

# UNDERSTANDING SHARED MINISTRY

Council on Finance and  
Administration



UNITED METHODISTS  
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY



## The United Methodist connection means ***we can do more good together*** than we can do alone.

God's kingdom is bigger and goes much further than our local church and concerns. In the United Methodist Church, we recognize that others in the United Methodist faith are connected to us, whether they are down the street, or on the other side of the globe.

Each local church is connected through an annual conference which is a regional body led by a resident Bishop. In 2019, our Greater New Jersey Annual Conference includes 530 churches in New Jersey, New York and parts of Pennsylvania. The Conference, where nine different languages are spoken, is led by Bishop John Schol.

To support our mission together, each local church contributes a portion of its budget to Shared Ministry which supports the ministry of our annual conference, the global church and special funds set up by the denomination to move our ministry further.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*30% of GNJ churches have participated in Team Vital, a program developed by Greater New Jersey to equip our congregations with strategic ministry plans to focus on mission, worship, small groups, generosity and making disciples.*

*Shared Ministry supports the work of this connectional ministry as well as the next step known as Vitality 2.*



## **THE GREATER NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE PROVIDES:**

- Administrative structure and functions
- Clergy recruitment, ordination and appointment
- Spiritual and missional leadership
- Training and resources for clergy and lay leaders
- Services to support congregational vitality
- Event management for annual conference sessions
- Property services including church insurance and building concerns
- Support services including clergy and family health insurance and clergy pension
- Legal status to the local church as a tax exempt organization
- Support and guidance for stewardship.

## **SHARED MINISTRY**

Shared Ministry (sometimes called apportionment) connects the local church to the conference, the denomination and our global ministries. Shared Ministry makes us a Connectional church because our shared mission is supported by the work we do together.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*As a part of a 10 year commitment to intercultural competency, GNJ holds annual cross-racial and cross-cultural workshops for clergy and congregational leaders.*

*In partnership with the General Commission on Race and Religion, this resource helps our leaders build new skill sets by embracing our differences within and outside of the walls of the church building. We are able to live our goal of intercultural competence because of our shared commitment to Shared Ministry.*

# Local Church Expense for 2018 X 15.2% = Shared Ministry for 2020



## SHARED MINISTRY FORMULA

The Shared Ministry formula is determined by the Greater New Jersey Council on Finance & Administration (CF&A) each year. It is a fixed percentage of the local church budget and based on the conference's budget and denominational commitments.

To determine the Shared Ministry for each church, the fixed percentage is applied to the local church budget (Expense Formula) from the previous budget year. This number represents the local church's Shared Ministry commitment for the coming year.

For 2020, CF&A set the formula at 15.2%. That number will drop to 15.0% for 2021.

If a local church budget remains steady during this time, the church would see a decrease in Shared Ministry commitments during this period.

## HOW DO YOU CALCULATE SHARED MINISTRY?

Shared Ministry is based on church expenses. Simply add all church expenditures and subtract mission and capital expenses. Shared Ministry prioritizes mission in the local church, so all mission expenses are backed out of the formula for calculations.

# CALCULATING 2020 SHARED MINISTRY: AN EXAMPLE

**Church Name:** First UMC

**Church No:** 0000

**2020 Shared Ministry Formula:** First UMC Expenses for 2018: \$142,237

- Local Church Expenses for 2018 multiplied by 15.2% equals Local Church Shared Ministry Assessment for 2020 or
- Local Church Expense for 2018 X 15.2% = Local Church Apportionment for 2020
- \$142,237 X 15.20% = \$21,620 for 2020 or \$1,801 per month for 2020

## DID YOU KNOW?

*In 2019, GNJ introduced Breakthrough, a guide for clergy and laity in best practices for worship.*

*Breakthrough posts five worship series a year with bonus series for Advent and Lent and includes graphics, downloads, small group curricula and videos.*

*Clergy and laity can use these resources to re-tune worship, spend less time preparing the details and focus on what really matters - preaching the gospel to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.*

**You can check out these resources at:**

[www.gnjumc.org/breakthrough](http://www.gnjumc.org/breakthrough)





## REPORTING 2020 SHARED MINISTRY INFORMATION: AN EXAMPLE

Please RETURN this page with signature(s) to the Conference Office.

**Church Name:** First UMC

**Church No:** 0000

**Total 2019 Shared Ministry:** \$24,173

**Total 2020 Shared Ministry:** \$22,900

- The church has reviewed and accepts its portion of the Shared Ministry based on church expenses.
- Shared Ministry information has been shared with the congregation.
- The Church commits to meet its Shared Ministry obligation.

**Signatures:**

**Pastor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lay Leader:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Administrative Counsel Chairperson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Finance Chairperson:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **WHERE DO OUR SHARED MINISTRY FUNDS GO?**

Shared Ministry funds from the denomination support several funds to further the work of the global church. These funds include:

### **The World Service Fund**

A core of United Methodist outreach, this fund encourages church growth and discipleship, and helps God's children everywhere through evangelism, Bible study and spiritual commitment.

### **General Administration Fund**

Supporting critical administrative functions of the conference and the denomination, this fund helps maintain a system of checks and balances to ensure that the church operates efficiently and honestly.

### **Episcopal Fund**

The Episcopal Fund supports the work of Bishops all over the world who are charged with leading our denomination in our walk with God.

### **Interdenominational Cooperation Fund**

Recognizing that the United Methodist way is not the only way to find Christ or serve Christ, this fund is dedicated to working with other denominations in doing God's work.

### **Ministerial Education Fund**

Preparing men and women for effective ministry is the main purpose of this fund which recruits and educates ordained and licensed ministers to meet increased demands for quality leadership.

### **Black College Fund**

Tracing its roots to the Civil War, this fund supports 11 historically black colleges and universities as part of the church's commitment to ensuring all people will be able to obtain a sound education.

### **Africa University Fund**

Located in Zimbabwe, Africa University (AU) is the first fully accredited Methodist institution on the African continent. It opened in 1992 and in 2019 at its 25th commencement graduated 526 students who represented 22 countries. The university's goal is to provide quality education and to encourage students to grow spiritually and to develop strong values and leadership skills.



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