



Serving the Church through the ministry of Administration

## The Meaning of the Apportionment Dollar

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Often clergy and lay church leaders are asked the question “why pay apportionments?” Many might respond: “That’s what United Methodists do!” But when the real question becomes “Why do we have to send money to the Conference office as apportionments?” the answer becomes more fundamental to being United Methodists.

At a deeper level some actually are asking “How do United Methodist apportionments make a difference? Do they change lives, create missions, feed the homeless, build churches?” The practical response goes to the heart of stewardship within The United Methodist Church.

From our earliest days, the people known as United Methodists have understood our life together as connectional. Whether parts of an urban congregation, a weekly gathering at a rural crossroads, or making a new church start become a reality, United Methodists are all interconnected. The gospel comes alive in the ministries in our individual settings, but we also know that we are called to witness in a larger, interconnected world.

That shared understanding empowers us to financially support outreach that no single congregation could do on its own. The connection allows us to effectively share programs that really work in our local area throughout the country and globally so that we can enhance the power of our witness everywhere. Our very existence as United Methodists engages us at the local, annual conference and worldwide level in ministries made possible by our shared commitments. For that reason, local congregations support annual conference budgets, and the annual conferences support the general church.

The 2008 General Conference affirmed that the Four Areas of Focus for this quadrennium would be:

- Combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally.
- Creating new places for new people and revitalizing existing congregations.
- Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.
- Engaging in ministry with the poor.

Each day, local churches, conferences, individuals, and Church agencies are working to impact the world in one of these four - and many other - areas.

Connectional Giving is a major embodiment of Christian witness and a significant part of my faith journey. We give because Jesus taught giving as a basic aspect of discipleship. As a United Methodist, our heritage embodied in Wesley’s teachings further underscores the reasons we should give. Giving is crucial to our spiritual growth. Giving out of gratitude helps each of us individually and collectively grow closer to God.

At every level of our church, be it local, annual conference or general, we work together to understand each other and bring resolution to those things we don't agree about. Shared ministries continue through your thoughtful and sacrificial giving, even during those times when we experience disharmony. It is part of what it means to be United Methodist.

If giving to God is part of the spiritual journey, consider how stopping will affect the ministries served by your giving.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the missions and ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Together in ministry,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Moses Rathan Kumar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

A. Moses Rathan Kumar  
General Secretary and Treasurer  
The General Council on Finance and Administration