



Slide 1



connections
Florida United Methodist Foundation

The United Methodist Tradition of
Connectional Giving



Slide 2

A Tradition of Connectional Giving



Connectional Giving is a tradition in the United Methodist Church that has its roots in the philosophy and theology of John Wesley. It was Wesley who said, “the world is my parish.” But Wesley also understood that in order to make disciples for Jesus Christ, the church must first care for the needs of its parish. Through Connectional Giving we put that teaching into practice. We become a church “in mission” at home and around the world.

Why Connectional Giving?

- Together we can do what no single individual, church or district can do alone.
- Together we can make a significant impact for Christ at home and in 165 nations around the world.



As a “connected” church we can accomplish far more than we ever could alone. In effect, we are combining the service, talents and gifts of more than 300,000 Florida United Methodists – and more than eight million in the United States -- so that we can make a significant difference in the lives of God’s people. Through our connectional ministries, the United Methodist Church is at work in 165 nations around the world.

Florida Annual Conference Mission Statement

- The mission of the Conference is to be a vital connection that is part of God's transformation of the world by:
- Equipping congregations for the task of making disciples of Jesus Christ;



Our “connectional” ministries support the vision and mission of the Annual Conference... which is focused on.....equipping congregations for the task of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Florida Annual Conference Mission Statement

- The mission of the Conference is to be a vital connection that is part of God's transformation of the world by:
- Transforming existing congregations from a life of institutional maintenance to a life of transformational mission in their diverse communities and in the world;



Our “connectional” ministries support the vision and mission of the Annual Conference.....by making sure our congregations remain vital and healthy.

Slide 6

Florida Annual Conference Mission Statement

- The mission of the Conference is to be a vital connection that is part of God's transformation of the world by:
- Reproducing vital congregations in new settings;



Our “connectional” ministries support the vision and mission of the Annual Conference.....by.....building new churches.

Slide 7

Florida Annual Conference Mission Statement

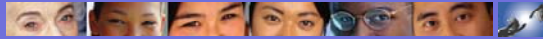
- The mission of the Conference is to be a vital connection that is part of God's transformation of the world by:
- Calling, training and supporting lay and clergy leaders for the church; and



Our “connectional” ministries support the vision and mission of the Annual Conference.....by recruiting, supporting and training outstanding clergy and lay leaders for the work of the church.

Florida Annual Conference Mission Statement

- The mission of the Conference is to be a vital connection that is part of God's transformation of the world by:
- Engaging in shared ministries that fulfill the vision of the Kingdom of God.



Our “connectional” ministries support the vision and mission of the Annual Conference.....by.....supporting shared ministries that fulfill the vision of the Kingdom of God.

Connectional Giving in Florida

- Conference Benevolences
- New Church Starts
- Ministerial Education Fund
- Conference Services and Administration
- Clergy Support
- Jurisdictional Fund
- World Service Fund
- Black College Fund
- Africa University
- Episcopal Fund
- Interdenominational Cooperation Fund
- General Administration Fund



The Florida Conference supports 12 Fair-Share Funds through connectional giving. In addition, each district supports local ministries through the District Work Fund and District Mission and Church Extension Fund.

Conference Benevolences

- Camps for children and youth
- Disaster Response
- Conference Communications
- Higher Education and Campus Ministries
- Hispanic Ministries
- Missions



Gifts to our Conference Benevolences support more than 20 conference-wide ministries that are tied to the vision and mission of the Florida Annual Conference. These are the core ministries of the Conference.

Conference Benevolences

- Congregational Care
- Congregational Transformation
- Spiritual Formation
- Board of Lay Ministry
- Council on Ethnic Diversity
- Health and Wholeness



Every district and every church has an opportunity to participate inand benefit from.....these ministries.

Slide 12



This doesn't look like your typical church building, but during the 2004 Hurricane Season, our new Disaster Response Supply Depot in Madison, was at the center of our statewide disaster response ministry. The depot is located near the intersections of Interstate 10 and I-75. It is designed to receive, house and distribute supplies, including supplies from UMCOR and other United Methodist Churches and Agencies across the country.

The warehouse space has been provided to the Conference free of charge. The building was pressed into service even before it could be consecrated.

Slide 13



Within days of Hurricane Charley, the Tallahassee District's Outreach Ministry, United Methodist Cooperative Ministries of Madison County, mobilized an army of volunteers to ship and distribute much-needed supplies to Southwest Florida.

Slide 14



Volunteers loaded trucks and trailers....some of which were donated and driven by individuals in the community. Volunteers brought in fork-lifts to help with the loading, or just formed a human-chain to fill the trucks and trailers. When they ran out of water, the volunteers called the Nestle Company, which supplied a truckload of water to be distributed to hurricane victims.

Slide 15



The Madison County Supply Depot, literally in its first week of operation, distributed 53,000 bottles of water ***and*** an additional 200 gallon jugs of water, plus 3,500 health kits containing things like soap, toothbrushes and other basic necessities, along with nearly 3,000 cleaning buckets with supplies to help hurricane victims and volunteer cleanup crews restore homes and businesses.

Of course, this is only one small part of the Conference's total disaster response effort. Each District of the Conference has a Disaster Response Coordinator and each District is contributing to the overall hurricane recovery effort. For a more detailed view of what we are doing as a connected church, please visit the Conference web site at www.flumc.org.



As Florida continues to grow, so does the conference. In fact, Florida has more new church starts than any other United Methodist Conference in the United States. Since 1995, we have had 69 New Church Starts, many of which have been financed by the Foundation working in cooperation with the Committee for New Church Development. New churches have spanned every race and ethnic background from Hispanic to Pacific Islander.

This is the new multi-purpose and worship center for Harvest United Methodist Church. It is located in a high-growth area between Sarasota and Bradenton. It opened in May of 2004.

Hope UMC



In New Port Richey, we have a church that launched in 1995 and in less than 10 years, has spawned a new church on a second campus located approximately seven miles to the north. According to Pastor David Miller, "We have to think outside the box when it comes to new church development. We found that we could take the best resources of an existing church and start a new church at a fraction of the cost. We already had the successful DNA in place...why not share it with a new congregation," Miller said.

New Life Community Church



In Jacksonville, “thinking outside the box’ led to the development of New Life Community Church.....a community-focused African-American congregation that meets in a storefront of a local shopping center. The church operates a health ministry that promotes wellness education and provides testing and counseling for HIV/AIDS patients. The church offers after-school care for families with children,....and on Saturdays.....runs a leadership program for children and youth. “Our mission is to listen to the needs of the community, and be a church in action, not just in word,” says Pastor Candace Lewis.



Since it was founded in 1997, the congregation has grown from a core group of roughly 27 ...to more than 250 members. The General Board of Discipleship has designated it as a training site for other growing and/or developing African-American churches.

Slide 20



Our Hispanic Ministries are the fastest growing ethnic ministries in the Conference. We have added 20 new congregations since 1995.

More than 57 congregations meet in United Methodist Churches throughout the state and come together for Family Camps several times a year at the Leesburg Life Enrichment Center like the group shown here.

Hispanic Ministries

- Fastest growing ethnic ministry in the conference
- 57 congregations (20 since 1995)
- Diverse congregations include members from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Honduras, Argentina, Chile, Columbia, Venezuela, San Salvador, Guatemala, etc.



Our Hispanic Congregations are as widespread and diverse as the population itself. Many offer Health Clinics, English Language classes and other services. A migrant ministry near Bradenton – with the permission of local farmers -- holds Bible Study and worship services in the fields. Pastors in Deland, Orlando and Miami broadcast devotionals via radio to the Hispanic Community. The Ministry produces a quarterly magazine and supports a web site. It provides translation services in English and Spanish for all departments and agencies of the Conference.

Haitian Missions

- About 21 Haitian Congregations are located throughout the Conference
- Haitian Missions are growing at a rate of four to six per year



Another rapidly growing ministry is our Haitian Missions. Our first was established in the Miami District in 1981. Currently there are 21 Haitian Congregations around the Conference and they are growing at a rate of four to six new congregations per year.

The congregation in Ft. Pierce -- which meets in a historic church that was built in 1914 -- has thrived under the leadership of Pastor Joannes Martin. It offers computer classes, English classes, health clinics and pre-school and after school programs. Attendance on Sunday has been averaging 325 in the morning and 125 at night. Most of the missions offer worship, social services and small group ministries.

Healthy Churches

- Orlando District has implemented “model” program
- “Healthy Church Academy” for all conference churches

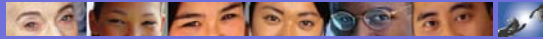


Through our connectional giving, we support conference-wide programs that not only fund the growth of new churches, but help existing churches remain vital and relevant to the communities they serve.

In Orlando, the “Healthy Church Initiative” is a highly successful model that functions almost as a “wellness” program for participating churches. During the initial “check-up”, the church participates in a survey that examines all aspects of church life, including: leadership, organization, opportunities for spiritual growth, the nurturing and development of spiritual gifts, quality of worship, small group ministries, evangelism and congregational relationships. During the process congregations receive special “coaching,” and are equipped to work together to develop a strategic plan that includes implementing meaningful mission and service activities within their communities.

Transforming Congregations

- Membership by re-affirmation of faith up 90%
- Attendance up by 4%
- Small group attendance up 75%



Churches that began the program in 2001 have reported tremendous results, including:

- Increase in membership
- Increase in attendance
- Increase in small group attendance

To find out more about conference programs for Healthy Churches, please visit the conference web site at www.flumc.org.



Our camping ministries have been a tradition in the conference for many generations. They play an important role in the spiritual formation of our children and youth, and also are a fertile training ground for many lay and youth ministers. Many of our conference clergy found their call there. We offer camping programs in three separate areas of the state, and, this year, more than 3,700 young people participated.



Steve Hambrick, who leads the Wesley Foundation at the University of Central Florida, believes that campus ministry is “our greatest mission field.” “At most churches, college students and young adults tend to fall through the cracks,” he said. “The Wesley Foundation helps fill the void.” According to Hambrick, 18-to-22-year-olds are hungry to find something to believe in. Hambrick calls his own experience as a student in the Wesley Foundation “the most alive experience I have had in church in my life.” The Wesley Foundation is reaching the generation that will be leading the church in the next 20 years.

Slide 27



According to Hambrick and fellow campus ministers throughout the state, a significant percentage of students who come to the Wesley Foundation in college go into some type of Christian vocation, such as missions, youth ministry, campus ministry, lay leadership or full-time ministry.

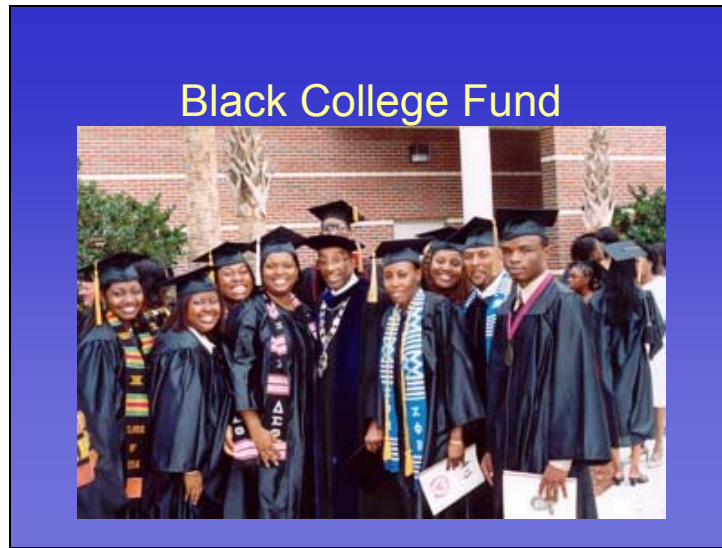
At the University of Florida, the Rev. Walter Monroe works with upwards of 500 students a year, many of whom have never been attached to a church before. At Florida A&M in Tallahassee, the program is outgrowing its facilities, and at Stetson University in Deland, the Wesley House Campus Ministry is the highest-funded program of any activity supported by the university's Student Activities Fund.

Ministerial Education

- Provides scholarships for men and women in seminary
- Supports ministerial education programs at 13 United Methodist seminaries
- Funds continuing education programs for ordained clergy

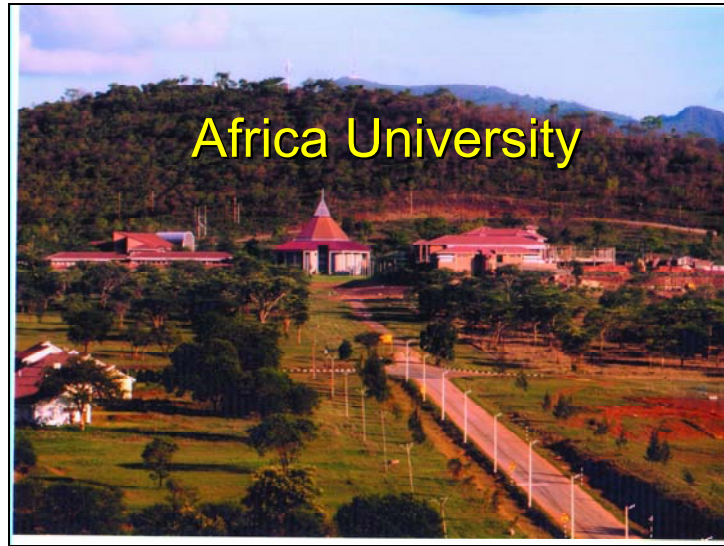


The Ministerial Education Fund plays a vital role in our efforts to recruit talented men and women into full-time Christian service. According to David Dodge, Director of the Conference Division of Ministry, most new pastors begin their careers with entry-level salaries and an average student-loan debt of \$30,000. The Ministerial Education Fund helps to relieve some of that burden.



The historically Black Colleges represent one of the great success stories in the United Methodist Church. Through our fair-share apportionments we have kept tuition low and enabled many talented leaders to obtain a college education. Five sitting bishops of the United Methodist Church are graduates of these institutions. Two District Superintendents in the Florida Conference also are graduates. These outstanding schools have produced college presidents, a surgeon-general of the United States, Director of the National Park Service, and a host of other distinguished black leaders.

The Black College Fund supports 11 historically Black Colleges, including Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach. Bethune-Cookman was the site of the 2004 session of the Florida Annual Conference.

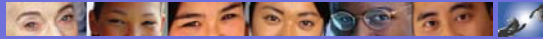


Africa University seems like a long way from Florida, but to Paul and Janet Chilcote of Oviedo, ties to the school and continent span time and space. The Chilcotes were missionaries in Zimbabwe when the school was chartered in the early 1990's. Paul – a professor of theology at Asbury's Orlando campus and Janet, associate pastor of First United Methodist Church of Oviedo – have watched it develop into a vital and ethnically diverse Pan-African institution. As a member of the original faculty, Paul returned to celebrate the 10th Anniversary and recently took a group of Asbury students to visit the campus. The Chilcote's daughter, Rebecca, completed a Fulbright Fellowship working with Aids Victims in Zimbabwe.

Africa University is the only private university in Zimbabwe
It serves students from more than 20 African nations
It offers degrees in: agriculture and natural resources, management and administration, theology and education

World Service Fund

- The World Service Fund is at the heart of who we are as a church in Christ's ministry.
- Through our contributions to World Service, we support some 1,812 mission personnel in 165 nations.
- More than 80,000 volunteers serve in mission placements in the U.S. and around the world.



The World Service Fund is to the General Church what our Conference Benevolences are to the Florida Annual Conference. Gifts to the World Service Fund are often called the “hardest working dollars” in the United Methodist Church. They support our mission and evangelism efforts around the world. They also support all the boards and agencies of the United Methodist Church.

World Service Funds impact United Methodist ministries on six continents. If... as John Wesley said....”the world is our parish,” then, the ministries supported by the World Service Fund are the manifestation of that philosophy.



In addition to the programs already outlined, the World Service Fund supports:

- Certification programs for chaplains, Christian educators, communicators and musicians
- The “Igniting Ministry” media campaign (Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors)
- Korean-American and other ethnic ministries
- Programs for older adults
- Deaf ministries

How are Fair Share Apportionments Determined?

- Total operational expenses of local church
- Divided by sum of operational expenses of all churches
- Yields fair-share decimal
- Fair-share decimal multiplied by conference budget
- Yields church apportionment



Apportionments are an equitable form of giving. In our conference, they are determined by the fair-share method.

- For each church we add up expenses such as salary and benefits for the pastor and other employees, the operational costs and the cost of programs and ministries of the church.
- Then, we divide the local church expenses by the total expenses of all 700-plus churches in the conference.
- This gives us a fair-share decimal which is then
- multiplied by the conference budget that is approved at annual conference.
- This figure is the amount apportioned to your church. Each church apportionment is different and changes from year to year.

More information is available on the "Financial Services" link of the Florida Conference web site: www.flumc.org

Slide 34



Every year in every United Methodist Church, we are asked to give approximately 17 cents of every giving dollar for conference and general church apportionments. Approximately four cents goes to the General Church and about 13 cents comes back to us to support administrative programs and ministries within the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the Florida Annual Conference. The money is at work in each district of our conference. Right now, in Florida, our apportionments support everything from our camps and youth ministries, to our disaster response ministries, to our missions around the world.

Slide 35



To learn more about the ministries supported by Connectional Giving, please visit our web site at www.fumf.org, or call the Florida United Methodist Foundation at 1-800-282-8011, ext. 106.

Other helpful information is available at www.umcsgiving.org and through the Florida Conference web site, www.flumc.org

Slide 36

