THANK YOU

GCFA is blessed to serve the Church in the ministry of administration. This service manifests itself in each department listed in the annual report. Thank you for your continued support of the United Methodist connection. It is that commitment to supporting ministries around the world that is the foundation of connectional giving.

To learn more about how your connectional dollars work and to get access to resources for talking about connectional giving in your local church, visit www.umcgiving.org
2018 Financials

General Council on Finance & Administration | Income Statement for the Year Ending December 31, 2018 | In Thousands

REVENUE

2016 Actual | 2017 Actual | 2018 Actual*

General Church Receipts | $6,618 | $6,683 | $6,719

Investment Income | $1,542 | $1,798 | $1,871

Shared Service Revenue | $867 | $1,740 | $1,871

Benefit Trust & USPF Distribution | $844 | $779 | $949

Other Income | $555 | $565 | $774

Total Revenue | $10,426 | $11,565 | $10,160

Total Revenue

EXPENSES

2016 Actual | 2017 Actual | 2018 Actual*

Total Operating Expenses | $10,628 | $11,531 | $10,795

*These are preliminary, unaudited figures
THE TRAVEL AND MEETING PLANNING DEPARTMENT provides several services to make your meeting planning and travel needs as easy as possible. Our team provides comprehensive services: pre-conference RFPs, site/venue location planning, travel arrangements, event support including development of registration websites, and post-conference billing and invoicing.

Outsourcing the bi-annual board meeting logistics planning to GCFA’s shared services proved to be a great decision for GBCS. GCFA offered us a one-stop solution from hotel search, RFP, contract review, logistics planning, onsite meeting support, visa application to travel insurance. GCFA has an awesome team with very talented and dedicated staff members. Our travel planner was very knowledgeable and experienced with international hotels. This was GBCS’s first meeting in Germany; her ability to speak French helped with communication to our French-speaking board members. She worked so hard to make this meeting a great success. Their visa specialist rocks! One board member from Congo was not able to get a visa to come in the past two board meetings and GCFA did it.

Leigh Ann Gong, Gen. Board of Church and Society

70 EVENTS PLANNED

900 ONLINE REGISTRATION SITES CREATED (50% increase from 2017)

234 VISAS SUPPORTED

1,231 SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CONNECTION EACH YEAR FOR MEETING PLANNING, AIR, HOTEL, WEBSITES, AND CONSULTATION
THE FINANCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT fulfills GCFA’s Disciplinary responsibilities to hold in trust and distribute monies given by individual church members through their local churches for general Church benevolences and programs.

Our department also performs accounting and reporting functions for some general agencies as well as support of all United Methodist general agencies for employee health insurance benefits, insurance reporting, and management of employee flexible spending accounts.

GCFA Financial Services can help you implement solid processes and procedures regarding the financial administration of your ministry so that it can run efficiently and effectively. Let us give you back the time and energy you need for ministry. Let us help you pay it forward.

**INCREASE EFFICIENCY & DATA ACCURACY**

**ENSURE FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATION COMPLIANCE**

**ALIGN FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MISSIONAL GOALS**

**ACHIEVE OPERATIONAL, STRATEGIC, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING OBJECTIVES**
THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT provides day-to-day functions including recruitment and hiring, training, and general support for GCFA and for affiliated groups. Human Resources oversees staff communication, policy recommendations, organizational development, and the Employee Assistance Program. A Wellness Coordinator organizes and directs programs and activities to achieve the goal of the best mental and physical health possible.

Our HR department also provides services to other agencies and the connection like human resource assessments, compensation studies, and recruitment.

By providing functions of a Human Resources Department, GCFA helps the Council Of Bishops (COB) in maintaining a vibrant staff. The COB staff is supervised daily by two bishops; COB Executive Secretary and COB Ecumenical Officer. This assistance by GCFA on Human Resources duties enables the COB leadership to plan better for staffing and the needs of the Council.

The Council of Bishops feels blessed to corroborate with GCFA in furthering our responsibilities of leading The United Methodist Church. GCFA has proven to be a vital partner in the day-to-day operations of the COB Office in Washington, DC.

Bishop Marcus Matthews
Executive Secretary - Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church
Our dedicated IT SERVICES DEPARTMENT is committed to the vision of supporting the servant ministry of all those working within The United Methodist Church to spread the Gospel of Christ. With our support, local churches, annual conferences, and affiliated organizations can concentrate on their core ministries and have a crucial edge in today's technological environment.

We started having issues with being able to Livestream our Sunday worship services in mid-August. Our internet service provider and our local IT service both came out on site to diagnose the issue without much luck, but our problem became progressively worse and worse. Fortunately, we had already scheduled an IT assessment through GCFA at the beginning of September. As part of our audit, Ryan Penrose was able to diagnose the server as the source of the issue. Our local IT service provider returned after Ryan’s visit, but could not offer any solution to the problem other than buying a new server.

Meanwhile, the Internet service on our network and computers had nearly crawled to a stop, our church and preschool teams were having trouble accomplishing our daily tasks. Then we received a call from senior network engineer Michael Dunn at GCFA. Over the next few days, he assessed the nature of our problems; he asked probing questions, and he truly listened to our answers! We felt totally confident in the information he provided and the solutions he proposed because we were all on the same team – doing the work of making disciples (and yes that involves technology!)

We are thrilled to report that our network is back in working order, and our services are being Livestreamed again. We are so thankful for the technological competency of the IT staff at GCFA, but we especially appreciate their kindness and dedication.

Senior Pastor, Cypress Lake UMC
THE LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT at GCFA has a number of disciplinary responsibilities. We take all necessary legal steps to safeguard and protect the interests and rights of the denomination, in addition to maintaining a file of legal briefs related to cases involving the denominational interests of The United Methodist Church. We desire to make provisions for legal counsel where necessary to protect the interests and rights of the denomination. We take seriously the responsibility of recommending uniform procedures for clergy housing allowances and preserving the tax-exempt status of the denomination’s constituent organizations. Furthermore, it is our responsibility to supervise the use of the official United Methodist insignia, the Cross & Flame, and to supervise the use and maintain registrations of the name “United Methodist.”

GCFA has automated the process of obtaining the Group Ruling (501(c)(3) documentation for your church or other United Methodist organization. Visit www.umcgroupruling.org to get started. Be sure to have your EIN number. Also, be sure to click get listed on Guidestar. Guidestar is the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations, and getting listed is FREE and EASY!

2,900 CHURCH/UMC ENTITIES USING www.umcgroupruling.org

16% INCREASE OF CHURCHES VERIFYING 501(C)(3) STATUS ONLINE

387 CONTRACTS REVIEWED

175+ CONTRACTS FOR GCFA SERVICES TO ENTITIES WITHIN THE UMC CONNECTION
THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT cultivates strategic Ministry Partnerships that impact the ministries of our local churches. We build relationships with businesses around the world in an effort to create Ministry Partnerships. We also work with the Commission on General Conference to find alternative sources of income in an effort to lessen the dependence of the cost of General Conference on apportionment dollars and the General Administration Contingency Fund.
THE EPISCOPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT provides assistance to approximately 165 active and retired bishops in Jurisdictional and Central Conferences and to 41 surviving spouses and dependent children.

Our department administers compensation and benefits for bishops and their families and work in consultation with the GCFA Committee on General Agency and Episcopal Matters and the GCFA General Secretary to administer the Episcopal Fund. The Episcopal Fund provides for the salary, benefits, and expenses of active bishops as well as benefits to retired bishops, surviving spouses, and minor children of deceased bishops.

[Episcopal Department Staff] is absolutely wonderful to work with! She is always extremely responsive. If she doesn’t have the answer she lets me know she got the request and when I might get an answer. I know that sounds small, but I don’t get that from nearly the people I should. Her information is always correct, I never have to doubt something she tells me. She is a problem solver and someone who thinks outside the box when needed. Not to mention she just is a joy to work with.

Christy Mackey
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Bishop
Office of Bishop Jeremiah Park
Susquehanna Conference
GCFA’s COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT is a team of professionals committed to strategic planning and promotion of all GCFA departments, products, and services. In addition, the team also provides marketing services to a number of affiliated organizations, such as United Methodist Insurance and UMC Foundation Investment Management.

Our team is also responsible for the communications needs of the agency, including press releases, media inquiries, brand promotion, and the annual report.

At the annual meeting for the United Methodist Association of Communicators, GCFA received four awards for their marketing and communications work:

- **Class 4, Division B, Category D – Mobile Apps**: UMC Meet App
- **Class 8, Division B, Category E – Branding/Logo Design**: UMC Support
- **Class 4, Division B, Category A – Website**: www.investumc.org Website for Foundation Investment Management (FIM).
- **Class 2, Division B, Category A – eNewsletter**: The Collaborator

These awards reflect the commitment and level of professionalism shown by GCFA’s staff to their craft and ministry.
Every United Methodist clergy member and every congregation in the United States has a record that contains vital demographic and contact information and the congregation or person’s history with the Church. DATA SERVICES keeps in close contact with all annual conferences and agencies to ensure that the Church’s records are current and accurate.

Kevin Dunn
Director of Data Services

The GCFA Data Services Department collects, processes and distributes information regarding demographics and location of churches, annual conferences, districts, and jurisdictions. The department maintains church records, including pastoral appointments, annual conference and district leadership, extension ministry and status positions, church mergers, church and clergy/supply person demographic and location updates, new church starts, church closures and processes the end of year church statistical reports (collected by each Annual Conference). The information we process and finalize is then distributed to other agencies for their specific needs as well as being integral in determining apportionment to annual conference.

Kevin Dunn
Director of Data Services
GCFA’s CONNECTIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT builds relationships with United Methodist churches, agencies, annual conferences, and affiliated organizations, and connects them to GCFA’s products and services. If you don’t know who to call at GCFA, Connectional Relations is the place to start. They are focused on serving the Church by sharing how the products and services offered by GCFA can help with cost savings, repurposing those dollars to support mission and ministry.

As we work to grow Scarritt Bennett Center, we need great partners. We could not be happier with the move to shared services with GCFA! The IT team significantly reduced our costs and greatly increased the technology services on our ten acre campus. Across the agency, the customer care has been beyond our expectations. Our staff could not be happier with our new partner in ministry!

Sarah Wilke
Executive Director/Ex-Officio
Scarritt Bennett Center