



Understanding Extravagant Generosity

Sharing our resources
to make a difference
a guide to Apportionments



Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church

The contents of Understanding Extravagant Generosity
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Understanding Extravagant Generosity

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Introduction

TO THE PEOPLE CALLED UNITED METHODISTS

Understanding Extravagant Generosity

When John Wesley wrote, “Do all the good you can, in all the places you can...” I believe he was saying if we are truly followers of Jesus Christ, we make the presence of our risen Lord known in those places where goodwill and compassion make a difference. To that end, for over 200 years, Methodists have distinguished themselves as benevolent people, reaching out to others in need.

This generosity is known as our apportionment giving, and every year churches throughout this annual conference share their resources to make a difference in the lives of men, women, and children in our state and around the world.

Eighty percent of what you give stays in Oklahoma to support and underwrite vital ministries that transform lives and make disciples of Jesus Christ! Because of our generosity, we build new churches, strengthen existing congregations, provide camping opportunities for all ages, minister to the incarcerated and their families, continue our outstanding children and youth program through Circle of Care, help educate the next generation of students at our United Methodist institutions—Oklahoma City University and St. Paul School of Theology.

Every year Oklahoma Conference pays approximately 95% of what is required to sustain these ministries. What that tells me is the people known as United Methodists in Oklahoma understand what extravagant generosity means, and because God has blessed us, we bless others, in all the places we can, for as long as we can.

As you read about ministries you support through your “portion meant for others,” be inspired knowing your church’s reach is well beyond where you worship.

Thank you for all you do to enhance God’s kingdom as reach those in need.

Your servant in Christ,

Bishop Robert E. Hayes Jr.



Our Connectional Ministries

For an itemized listing of amounts for each apportionment, log on to www.okumc.org, go to the “Finance” tab, find “Apportionment Information.”

To learn more about each apportioned item’s specific ministry, visit the provide Web site addresses listed throughout this book.

**World Service
and
General Church Ministries**

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World Service and Conference Benevolences is one apportionment item derived from two different sources: World Service is an apportionment that supports the essential ministry of the worldwide church, while Conference Benevolences supports basic ministries of the Oklahoma Annual Conference. Full payment of this apportionment “is the first benevolent responsibility of the Church.” (*Book of Discipline*, ¶ 812)

World Service fund develops resources for Sunday school and the whole church, to recruit and equip pastors, to inform us of what the Church is doing around the world, and much more. Of special interest to us in Oklahoma: These funds are also used to help provide salary and pension payments for ministers in the [Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference](#) as well as the [Rio Grande Conference](#). The largest portion of World Service fund supports the worldwide mission program of The United Methodist Church in other countries. No congregation alone can do what we do together in World Service.

Conference Benevolences fund supports the Annual Conference Council and help provide training for local church officers and Sunday school teachers. In addition, these funds support the children’s ministries, youth and student ministries, and family and adult ministries. Conference Benevolences funds support the work of the Mission and Service Ministry Team, providing ministries in transitional communities, rural ministries, and in places such as Russia and Central and Eastern Europe.

This one apportionment supports organizations and programs that serve both as resources to local churches and as extensions of local churches in mission on conference, national, and world levels.

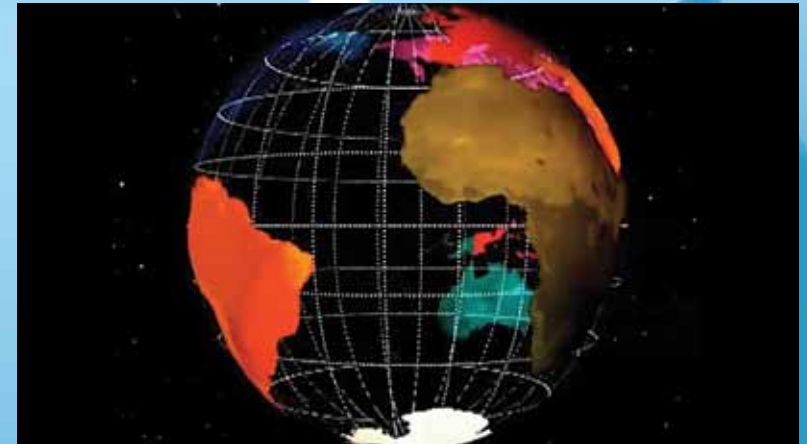
The World Service and Conference Benevolences dollar is one of the hardest-working dollars in The United Methodist Church.

Web Addresses

<http://www.riograndeconference.org/>

<http://www.umcgiving.org/>

<http://www.umc-oimc.org/>



World Service and General Church Ministries

World Service and Conference Benevolences

The health of any local church is determined in large measure by the quality of pastoral leadership. Education for ministry is a vital element in the effectiveness of the pastor. This apportionment, with the amount determined by the General Conference, provides funds at both the general church and annual conference levels. Twenty-five percent of the funds received from local churches stays in the annual conference to assist with the cost of educating ministers.

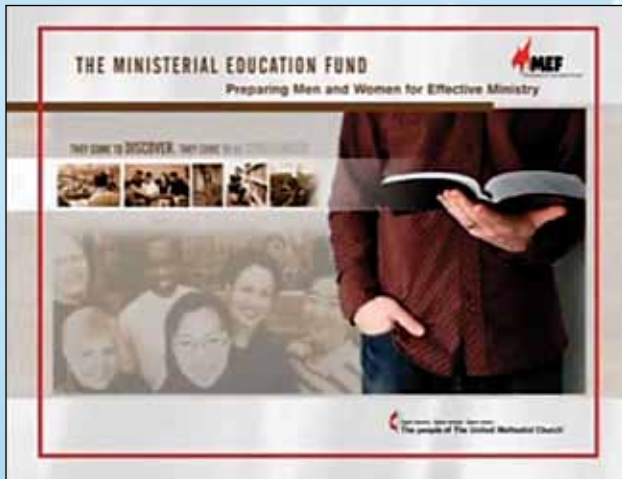
The process of preparation for ministry has several steps between recommendation of the local church charge conference and ordination. Before a person can be appointed as pastor of a local church, she/he must successfully complete the [Local Pastor's Licensing School](#). This basic course is offered each summer and lasts for two weeks. Funds retained by the annual conference pay the major costs of this school.

Another phase of education for pastoral ministry occurs in one of our United Methodist-approved seminaries. A ministerial student may attend on a full-time basis over a period of years—usually four. Local pastors may enroll in course-of-study schools, which means doing some independent study and attending classes, usually for a month each summer for five years. The annual conference funds provide scholarship assistance to students in both situations.

Seventy-five percent of funds received from local churches are administered by the [General Board of Higher Education and Ministry](#). Most of it is used to help support our 13 United Methodist seminaries, with a requirement that it must be used for programs and services, thereby helping to moderate the cost of tuition. It cannot be used for physical expansion or improvements. A portion of the funds is used for ministerial enlistment and development.

One of the beneficiaries of the MEF funds is [Saint Paul School of Theology](#). Since opening a branch campus at Oklahoma City University, many pastors have benefited by having a campus close by where they can easily commute between their church and seminary. Contributions to the Ministerial Education Fund are directly benefiting those pastors and seminary students.

The Ministerial Education Fund is critical to the development of deacons and elders who will provide leadership for our local churches, districts, the annual conference and the worldwide church.



World Service and General Church Ministries

Ministerial Education Fund

Web Addresses

<http://www.spst.edu/ok>

<http://www.gbhem.org/>

Understanding Extravagant Generosity

Our bishop, Robert E. Hayes Jr., is a product of one of our United Methodist predominantly black colleges—Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas. His grandfather and father, also United Methodist ministers, were educated at Wiley College, another of our predominantly black colleges, located in Marshall, Texas. In addition, his father served as president of Wiley College for many years.

Immediately following the Civil War, the Methodist Church was quick to recognize its responsibility to provide educational opportunities for young, newly freed blacks who had previously been denied access to colleges. There are now 11 predominantly black colleges—including one medical school—owned by The United Methodist Church.

Almost 80 percent of the students who enroll in these schools are “first generation” college students, i.e., their parents did not attend college. (The national average in all schools is 45 percent.) The students are from diverse social, economic and educational backgrounds, and they receive affirmation and support in vibrant, academically challenging, spiritual environments. Graduates include numerous ministers and bishops, teachers, doctors, judges, scientists, artists, entrepreneurs and journalists.

This is an apportionment to all of the United Methodist annual conferences supporting schools located in the South Central and Southeastern Jurisdictions. Those in our [South Central Jurisdiction](#) are Dillard University in New Orleans, Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Huston-Tillotson University, and Wiley College.

Approximately 83 percent of these funds are used in operations, and the remaining 17 percent is reserved for capital improvements. These are dollars that make a significant difference in the lives of many people. They are directly impacting our annual conference through the leadership of our bishop.



World Service and General Church Ministries Black College Fund

Web Addresses

<http://scj.umportal.org>

www.gbhem.org/bcf



World Service and General Church Ministries

Africa University

A quality education close to home is provided by [Africa University](#) to students from across the continent. Yes, the continent is large, so “close to home” is a relative term. But compared to going to Europe or the United States to receive an education, Africa University is not only close to home, it is also economically much more feasible.

On March 23, 1992, the College of Theology and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources opened on a site near Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, with 40 students from Burundi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Congo and Zimbabwe. This United Methodist university has continued to expand, with new courses of study, additional buildings and more students and faculty members. There are now approximately 1,250 students.

The years of hope, hard work and sacrifice paid off for Nazare, who was awarded a bachelor of divinity degree. “I’m almost without words to describe how I feel. Leaving this place is a big achievement in my life,” she said. Nazare moved from Angola to study at Africa University in 1999. Across five years, she did not go home, nor did she see her family, as she first learned English and then completed her course of study for the degree. The 30-year-old Nazare is the fourth child of eight and the first in her family with a university education. Nazare’s parents could not pay for her education. She was granted a full scholarship by Africa University, and for her it was a life-changing gift. (The Oklahoma Conference provides scholarship funds for Africa University students each year through a grant from the [Woodworth Trust](#).)

“This is a dream fulfilled, not only for me, but also for my family and my church, which have been supporting me very much,” said Nazare... Now I have what I came for and a lot more confidence, too.”

Web Addresses

<http://www.africau.edu>

Understanding Extravagant Generosity

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund

The [Interdenominational Cooperation Fund](#) moves our work with other denominations to the national and international levels. One of the works of this ministry was the establishment of the common lectionary, which suggests scripture readings from both the Old and New Testaments for each Sunday. These same lectionary readings form the basis of the International Lesson Series used in many adult Sunday school classes and of the United Methodist curriculum used in classes for children and youth. This is the primary means that United Methodists have for relating to and working with other Christians at the national and world levels.

General Administration Fund

The General Administration Fund provides at the general (national) church level the same types of services that the Conference Administration Fund does at the annual conference level. In addition, the General Administration Fund must pay for the cost of the General Conference, which meets once every four years, with representatives from all over the world.

World Service and General Church Ministries

Jurisdictional Ministries

We are a part of the South Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church—15 annual conferences covering eight states from Nebraska to Texas, Missouri to Louisiana and New Mexico.

As a part of the South Central Jurisdiction, we help support the following four ministries.

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Mount Sequoyah

[Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center](#), located in Fayetteville, Ark., is owned by the jurisdiction and serves as a retreat and training center for the churches and organizations of the eight-state area. Many Sunday school teachers and teachers-of-teachers learned skills and received inspiration for their tasks in events held at Mount Sequoyah. All ages, from youth to retirees, find information and enrichment on this mountaintop.

Southern Methodist University

SMU ([Southern Methodist University](#)) Campus Ministry in Dallas, Texas, is also owned by the jurisdiction. This apportionment helps to provide an active and evangelistic United Methodist campus ministry for SMU students. It seems particularly appropriate for us to support a United Methodist campus ministry on our United Methodist campus. (It is not used to support the operation of the university or provide scholarships for its students.)

Lydia Patterson

[Lydia Patterson Institute](#), owned by the jurisdiction, is located in El Paso, Texas. It is a secondary school providing a high-quality education to Hispanic students. Many of these students come from the barrios of Juarez, Mexico, crossing the bridge daily in order to attend classes in a decidedly Christian environment. For most of them this is the first step toward a college education and an improved standard of living.

Jurisdictional Administration

Jurisdictional Administration Fund supports the Jurisdictional Conference, which meets every four years to elect bishops, to elect trustees for the three institutions named above and owned by the jurisdiction, to approve programs such as the Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization, and to adopt the budget. This fund also pays for the costs of the jurisdictional office and staff, headed by Oklahoma's Dr. David Severe and house at Oklahoma City University.



Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center



Lydia Patterson

Web Addresses

<http://www.smu.edu>

<http://www.lydiapattersoninstitute.org>

<http://www.mountsequoyah.org>

Conference Ministries

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What is a missionary conference? According to the *Book of Discipline*, “A conference is a missionary conference because of its particular mission opportunities, its limited membership and resources, its unique leadership requirements, its strategic regional or language considerations, and ministerial needs.”

We have two missionary conferences in our South Central Jurisdiction: the [Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference](#) and the [Rio Grande Missionary Conference](#). Both of these missionary conferences receive significant funding from the World Service apportionment dollars, in addition to the funds provided by their specific apportionments.

Rio Grande Missionary Conference

The Rio Grande Missionary Conference is centered in San Antonio, Texas. It is comprised of Spanish-language United Methodist congregations in the states of Texas and New Mexico. There are approximately 15,200 members in 87 churches, with the membership growing each year. Each Sunday, you can count on more than 35 percent of the members being present for worship. This missionary conference is nurturing Hispanic leaders who are making disciples for Christ among our growing Hispanic population.

Mission and Service Ministry
Missionary Conferences

Web Addresses

<http://www.riograndeconference.org>

<http://www.umc-oimc.org>



Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference has offices in Oklahoma City and works under the episcopal leadership of Bishop Robert Hayes Jr. It is made up of 89 Native American churches in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. These churches are served by 45 full- and part-time pastors, representing 25 tribes from across the United States. Only three of the churches are self-supporting. Our apportionment dollars are used to help pay salaries for the other 42 pastors, whose base pay is \$21,050 per year. The average salary for all OIMC pastors is approximately \$22,500. The support from the Oklahoma Annual Conference is their largest single source of support, with the exception of that received from the general church. They have a rich heritage and are the “parent” conference of the Oklahoma Conference. The first Methodist churches in Oklahoma were Indian Mission churches. We are privileged to now call them our “partner annual conference.”



Mission and Service Ministry

Missionary Conferences

Understanding Extravagant Generosity

Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (CJAMM) in Oklahoma Conference have set the standard for prison ministries for other conferences of our denomination—and have inspired visions of more that needs to be done. CJAMM consists of ministries of justice advocacy and education—restorative justice, as well as ministries of mercy.

One outstanding ministry program is New Day Camps. These events, held at Cross Point Camp on Lake Texoma, are designed for children and youth who have an incarcerated parent. The young campers encounter warmth and acceptance. These camps, staffed by volunteers, are funded by contributions.

CJAMM volunteers go inside prisons to lead Kairos, a version of the ecumenical Emmaus Walk, and TORCH, a form of Kairos for juvenile offenders, as well as Kairos Outside for women with significant others in prison. Through these ministries, some inmates are first introduced to the Christian faith.

Inmates are also transported to take part in worship and educational ministries at Redemption churches in Tulsa, Lawton and Oklahoma City. These are congregations of formerly incarcerated, presently incarcerated persons and never incarcerated persons and their families. There are also United Methodist Men and UMW groups at the OKC Redemption Church. Volunteers work with Redemption Kids in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. CJAMM works with local churches in establishing outreach ministries to local work center inmates and inmates living in nearby prisons.

CJAMM also operates two Exodus Houses, in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. These are small apartment complexes where people newly released from prison can live with their families while they re-enter life successfully outside prison walls. Leaders say those who take this route have significantly lower recidivism rates. The furnished apartment—complete with linens, cooking and eating utensils—is provided free of charge, except for the cost of electricity upon gaining employment. Residents stay for a limited time and are permitted to take all the apartment's contents when they graduate. Exodus Houses welcome donations of items for the apartments.



Mission and Service Ministry

Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries

Web Addresses

<http://www.cjamm.org>

As United Methodists, we are committed to working cooperatively with other denominations in many endeavors, believing that Christ's mission in the world is thereby made stronger and more effective.

Neighborhood Services Organization

While the [Neighborhood Services Organization](#) (NSO) of Oklahoma City was birthed in the Methodist Church, it is not exclusively a United Methodist agency. Its forerunner was the Bethlehem Center/Wesley Community House, serving the central part of the city, and supported mostly by the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries.

The organization has broadened its base of participation and support and has thereby expanded its ministry to those in need. Some of the newest programs include Martha's House, a transitional housing program for homeless families; Gatewood House, a short-term residential program for young, single, homeless, expectant mothers; Douglas House, a transitional housing program for homeless young men, ages 18-24; and Palo Duro, a 22-unit apartment complex for individuals who are homeless and mentally ill. We are doing together what none of us could do separately.

Skyline Urban Ministries and Restore Hope Ministries

In addition, two Urban Ministries receive support. [Skyline Urban Ministries](#) in Oklahoma City and Restore Hope Ministries in Tulsa seek ways to meet physical, spiritual and social needs of thousands of people and families each year. They do it in the name of Jesus, the Christ, and on behalf of the United Methodists of Oklahoma.

These two ministries provide spiritual counsel, prayer and worship experiences regularly. Tulsa's [Restore Hope](#) ministers to more than 8,000 each year through its Chapel Ministries program. Every Saturday evening,

Mission and Service Ministry

Urban Ministries—Reaching Our Community

Web Addresses

<http://www.skylineurbanministry.org>

<http://www.restorehope.org>

<http://www.nso-mi.org/index.php>

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approximately 100 low-income and homeless people go to Skyline Ministries' Eighth Street sanctuary to worship and stay for dinner.

Many local churches collect and contribute both non-perishable foods and good used clothing to these Urban Ministries. This helps provide emergency food to more than 12,000 families each year, and clothing for approximately 50,000 families yearly.

The apportionment for Urban Ministries is divided between the two ministries in an unusual manner. All apportionment dollars received from churches in the Tulsa District go to Restore Hope Ministries. Those received from churches in the North and South Oklahoma City Districts go to Skyline Urban Ministries. Receipts from the other nine districts of the Conference are divided equally between the two ministries.

Mission and Service Ministry

Urban Ministries—Reaching Our Community

Project Transformation is one of the few programs in Oklahoma whose sole purpose is to serve the literacy needs of children. Project Transformation is proud to be the first faith-based program to be adopted by AmeriCorps in Oklahoma. We receive federal funding due to our commitment to serve the children of Oklahoma without requiring any religious obligation or teaching from our AmeriCorps members.

We actively partner with public schools, corporations, community organizations, faith-based organizations, and individuals to provide a safe and enriching summer program for educationally underserved elementary children. Project Transformation provides the eight-week summer day camp for a one-time \$5 art supply fee per child.

The children attending camp are first through fifth graders who qualify for the Free/Reduced Price Lunch Program in school, and/or designated by their school principal as needing additional enrichment in reading.

The program is designed to connect children with responsible adults who will have a measurable impact on their reading levels, nutrition, cultural awareness, and the quality of their summer activities.

Since 2002, Project Transformation has served 3,667 children at 18 different United Methodist Churches in Bartlesville, Muskogee, Oklahoma City and Tulsa. In doing so, Project Transformation has created outreach opportunities for over 10,000 volunteers, who in return have logged over 130,000 hours of service on behalf of the program.



Mission and Service Ministry

Ministries Reaching Our Community - **Project Transformation**

Web Addresses

www.projecttransformationok.com

Understanding Extravagant Generosity

Cookson Hills Center, located in Cookson in northeastern Oklahoma, provides outreach ministries to low-income families in Cherokee, Adair and Sequoyah counties. The General Board of Global Ministries, the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and the Oklahoma Annual Conference have jointly sponsored this ministry since 1948.

The construction of the Senior Citizen's Center has expanded the scope of ministry. The Senior Nutrition Program serves more than 7,000 meals, including some delivered to homebound seniors. In addition to nutritional meals for seniors, this facility offers opportunities for fellowship, spiritual support, learning, crafting and health screening. The seniors help generate program funds by providing crafts, jellies, candies, and seasonal fruits and vegetables for sale in the Country Cupboard.

Others are also served by Cookson Hills Center. A computer lab and -programs for children and youth are also provided. The center hosts -Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Ala-Teen meetings throughout the week. A licensed childcare program is housed in the Senior Citizen's Center, providing intergenerational experiences for children and seniors.

With donations from local churches, approximately 100 gardens are planted, almost 800 baby chicks are given to raise, and school supplies are provided to about 80 families. Food items are given to anyone who comes hungry, and wood is given to those who need it for cooking or heating their homes. Each year local churches and UMW units provide gift items for the Christmas Store that serves more than 200 families.

There is also a Native American handcrafts shop, resale shop with good used clothing at a minimal cost, and three cottage industries: silk-screening for T-shirts, tire recycling to create doormats, and sewing project for church paraments.

Cookson Hills Center offers Oklahoma United Methodists an opportunity to become personally involved in a significant ministry close to home.

Web Addresses

<http://www.cooksonhillcenter.com>



Mission and Service Ministry

Cookson Hills Center

The work of mission is properly the work of the local church, the gathering of the followers of Christ, whose purpose is not to build an organization but to partner with God in the building of God's kingdom.

Therefore, [Volunteers In Mission](#) exists not to do mission on behalf of the local church, but to facilitate it. OKVIM is one among many expressions of what the churches of our Oklahoma Conference do in mission.

The apportioned item for OKVIM is not by itself designed to accomplish the task of mission, but it is a solid commitment on behalf of the Conference to facilitate and strengthen the ability of each congregation in our Conference to find its own way into Christian service. With about 5,000 people being sent out from or to Oklahoma mission opportunities, more and more churches are discovering the impact willing volunteers can make on an enormous number of people and circumstances.

OKVIM participants in any given year contribute roughly half-a-million dollars to various projects and provided almost a quarter-million volunteer hours. These volunteer hours are valued at more than \$4 million, according to the Points of Light Foundation's valuation of such labor at \$20.85 per hour in 2011. These volunteers serve within Oklahoma in many local churches and Conference ministries, as well as around the nation and across the world, always in response to requests from United Methodists or affiliated Methodist organizations. We partner with our friends in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, with other United Methodist conferences across the United States, with the Central Conferences of The United Methodist Church in Africa and Asia, and with other Methodist denominations around the globe.

Oklahoma VIM is a vibrant expression of the local church in mission—and the apportionment money we put into it signals a deep-seated belief that each congregation is properly a mission-sending station.

Web Addresses

<http://www.okvim.org>



Mission and Service Ministry

Volunteers In Mission



Mission and Service Ministry

Circle of Care

Children, full of promise for the future, but in need of a different home environment in the present, receive the care and attention of **Circle of Care** (CoC). The Oklahoma Conference has been committed to these ministries for many years.

- The United Methodist Boys Ranch, near Gore, works with boys ages 13 through 18. The United Methodist Children's Home in Tahlequah serves girls from the age of 13 through 18. They consistently achieve an overall 3.0 grade point average, and learn to give back by serving the community through a variety of work projects.
- Circle of Care offers an Independent Living program for those residents who want to remain in the program while pursuing a college degree or vocational school certification.
- Holsinger Home in Enid is a small, group home that can serve children from infancy through age 18. Because this home can care for infants, it is often the only facility that can accommodate a family grouping of children.

All three of these homes boast well-trained staff, with approximately 98 percent of the residential staff qualified as Certified Child Care Workers. The residents also benefit from the services of competent counselors and medical personnel.

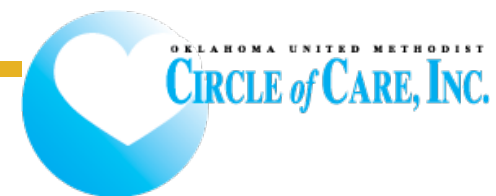
Oklahoma, like most of the nation, has a constant and urgent need for foster homes for infants and children. Circle of Care's Child SHARE program recruits and supports families who will open their homes for children in need. Many items needed to receive an infant or child into a home are donated to Circle of Care and then delivered at the right time to foster families and children.

Pearl's Hope, at the Frances E. Willard Ministry Center in Tulsa, is a transitional program for homeless women and their children—the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.

Through these programs, with the support of churches and individuals across the state, Circle of Care provides help, healing and hope to Oklahoma's at-risk children, youth and families.

Web Addresses

<http://www.circleofcare.org>



Understanding Extravagant Generosity

Is there a family that has not been touched by chemical dependency-related problems? How many lives have been lost—or ruined—by the effects of alcoholism or other chemical addictions? How many homes are fractured? How much property is destroyed in chemically related accidents? The problem is a continuing one, and the Oklahoma Conference [Addiction Ministries](#) is dedicated to providing information and guidance to individuals, churches and other organizations trying to combat this menace.

Central to the goal of this ministry is the annual Summer School on Chemical Dependency. It is an intensive, two-week program designed to help pastors and others deal more effectively with the many facets of this problem. Basic to the approach of the Summer School are the understandings that chemical dependency is a disease rather than a moral failing and that “recovery” is a lengthy process that might begin with “discovery” in a treatment program. Key to recovery is the 12-Step Program within a supportive community.

Other goals of the Summer School include helping participants learn to recognize the symptoms of addiction, identify some of the common problems attendant to the disease, and find help for the addict and the affected family members.

The Summer School has won the respect of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, which has granted funds to scholarship 20 people to attend.

Another program that has gained broad respect and participation is the Fatal Vision Goggles Prevention Program. Through the use of special goggles, participants can see the world through the eyes of one who is inebriated. This program has been presented at schools and universities as well as to youth and adult church groups.

The impact of this ministry is felt each year by more than 2,000 adults and 2,500 youth and children in more than 50 churches of several denominations, and more than a dozen civic organizations and an equal number of schools and universities. Individuals and families who benefit from referral information and counsel are numerous, though not recorded.



Mission and Service Ministry

Addiction Ministries

Web Addresses

<http://www.addictionministries.org>

Maybe you had a special opportunity to experience God in a fresh, new way at one of our [Oklahoma Conference camps](#). Or perhaps it was some of the children, youth or adults in your church family who were a part of the 38,000 “camper days.” Frequently, we sense God’s call on our lives, and we return with a renewed spirit and commitment. This apportionment provides approximately 12 percent of the total operating budget for our camps, with the remaining support coming from user fees.

We have three camp and retreat sites under the supervision of Rev. Randy McGuire, Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries. [Egan Camp](#), located near Tahlequah, overlooks the Illinois River. [Canyon Camp and Conference Center](#) is nestled in the red sandstone canyons near Hinton. [Cross Point Camp](#), near Kingston, is located on Lake Texoma. Each camp has its own unique features, but all three feature a cross that serves as a focal point. Many lives have been forever changed by experiencing God’s Word and love in the midst of God’s creation.

You are probably aware of the camps for children, youth and families that are held each summer. In addition, many churches and church groups conduct retreats at the camps. Emmaus groups and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes are regular users. Others who frequent the camps include the bishop and the Cabinet and many Boards and Agencies of the church.

In addition there are “special needs” groups that find an extraordinary degree of caring at camp. [New Day Camp](#), sponsored by conference Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (CJAMM), offers love and hope to the children of incarcerated parents.

Another very special group includes the children, parents, and medical staff who attend [Camp Cavett](#). It is a camp for children and youth who have debilitating diseases. Many are accompanied by their parents. This camp is strongly supported by medical personnel, especially from Children’s Hospital. The opportunity to be in such a setting is treasured by these children and youth.

Web Address

<http://www.okumc.org/camp>



Discipleship Ministry Camp and Retreat Ministries

Understanding Extravagant Generosity

Our support of [Oklahoma City University](#) is an investment that delivers a wonderful return! Speaking only in dollars, it returns approximately 130 percent of our apportionment in the form of scholarships to Oklahoma United Methodist students. OCU offers its students a well-rounded education of exceptional quality.

Classes at OCU are small, giving students an opportunity to interact personally with their professors. Our United Methodist university demonstrates its commitment to helping students succeed by providing encouragement and assistance to those who arrive unprepared for the academic requirements of a university. Where but at a school such as this one would the head of a department take a summer school freshman to the library and patiently explain how to use the file system?

Service to the community is an essential part of the curriculum, along with the academic studies. Students discover the joy of providing assistance where it is needed. Lives are forever changed by the experiences they have in and through OCU.

Our support of OCU is an investment providing a return in the form of leadership for our churches. Many of the ministers and leaders in our churches received all or a part of their education on the campus of Oklahoma City University. The [Wimberly School of Religion](#) offers continuing education opportunities to clergy and laity.

The [Meinders School of Business](#) provides students with state-of-the-art facilities. OCU equips men and women as they invest in the future.

Over the years, the OCU dance program, with its outstanding faculty, has achieved international stature as a leader in preparing dancers and managers for professional careers in the entertainment industry.



Discipleship Ministry

Oklahoma City University

Web Address

<http://www.okcu.edu>





Discipleship Ministry

Campus Ministry

In the fall, some students who have been nurtured in the faith by your church family will leave for college. That certainly conjures up different images for different people. For some students there is anxiety, while others feel an eagerness to taste freedom. Some parents will feel confident and happy about this next step in the maturing of their child, while others will approach this time with sadness and anxiety.

Indeed, the college years are critical in the lives of many persons. For many this is the time when career choices are tested and finalized, a life mate is chosen, and lifetime friendships are formed. The ministry and witness of the church need to be especially present as these major life decisions are in process.

Your church is there, reaching out to students—through the campus ministries apportionment. The apportionment helps to support ministry to students on 16 college and university campuses in Oklahoma. There are approximately 108,525 students in these schools. (Oklahoma City University is not included in this group because its ministry with students receives support through the OCU apportionment.) This work is not undertaken alone by the campus ministers. There is a local church that works in partnership with each of the campus ministries in order to provide a broader church family for students.

Each of the campus ministries requires additional funding in order to support an active and appealing program. Many churches and individuals make contributions in addition to the local church's apportionment.

Money is not the only need of these [campus ministries](#). They need church people to get involved in their programs, and they need contact information to enable them to reach the students who have been in our churches and who are now entrusted to the care of campus ministry.

Web Addresses

http://www.okumc.org/campus_ministry

Understanding Extravagant Generosity

Recruiting, developing and retaining competent and committed ministers are critical factors in the future health of our churches.

Ministerial Recruitment

Ministerial Recruitment funds are used to provide information to persons of all ages who exhibit an interest in professional ministry. One avenue utilized is to create occasions when ministers, who communicate well with high school and college students, can bear witness to their calling and its meaning in their life. Equally important is the task of maintaining contact with students attending seminary in order to encourage them and assure them that the conference is anticipating their return to serve in Oklahoma. This is done in a number of ways, including visits to seminary campuses by district superintendents and pastors of local churches.

Board of Ordained Ministry

It is important that those who serve The United Methodist Church in a professional capacity are supportive of the core beliefs, emphases and polity of the church as reflected in the *Book of Discipline*. It is the responsibility of the [Board of Ordained Ministry](#) to examine candidates for ministry in an effort to ascertain their qualification. It is the bishop who appoints ministers to churches and other areas of service, but it is the Board of Ordained Ministry that determines when a minister is eligible to receive an episcopal appointment. Some of our churches are served by lay speakers and other supply pastors who are not eligible to be “appointed” by the bishop, but who nonetheless provide good spiritual leadership to that local church.

It is also the responsibility of the Board of Ordained Ministry to administer the funds provided by the Ministerial Education apportionment. Through the use of those funds the board prepares and nurtures our clergy—supply pastors, local pastors, and ordained members of the annual conference.

A new area for Leadership Development Ministry Team is the creation of educational workshops for our laity and clergy called Seminary Lite and LEAD. These workshops are being co-sponsored with Oklahoma City University and Saint Paul School of Theology and the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation to see that the people of Oklahoma are equipped to meet the needs of our congregations.

Leadership Development Ministry

Web Address

http://www.okumc.org/Ordained_Ministry

New congregations are the source of rapid church growth in most instances. The funds from the Congregational Development apportionment are given to new or emerging congregations. But the exciting and challenging task of starting new congregations is only one part of the work of this department.

Another aspect of the responsibility of this body is to promote the growth and development of existing churches. There are several avenues used to accomplish this, and one is consultations with local church leaders. In these sessions, detailed demographic information about the ministry area is shared and growth potential is noted. Every local church in our conference can get a great deal of information by going to www.link2lead.com and, after registering there free of charge, enter the church zip code and receive a report on the basic demographic data of that area.

Next Step is another program that provides information and inspiration from conference leaders and leaders from across the connection in two-day workshops. It is designed to assist churches that are ready to take a “next step” in attendance, programming, outreach, missions and evangelism.

Congregational Development also works specifically with the Small Membership Church Commission and the Commission on the Black Church to encourage vitality and growth.

The committee on Hispanic Ministries provides funds to eight United Methodist worshipping congregations in our conference. Another part of the committee’s work is to provide services and information to Spanish-speaking persons in our midst.

The Ministry to Racial Ethnic Churches, also known as the Racial Ethnic Coordinating Committee (RECC), provides funds to supplement salaries and assist in some repairs in missional churches. Funds are also used to encourage new ministries in racial ethnic churches.

Web Address

http://www.okumc.org/congregational_development



Department of Congregational Development

Congregational Development

Communication Ministry

“We just need to get the word out.” “Why didn’t someone tell me that the meeting was yesterday?” It seems that there is never an end to the need for communication. The story needs to be told again and again—in new ways—to new people—with new information. That is the task of the communications department.

The most well-known product of the communications department is the semi-monthly publication of [Contact](#). The newspaper is sent free of charge to all officers of each local church, to help them stay informed about the plans and happenings of the annual conference and its ministries and to share the inspirational stories from local churches.

Contact Digest is a free electronic newsletter distributed in coordination with the newspaper. This e-newsletter uses Internet technologies to reach a wider community with information about the church in Oklahoma.

The communications department is also the official publisher—and final editor—of much of the printed materials provided by the annual conference, such as the Conference Journal, the Pre-Conference Workbook, the worship materials used during the annual conference session, and print resources for the Annual Conference Council programming.

The communications department produces and provides videotapes and DVDs, uplifting programs and agencies that change lives at home and beyond our borders. This aspect of the department is also used to produce instructive videos for many settings.

Other evidence of the work of this office is the maintenance of news, e-courses, videos, printed materials, general church features and information posted on the conference Web site, www.okumc.org. We have also added our own Facebook page ([Oklahoma United Methodist Communications](#)) to bring you updated information.

Web Address

<http://www.okumc.org>



Department of Communications

Communication Ministry

Administration Ministries



Administration

Administration Ministries

Administration safeguards the programs and ministries that faithfully seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ. To be entrusted with the tithes and offerings of the people of God is a sacred responsibility requiring the utmost care and attention to detail, along with diligence to see that funds are wisely, faithfully and carefully utilized. To fail in this stewardship task distorts the image of Christ for the world and destroys the confidence and trust of those who have entrusted their gifts to us.

The Conference Administration Ministries funds provide for the operation and maintenance of the offices—the building and grounds, the telephone service and receptionist, computers and computer maintenance and operators. It covers the cost of the required annual audit and the operation of the treasurer’s office. Offerings received at the annual conference sessions help pay part of the cost of the sessions, but the remainder is paid from this fund. The expenses of the conference statistician and conference secretary are covered by this fund. A major expense is the publication and mailing of the annual conference Journal, which records the actions of the annual conference session. Some operating expenses of the bishop are paid from this fund. Funds to help cover the expenses of some of our delegates to General and Jurisdictional conference sessions are received through this apportionment. Housing for three conference executives comes from this fund. The Agency Emergency/Capital Fund is supported by this same apportionment. This particular fund is used to help meet capital emergencies and opportunities of agencies of the annual conference, i.e., campus ministries, camps, nursing homes, etc.

Ministries and programs at every level of the church require an administrative foundation that informs and frees those who carry out the task of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Web Address

<http://www.okumc.org/finance>

Ministerial Support

A district superintendent is the most visible and accessible connection to the larger United Methodist Church, and who most actively represents the local church to the annual conference and vice versa. In fact, the district superintendent “is an extension of the bishop,” according to the *Book of Discipline*. We call the district superintendent when there is a crisis in the parsonage family, when there has been a disaster, or some other crisis, in the church or the community. The district superintendent conducts a charge conference for each church each year, and when the church is acquiring or disposing of property—that is an average of 45 to 50 charge conferences per year for each superintendent.

The District Superintendents’ Fund provides support for our 12 district superintendents. The largest single item in the budget of this fund is, of course, their compensation. The base compensation, including utilities, is 150 percent of the average compensation of the clergy in the annual conference. An additional \$3,000 is added to the base amount to help cover business expenses for which they are responsible. These include continuing education, entertainment, meals in connection with meetings in the district, books, journals, vestments, phone calls, etc.

The District Superintendents’ Fund must also cover the cost of all expenses related to approximately 20 Cabinet meetings per year—lodging, meals, mileage and other expenses. It also pays the expenses for superintendents when they serve as liaisons to various councils, committees, commissions, ministry teams and agencies as representatives of the Cabinet.

Months may pass when you do not sense that your church has need of the services of a district superintendent. Even during that time, your superintendent is representing and caring for you. When the time comes that you need the direct services of a district superintendent, it is good to know one is there for you. In the meantime, you can be certain other pastors or churches have needed and received direct help from one who is “an extension of the bishop.”



Chuck Horton
Lawton Dist. Superintendent

Ministerial Support

District Superintendents Fund

Understanding Extravagant Generosity

This one apportionment has two distinct parts: The Episcopal Fund, managed by the General Council on Finance and Administration to support the work of the bishops of The United Methodist Church, and the Episcopal Housing Fund, managed by the Conference Treasurer, to provide housing for the bishop of the Oklahoma and Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conferences, Bishop Robert E. Hayes Jr.

First, let us consider the work and responsibilities of an active bishop in our church. According to the *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 414, the first responsibility is to “lead and oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of The United Methodist Church which confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and particularly to lead the Church in its mission of witness and service in the world.” The second task is to “strengthen the local church, giving spiritual leadership to both laity and clergy; and to build relationships with people of local congregations of the area.”

The Episcopal Fund pays salaries and professional travel and moving expenses of bishops, provides pension and health insurance coverage for bishops and their spouses, pays episcopal office expenses up to a specified amount each year, and pays each episcopal area annually to assist in providing an episcopal residence.

The amount apportioned for Episcopal Housing is added to the funds provided by the Episcopal Fund and to earnings from funds restricted for this purpose. [The Oklahoma Conference](#) and the [Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference](#) jointly provide a home for the Hayes family.

Ministerial Support
Episcopal Fund and Housing

Ministerial Support Equitable Compensation

It is not a large apportionment, but Equitable Compensation meets some very real needs—both for ministers and churches in the Oklahoma Annual Conference. In this, as in every other annual conference, there are small congregations and circuits which cannot pay sufficient salary to meet the minimum salary standards set by our annual conference.

Meeting these basic salary requirements is the first priority of this apportionment. But it is not the only way in which this apportionment helps to meet the needs of churches and pastors. Occasionally the skills and leadership abilities of a particular pastor are especially needed in a specific church. When the church in need cannot provide adequate support for the pastor, these funds are used to help close the gap for a brief period of time, while the church grows into its potential and assumes full responsibility for supporting its pastor.

Equitable Compensation is divided into 4 areas. The first is minimum compensation. Not every church can meet the requirements to qualify for equitable compensation support. No two churches within 20 miles of each other can participate in the minimum compensation plan unless they combine to form a circuit. The charge is expected to pay at least half the required compensation amount, and that amount was at least \$10,000 in 2006. The churches also must pay the pension amount on the base compensation they pay the pastor. Churches are urged to increase their pastoral compensation by 5 percent each year, and cannot continue in the program if they reduce the amount of pastoral support.

The second area is exceptional support and is designed for a short period of time, maximum is four years, to help a church and its pastor. The third area is missional support and is designed to help those congregations who are not self-sufficient and where the cabinet believes it is important that the United Methodist Church has a presence in that community.

The fourth area is a new one and is designed to help start new congregations where the pastor best suited to start the church has a compensation package larger than the new church start budget can support.

Equitable Compensation is a relatively small apportionment, but it does a big job!

Understanding Extravagant Generosity

When we face a crisis—a major illness, a serious accident, a death in the family, marriage and family problems—we turn to our pastor for support. At happy times—marriage, baptism, confirmation, graduation, anniversaries—the pastor is often a significant presence. In the Oklahoma Conference we have chosen to care for our ministers in three ways.

The Health Benefits Fund pays for approximately one-half of health insurance costs for clergy and their families, with the other half paid by the clergy. The clergy must serve at least 30 hours per week to be eligible and also covers all of our qualified retired clergy. This apportionment also provides health insurance at a reduced rate for surviving spouses of clergy. It also covers the total cost of life insurance for clergy and their families. The health insurance program began in 1972. In recent years, with spiraling medical costs, this apportionment has become the largest in the conference budget.

In 1975, the annual conference established the Ministers' Moving Fund to assist with the financial burden that comes with moving. It pays an allowance of \$1,900 plus \$1 per mile for our itinerating pastors when they are appointed to a new church. The allowance has increased as pastors have been required to furnish more rooms in the parsonage.



Chuck Horton
Lawton Dist. Superintendent

Ministerial Support

Health Benefits Fund