

PRESS RELEASE
General Council on Finance and Administration
The United Methodist Church

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February 20, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Number of Annual Conferences Giving 100% to General Apportioned Funds in 2011 Increases

Nashville, TN – The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) reports that 17 annual conferences paid 100% of their general apportioned funds for 2011. The conferences are Alaska, Baltimore-Washington, Central Texas, Desert Southwest, East Ohio, Greater New Jersey, Holston, Illinois Great Rivers, Iowa, New York, North Carolina, Northern Illinois, Oklahoma Indian Missionary, Peninsula Delaware, Red Bird Missionary, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania. In 2010, 15 conferences gave 100% to all seven general apportioned funds.

In addition, five annual conferences gave 100% to the World Service Fund in 2011. They are Rio Grande, Texas, Upper New York, Western Michigan and Wisconsin. The World Service Fund supports work in all four areas of focus for The United Methodist Church.

This past year, many annual conferences experienced a continuation of financial challenges from the previous years. Even with those challenges present, there was a slight increase in the total number of annual conferences giving at the 100% level, and significant increases for several. An example of an increase in giving is the Holston Conference, which increased from 61% in 2010 to 100% in 2011. John Tate, Director of Financial Services for the Holston Conference, commented on the increase. “We have made a concentrated effort over the past several years to pay the general and jurisdictional apportionments which support connectional ministries at 100%. We felt it was important to make the adjustments in budgeting and ministry as an example to the churches that we are asking to pay 100% as well.” Eastern Pennsylvania saw an increase of over 16% in 2011 compared to 2010.

In 2010, giving to Advance Special funds was significantly higher than the previous year due to many major disasters for which the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provided emergency help. The number of such events was significantly less in 2011, resulting in less donated to those funds. Comparing 2011 to 2009, giving was still up over 30%.

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The General Council on Finance and Administration coordinates and administers finances, collects and tabulates the official records, and safeguards the legal interests and rights of The United Methodist Church.

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