utilized by other Annual Conferences.

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