GCFA ANNUAL REPORT

2016

STEWARDSHIP. SERVICE. HOPE.
WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL SEE THAT THE STORIES OF OUR MINISTRY SUPPORT YOU.

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Cover Photo: The sun rises behind the cross at Belin Memorial United Methodist Church. Photo by Austin Bond Photography.
FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Grace to you, and Peace –

Thank you for taking a moment to review 2016 with us. The General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church (GCFA) is here to help you in your ministry. We take our ministry of administration seriously and are blessed to work diligently to assure our services to you are helpful.

Whether you work as a lay or clergy person in a local church, annual conference or general Church board or commission, we hope you will see that the stories of our ministry support you.

In the following pages, you can see how we live out our desire to help you make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Moses Kumar
General Secretary and Treasurer
The General Council on Finance and Administration
of The United Methodist Church
THE LOCAL CHURCH

“Give me 100 preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God; such alone will shake the gates of hell.”
- John Wesley
| 01 | Joyfully2UMC® | Joyfully2UMC® is a mobile giving app specifically for United Methodist churches. Use of the app directly affects giving to the local church. |
| 02 | UMCGPO.org | UMCGPO.org is an online vendor management platform designed for United Methodist churches and affiliated organizations. |
| 03 | Staples Advantage | With Staples Advantage, you can reduce costs of supplies and generate a donation to a United Methodist area of focus: global health |
| 04 | Home Depot Pro XTRA | This loyalty program offers United Methodist churches and affiliate organizations the opportunity to support veterans through Strength for Service, Inc. |
| 05 | Educational Opportunities | EO serves the United Methodist Church by providing Christian travel opportunities to enhance the church’s spiritual formation and fellowship ministries. |

**D**efined as “the most significant area through which disciple-making occurs”, ¶201, 2016 *Book of Discipline*, the local United Methodist church serves the world in many areas:

- Worship service
- Bible study
- Discipleship study and faith development
- Community Outreach
- Pre-school/Daycare
- Elder care
- Meals on wheels
- Homeless shelter/safe havens
- Safe sanctuaries
- Men's bible study
- Women's bible study
- Outreach and Missions – local to global

Local churches in the United Methodist connection budget funds and resources to carry out its individual and connectional missions to make disciples. Working with vetted vendors, the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) seeks to provide support for disciple making at the local church level by providing access to resources that can help a local church raise funds for their local ministries.
The annual conference of The United Methodist Church is a pivotal and vital part of the connection that serves to pool resources, finances and ministries in each area.
As an administrative arm of The United Methodist Church, the annual conference coordinates connectional ministries.

To support this work, GCFA provides services to the annual conference through our internal departments, products and services that include:
• IT Back-up and Recovery
• Episcopal Services
• Human Resources Consultation
• Financial Services
• Internal audits
• IT Infrastructure
• Legal Services
• Meeting Planning

TECHNICAL SUPPORT
In service to Annual Conferences, GCFA is working collaboratively with the North Georgia Annual Conference.

Early in 2016, North Georgia migrated to GCFA's backup and recovery offering, and then in the fall set up servers in GCFA's hosted server environment to serve as North Georgia's cloud. The migration was completed in December.

"We're projected to have a 60+% cost savings in the spring of 2017 as compared to the spring of 2016. Incredibly, in addition to the significant cost savings, we will have a more robust integrated resources, fewer system issues, and noticeably faster applications."

Michael Murphy-McCarthy
Director of Information Technology and Database Administrator
The North Georgia Annual Conference

The North Georgia Conference also uses the revised and upgraded UMCARESplus program. "UMCARESplus has allowed me to monitor candidate's progress through the candidacy process. I am able to log into the system and very easily see what the candidate still needs to do. This helps to better coordinate conference and district efforts."

Rev. Ashley Fitzpatrick Jenkins
Vocational Discernment
Office of Ministerial Services
The North Georgia Annual Conference

TRAINING IN THE CONNECTION
ANNUAL TRAINING:
Equipping staff members with the tools, resources and knowledge to do their jobs well supports the ministries of The United Methodist Church. Each GCFA staff member in 2016 completed at least one professional development program or course in their field of work. Nine of them have attended two or more training opportunities. Training ranged from participating in Church Business Administrator training to SQL training, finance courses to investment training, Word and Excel proficiency training to HR compliance training, leadership development and much more. The training topics are as varied as the jobs are at GCFA.
14 annual conferences use etouches – the event management software

3 annual conferences receiving IT assessments

7 annual conferences using UMCARESplus

GCFA STAFF TRAINING
In the summer of 2016, Cheryl Akey, Travel and Meeting Planning Manager at GCFA, received her Certified Meeting Planner (CMP) designation. Knowing the value it added to her job, she encouraged others. Jeannette Foster began her process of CMP designation in 2016. Cheryl said, "The qualifications for certification include education, experience and a rigorous exam. There are approximately 11,000 meeting planners around the globe that have a CMP designation. It is considered the badge of excellence in meeting and event industry." GCFA now has three CMP’s on staff!

We have not only received training, but also offered training to the connection. Training topics range from immigration and legal rights issues, development of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries online certification institute – which nearly tripled the number of people certified this year; hosting the Church Business Administrators training; involvement with Chancellor and Treasurer training; and our biggest event, Quadrennial Training for Church leadership.

PAUMCS:
For the first time in 2016, United Methodist church staff had the opportunity to obtain certification as United Methodist professionals with the online Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) Certification Course. The online course was $300 and priced to fit church and personal budgets. It consisted of courses to assist church administrative personnel.

Fifty-two persons participated in 2016! In the past, the class size was limited to 30 people per year. Certification not only helped increase the number of professional workers serving our church, but also opened the opportunity for Central Conference personnel to become certified.

NAACT TRAINING:
The National Association of Annual

Conference Treasurers (NACCT) conducts an annual event attended by Treasurers and other annual conference financial staff who gather for a week of training on topics related to administrative work of the church. GCFA assists the organization with meeting planning and training topics.

CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATORS
The inaugural session of the Academy of Church Business Administration (ACBA) was at GCFA June 20 - 30, 2016. Training and continuing education were provided to 35 attendees during the two weeks focusing on church management, human resources, strategic planning, and other topics related to the "business" of the church. The ACBA is open to all denominations. As a United Methodist affiliated training site, reduced tuition is available to United Methodist affiliated participants. Participants have the option to obtain certification as a Certified Church Administrator through The Church Network.

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING
The Legal Services Department of GCFA provides safe sanctuary training in conjunction with the General Commission on Religion and Race. GCFA provides training in this area, plus support when requested.

“I have really enjoyed the online classes! As the financial administrator of the church, it has been wonderful having a bigger understanding of the entire picture of church operations! In addition, the church finance program and the class on taxes was so useful!”

Sharon Bowater
Nolensville First UMC
Finance/Business Administrator
QUADRENNIAL TRAINING:
At the start of a new quadrennium, GCFA engaged in training new and returning leaders in a number of positions. In October, 2016, GCFA hosted the 2016 Quad Training in Jacksonville, FL. Nearly 300 annual conference church leaders attended representing these positions:

- Annual Conference Treasurers
- Annual Conference Secretaries
- Chair of the Committee on the Episcopacy
- Chair of the Board of Trustee
- Chair of the Board of Equitable Compensation
- Statisticians
- Personnel
- Chair of the Committee on Finance and Administration

The training is sponsored each quadrennium by GCFA and assists denominational leaders in developments in their field based on changes to The Book of Discipline, provides an opportunity to network with other professionals in their role in the Church, and offers meaningful and relevant training content. The event was coordinated by the Travel and Meeting Planning and Shared Services Departments of GCFA.

BISHOP TRAINING:
In the fall of 2016, newly commissioned bishops received training in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Working collaboratively with the Council of Bishops, new bishops received information from the GFCA Episcopal Services, Financial Services and Shared Services Departments to aid in the transition from appointed clergy to the Episcopacy, including moving (when applicable) family and home from one area to another.

1. Annual Conference Leaders in training at the Quadrennial Training Event, Jacksonville, FL 2. Brian Mills leads a training session during the Academy of Church Business Administrators event 3. Corey Wills, Cheryl Akey, Jeannette Foster with professional certifications
“The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional...” §16, art. IV, 2016 Book of Discipline
The budget process begins two and a half years prior to the presentation and requires input from several areas. The people and ministries of The United Methodist Church, their prayers and concerns for the Church are always the foundation for working through the quadrennial budget.

Preparation for the presentation of the budget included visits to delegate meetings to inform delegates of the process of arriving at the proposed budget and to answer any questions delegates might have regarding the budget they would vote on when representing the denomination during General Conference.

GCFA staff – and all involved – gathered throughout the quadrennium to prayerfully consider the generous capacity for giving by the people of The United Methodist Church. On behalf of those who worked diligently to develop a fair and equitable budget, GCFA presented a budget of $599 million to the General Conference in May. The General Conference – the global body of decision makers for the Church who are as equally concerned with our global connection – approved a budget of $604 million – which includes an additional $5 million for Central Conference Theological Education.

The GCFA Sponsorship Department, in consultation with the vetting team that includes GCFA board members and the Commission on the General Conference, worked throughout the quadrennium to vet and select vendors as Corporate Sponsors and underwriters of the General Conference.
The United Methodist Church connection is vast, global, and focused on its ministry. Each local church touches the lives of its members. Each general agency of the UMC equips local congregations with resources and services while providing a connection for ministry throughout the world. These organizations (councils, boards, commissions, committees, divisions or other units) are at all levels of the connection (global, regional and local).

The General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) moved its offices from New York City to Atlanta, Georgia in 2016. GCFA was engaged in the building outfitting and IT infrastructure that assisted GBGM with the move into their new office.

In addition, our work included support of fundraising for the Office of Scholarships and Loans at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM). The United Methodist Church Development Center of GCFA aided in promoting the Loans and Scholarship Office with the addition of staff that will focus solely on helping the organization raise funds for the endowment, and assisting more students pursue their dreams of attending college/seminaries at United Methodist schools.

GCFA is a partner with nearly all agencies in The United Methodist Church in some way to help administratively with the work they accomplish and includes Human Resources, IT Help Desk, and Data Services to name a few. UMCARESplus – developed by GCFA and GBHEM – provides support for candidacy tracking and is used extensively by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and several annual conferences.

The Human Resources (HR) Department of GCFA works collaboratively with the HR departments of other agencies and annual conferences to develop strong hiring, evaluation and onboarding processes for staff. In 2016, the GCFA HR department worked with several annual conferences in the recruitment and hiring of several staff positions.

GCFA is honored to work in collaboration with the agencies of the Church.
with other general Church boards and agencies serving the denomination to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the UMC at far-reaching levels – from work with lay and clergy members of local churches to the global reach of the denomination, we are here to help.

OUR WORK THROUGHOUT THE UNITED METHODIST CONNECTION

United Methodist Insurance (UMI) provides resources to local churches to evaluate their insurance needs and provide minimum coverages as defined by The Book of Discipline. UMI is the nonprofit, captive insurance carrier for The United Methodist Church and its only mission is to serve the local church. UMI knows and understands insurance needs of United Methodist churches. For more information contact 1-855-606-6505.

Staff from GCFA and United Methodist Communications collaborate on a live Twitter event to discuss budget questions leading up to 2016 General Conference.

“I really enjoy when we get to collaborate with other agencies. It helps to solidify the connectional value of the work I get to do from day to day.”

Melissa Jackson
Strategic Branding and Creative Services Manager

United Methodist Insurance
Property & Casualty Coverage for Your Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

More than 3,000 ministries of The United Methodist Church are insured with UMI

UMI has presence in 38 states and the District of Columbia

UMI retains 97% of its customers

Gross Written Premium increased by over 200% since 2013

Churches switching to UMI improved Total Insured Value on buildings by an average 17.32%
CENTRAL CONFERENCES

“I look upon all the world as my parish…” - John Wesley, June, 1739
THE OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE WITH AFRICA UNIVERSITY IS NOT ONLY ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES I HAVE EVER HAD, IT IS ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AS WELL.

Shannon Lavrin  
Manager of Shared Services
1 & 2. Staff of Africa University and GCFA during the IT assessment
3. Discussion of shared services in central conferences
4. Discussion of the IT needs at Africa University
5. GCFA & Belmont students in the Philippines.
6. Nordic/Baltic Cabinet meeting at GCFA
GCFA staff preparing school supplies for local children.
EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD’S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS.

1 Peter 4:10
In 2016, a GCFA board meeting was held in Southern California. While there, the board was able to witness the ministry of local churches engaged in empowering the people of the area to be self-sufficient and bless the Lord in their community.

GCFA has an internal Mission Impact Team that works diligently to explore ways for the staff and board members to serve the community.

In 2016, GCFA staff and board members participated in two Stop-Hunger-Now campaigns. Stop Hunger Now is a feeding ministry started by a member of The United Methodist Church. Through this program, organizations host a gathering to assemble meal packets to be distributed globally to hungry populations. We held two events and at each one, 10,000 meals were packed in 2 hours!
GCFA staff pack food boxes for Stop Hunger Now. GCFA staff and board members visit ministries of United Methodist Churches in Southern California.
PEOPLE DEDICATED TO THE MISSION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DEVELOP PROGRAMS AND PROCESSES THAT CARRY OUT OUR MISSION. THE GENEROSITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CHURCH MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE. WE ARE BLESSED AND PRAISE GOD TO BE IN MINISTRY WITH YOU.

Moses Kumar
General Secretary and Treasurer
The United Methodist Church
A BRIEF REVIEW Of 2016 Financials

- **Thank you**: 27 Annual Conferences paid 100% of General Church Apportioned Funds.

- **$.8 Million**: 2016 general Church apportionments exceeded 2015 by $.8 million.

- **91.8%**: The general Church apportionment collection rate of 91.8% in 2016 surpassed 2015 rate of 91.6%. 2016 was the highest collection rate of the last 20 years.

- **57%**: GCFA reliance on apportionment receipts decreased in 2016 to 57%. This is lower than the 62% in 2015.
2017-2020 Board of Directors
The General Council on Finance and Administration

Officers
Michael McKee..................President
Christine Dodson................Vice-President
Judy Colorado..................Recording Secretary
Moses Kumar..................General Secretary and Treasurer

VOTING MEMBERS
Bishops
Michael McKee..................North Texas
Minerva Carcão..................California-Pacific

CENTRAL CONFERENCES
Mathurin Djoman Adjrabe......West Africa
Per Endré Bjørnevik..............Norway
Regan Reyes de Guzman.......Philippines

JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCES
North Central
David Bell ..................West Michigan
Steven Court ...............East Ohio
Valarie Willis ...............West Ohio

Northeastern
Judy Colorado ...............Greater New Jersey
Kenneth Ow ..............Baltimore-Washington
Vasanth Victor ...........Greater New Jersey

South Central
Reginald Clemmons ..........Texas
Mary Daffin .................Texas
Dustin Petz ..............Great Plains

Southeastern
Miran Kim .................Virginia
Zac Riddle ...............North Alabama
Steve Wood ..............North Georgia

Western
Sandra Olewine ...............California-Pacific

Italized indicates clergy

The Executive Team for the General Council on Finance and Administration

Moses Kumar
General Secretary and Treasurer

Jodi Chadwell
Chief Officer of Shared Services and Ministry Evaluation

Caitlin Congdon
Chief Officer of Human Resources and Professional Development

Michael Cook
Chief Information Officer

Rick King
Chief Financial Officer

Steve Lambert
General Counsel

GCFA leadership preparing a meal for a staff appreciation event on the GCFA campus.