



Connectional Table

The United Methodist Church

8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 404
Chicago, Illinois 60631
Phone: 773-714-1517

Spring 2019 Connectional Table Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 2 - Wednesday, April 3
Location: Discipleship Ministries, 1908 Grand Ave. Nashville, TN 37212
Room Location: Jackson

Joint Meeting with GCFA on Thursday April 4, 2019
Embassy Suites Airport Nashville, Tennessee

Tuesday, April 2 – Day 1

The CT meeting began with a Worship Service offered by Ted and Company called *The Jesus Stories*.

PLENARY I: OPENING BUSINESS

Business meeting called to order at 3:30 pm. Junius Dotson, our host, offered a welcome on behalf of Discipleship Ministries Board of Directors, Bishop Webb, and their staff.

Connectional Table Roll call

Present (V indicates Voting Member):	Jones	Beverly V	Slaughter	Mike V
Aguila	Jung	Hee-Soo V	Swanson	James V
Alsted	Jung	Markus V	Tuitahi	Monalisa V
Belles	Kemper	Thomas	Watson	Michael V
Birch	Kenaston	Judi V	Wiggins Hare	Dawn
Boigegrain	Kent	Cynthia V	Zürcher	Stefan V
Brady	Kitete	Prosper V		
Brown	Krause	Dan (late)	Late Arrivals:	
Cleaver III	Kumar	Moses	Wilbourn	Miller V
Coles	Malone	Tracy V		
Day	McKee	Michael V	Regrets:	
Deere	Meekins	William V	Bledsoe	Earl V
DeVine	Milford	Brian	Cape	Kim
Dharmaraj	Murphy	Tonya V	Dyck	Sally V
Dotson	Nelson	Ken V	Gifford	Kelley V
Evans	Nhambiu-Penicela, Benedita	V	Henry-Crowe	Susan
Francisco	Niesen	Marianne V	McAlilly	William
Gatdula	Nuckols	Dave V	McMillan	Duncan
Graves	Olson	Harriett	Oglesby	Dennis V
Hanke	Perez	Lyssette V	Park	Jeremiah V
Hawkins	Postell	Lathem V	Postell	Lathem V
Hettmann	Prudente	Karen V	Webb	Mark V
Jen	Scott	Robin V		
	Sermonia	Jovito (Jun) V		

Special Guests:

Ray Bailey (General Board of Higher Education & Ministry)
Isabelle Berger (Interpreter)
Linda Boulos (Interpreter)
Blake David (A/V coordinator, Discipleship Ministries)
Jeanette Foster (Meeting Planner)
Dena Gable, Ecumenical Guest (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)
Heather Hahn (United Methodist News Service)
Janet Jamieson, Discipleship Ministries (Wednesday afternoon)
Karina Lashley (Interpreter)
Meg Lassiatt (General Board of Higher Education & Ministry)
Bishop Minerva Carcaño (Resident Bishop, San Francisco Area, Cal-Pac)
Jeff Raught (*Ted & Company*)
Doug Swanney, Ecumenical Guest (British Methodist Church)
Ted Swartz (*Ted & Company*)
Cynthia Wilson (Musician, Discipleship Ministries)
Karen Ward (General Board of Higher Education & Ministry)

Representatives of the GCFA GAEM committee:

Mathurin Adjurabe, Reggie Clemons, Paul Eichelberger, Rick King, Steve Lambert, Lynne Eiaw-Neiderland, Tammie Ruffle, Joni Way, Steve Wood

Leadership Discernment and Community Life (LDCL) - Ken Nelson, Chair:

Nelson welcomed to our new staff, Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, and welcomed all our new board members: Karen Prudente appointed to Internal Evaluation and Finance, Sherika Brown to serve on agency evaluation, and Dena Gable to serve on US Contextual Ministries. Kelly Gifford, North Central Jurisdiction, resigned from the board.

The committee reported that it had completed a review of all staff job description, and before the end of the board meeting on Thursday will discuss the staff evaluation process. The committee also has received requests for a portion of the clergy staff salary to be designated as a housing allowance (per IRS rules).

Action: Nelson moved the recommendation from Executive committee that the board accepts LDCL report and the salary designation amounts (for IRS purposes) submitted by the staff. (The Executive committee voted on the actual numbers).

Motion passed.

Welcome Special Guest

A moment was taken to welcome and acknowledge all the guests who are present at the meeting. Special thanks to Ted and Company for their worship and show, *The Jesus Stories*; they led us through this time with humor and imagination.



Agenda Additions-Discipleship Ministries and General Board of Higher Education and Ministry send a letter about the concept of selling the Kern building and requested the item be added to the agenda.

Action: Motion made to approve the agenda with the addition of the Kern Building sale discussion. Seconded. **Motion Approved.**

Approval of February Minutes—**Action:** Motion made to approve the minutes as circulated. Seconded. **Motion passed.**

PLENARY II: ALLOCATIONS

Allocation Report (Appendix A - documents; Appendix B - slide presentation)

Bishop Alsted introduced the process for discussing the allocation recommend, which was emailed before the meeting. A presentation was offered by members of the allocation team: Brad Brady, Amy Coles, and Lysette Perez; with support from staff consultant, Bill Brownson.

There was a time of questions and answers to clarify items in the proposal. After initial questions, the board began table discussions about the recommended allocation amounts to smaller agencies and commissions.

Robin Scott had submitted an alternate allocation amount for this item in writing before the meeting. After table discussion, he withdrew his motion from consideration.

Action: Jacob Dharmaraj moved that the body reconsider the reduction in the allocation amount to the Asian American Language National Plan proposed in this report (since the February board presentation); He proposed no cut in funding to the plan between 2016-2020 and 2021-2024 quadrennium. **Seconded.**

There was a discussion. The vote was called. **Motion passed.**

Action: Mona-Lisa Tuitahi moved the CT does not reduce the funding to Pacific Island National Plan so that it remained the same between 2016-2020 and 2021-2024 quadrennium.

Motion passed.

Discussion continued about the smaller allocated amounts to the National Plans, Commissions, Interdenominational Cooperation Fund and the Connectional Table.

Recess for dinner at 5:38 pm- 7 pm

During dinner Advisory Groups met as needed.



After dinner discussion continued about the allocation process. The floor was open for proposed changes to the Educational Funds, and none surfaced. The floor was open for discussion about the Program Agencies. Robust discussion occurred about UMCOM allocation and increasing its amount. The body raised questions about where the additional money would come from to increase UMCOM allocation.

Action: Motion to increase UMCOM allocation by decreasing the interpretation resource fixed charge by 25% (\$358,000) and reallocating those fund to UMCOM's on-ratio apportionment. Seconded. **Motion passed.**

Action: Motion made to add \$7.2 million to UMCOM allocation. **Seconded. Motion failed.**

Action: Chair called the question on an affirmation of allocation to smaller funds: National plans, Commissions, CT, and Interdenominational Cooperation Fund. **Motion passed.**

Action: Chair called the question on the affirmation of allocation to Education funds: Africa University, Black College Fund, Central Conference Theological Education Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, Young Clergy Initiative. **Motion passed.**

Action: Chair called the question on the affirmation of allocation to the Program agencies: Discipleship Ministries, General Board of Church and Society, General Board of Higher Education and Ministries, General Board of Global Ministries. **Motion passed.**

Action: Chair called for a final vote on the full recommendation as it before us to the joint meeting of the CT and GCFA for approval. **Motion passed.**

A clarifying question about how the additional 1.9 million reductions in funding (across the board based on a percentage or another way) will be applied to the budget that was passed came to the body. The chair responded (and body affirmed) that this reduction of \$1.9 million will be applied to all funds according to the percentage of allocation the fund received.

CT recessed for the evening with a prayer offered by Bishop Alsted.

Wednesday, April 3 – Day 2

Morning Worship with the Connectional Table began at 8:48 am.

PLENARY III: SPECIAL SESSION

Bishop Alsted and Rev. Bigham-Tsai offered a statement: For the Sake of the Church. (Appendix C and [video recording available](#))



Board members were invited to reflect on the statement and to engage in discussion around their table. Questions for discussion at tables:

- How does what happening in the church affect our work?
- How might we serve in this present moment?

After the table discussion, the group came back together to talk as a whole body about the statement and the table reflections. Robust discussion occurred and comments were raised about: institutional memory and the church's work on human sexuality over many years; the role of the CT one of the only bodies that sees the whole church and has a responsibility to articulate the vision for the whole church; need for unity at this time; adaptive nature of the challenge before us; desire for separation; and the conversations happening across the connection on this topic.

After initial reflections, the group was invited to engage in more table discussion. To frame these discussions, Rev. Nelson read a story about inheritance and camels (Appendix D). The tables were asked to discuss:

- A) The best way to serve the denomination in our present state.
- B) What are some camels we see?

Discussion again occurred at tables. A few people shared their tables reflections with the large group. Opinions varied about the next step to take, and no consensus was reached about the action that should come from the CT. The tone of the conversation shifted to the reality of protentional division, split, and inability to continue the status quo. There was a call for leadership from the CT and conversation brainstormed a variety of ways the organization might lead, and questions arose about what it meant to lead at this time, and what the objectives of our conversations and actions. Continued themes were that CT is needed to offer a global perspective at this time, CT's unique role in the church bringing the agencies and global church together, amplify the voices of those (around the world) who are not center stage, and remind the denomination what we have to lose. The discussion was robust the body wanted to continue to consider what is emerging. After the discussion the body moved to communion.

Lunch recess

PLENARY IV: REPORTS

A few members asked to make comments to continue the discussion from before lunch.

Discussion:

- We need to act as a CT. A call for our leadership and action of CT to lead the denomination for the future. We cannot let others in the denomination be the only ones acting.



- Our actions affect not only the UMC, but all the people called Methodist. What happens next needs to make space for God's mission. Our next step will affect the entire pan-Methodist connection.

A Report on the Sale of the Kern Building by guests Ray Baily, Janet Jamieson, and Karen Ward

On Tuesday, a letter was shared with the CT board about this topic. Jamieson mentioned that with restructuring at Discipleship Ministries, they are not using all the space. Ward shared that the three agencies had explored the options of rental and renovation before the sale of the building. The building is in poor condition, and contractors recommend a rebuilding, but the land in this part of Nashville is confining. The agencies are discussing the sale, so they might consolidate and move to a new space better equipped for the agencies to share space. The two agencies, General Board of Higher Education and Discipleship Ministries, have not considered the sale of the building yet, and it is only in the early stages. As the two board begin conversation, they are seeking approval of the CT and GCFA. If they receive approval, the agencies will continue to explore.

Action: Motion to allow the committee (of General Board of Higher Education and Discipleship Ministries) to consider reviewing options and proceed if needed with the sale of the Kern Building. Seconded; **Motion Passed.**

Report on Co-Visioning for the Future of the Church – CT report to General Conference

Rev. Bigham-Tsai presented the outline for the report to CT's report to the General Conference (Appendix E). This report will highlight: 1) In the Midst of uncertainty and Change a Renewed Focus on the CT's purpose, 2) Reviewing our Work from this Quadrennium on the Budget, Vitality through the Four Areas of Focus and living into being a worldwide Church; 3) Leadership for the uncertain future.

Action: Chair moved the CT affirm the direction of the General Conference Report. Seconded; **Motion Passed.**

Report on Standing Committee on Central Conference matters -Bishop Francisco, Chair

The report was given by Bishop Francisco as a matter of orientation. The Standing Committee has been working on a couple of key areas:

- 1) Working on General Book of Discipline
- 2) Recommend distribution of 5 new bishops to Africa to GC2020
- 3) Formed three teams focused on Philippines Central Conference



Bishop Francisco shared that the Standing Committee will not be bring legislation to the 2020 GC about the General Book of Discipline. This decision is due to their work being incomplete and the uncertainty that our denomination is facing after the 2019 Special Session.

Discussion and questions were raised about the additional Bishops being assigned to the African Continent. Clarification was offered about how the number of Bishop's are determined (sighting paragraph 404 in the Book of Discipline) and that General Conference approved five additional Bishop for a restructure of the regions across Africa. The Standing Committee is mandated to recommend assigning these Bishops by General Conference and reports only to General Conference. General Conference is the body that determines how many Bishops the denomination can afford.

Report on Chapter 5 of the Global Book of Discipline -Ole Birch (Appendix F)

Birch presented about the work of the Chapter Five committee which has been to re-write the section of the Disciple relating to the Agencies and General Agencies. The committee worked on a document of the theology of the agencies to help guide their work. In August of 2018, the committee was told they could not write new text for the Chapter Five. At this, the team decided it could not continue with the current mandate. The committee will be recommending a new mandate for VI (6).

Text from the standing committee (slide) was shared—

- ...for Part VI, Chapter 5 (Administrative Order) of the 2016~~2020~~ *Book of Discipline*, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters will also work in consultation with the Connectional Table for creating a new Part VI which reflects the theological and missional components of agency and expresses what is essential wherever United Methodism exists, and a new Part VII accordingly. By BOD ¶ 905.4-5, the Connectional Table will support the collaborative efforts of the General Agencies as they develop disciplinary language that specifically describes the agencies' work in a way that reflects the theological and missional components of the agency. This collaborative effort of the Connectional Table will be carried out in partnership with the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, which will submit legislation on Part VI and Part VII to GC2024.

The committee determined that there are two tasks that needs to be completed to: 1) create a non-adaptable portion that shares why we have agencies, and 2) create an adaptable section that covers how we will have agencies that serve our church contextually across the globe. Both of these tasks will be developed in the next quad, if approved by GC. The Committee is proposing



this new section be written by CT because it is where the agencies are, and it is be the best place to do that work.

Action: Ole Birch moved the CT receive the report. **Motion Passed. Report Received.**

Break

Report General Church Council - Monalisa Tuitahi, Chair

Tuitahi reviewed the document (Appendix G) and emphasized the key principles outlined:

- 1) Build trust in three primary relationships: i) the General Conference through a partnership with the Commission on General Conference; ii) annual conferences through collaboration with active bishops and directors of connectional ministries; iii) program-related general agencies through World Service stewardship, and administrative general agencies through stewardship of mission and vision alignment;
- 2) Guide a uniquely Wesleyan/spiritual Connection; and
- 3) Create an open-handed/permission-giving culture that enables innovation by fostering creativity and enhancing ministry at all levels of the church.

The GCC proposes that the work be paused. The collaborative work that was mandated will be continued in 2020. The legislation will be provided in 2024.

Action: Moved the body receive the committee's recommendation that the CT put the work of the General Church Council on hold. **Motion passes.**

Report U.S. Contextual Ministries - Judi Kenaston, Chair

Kenaston offered a historical report outlining the context and work of the group related to a U.S. Central Conference (please see "narrative overview" document, Appendix H). The members of the legislative group, convened by Jerry DeVine, we recognized. Kenaston asked for guidance from the body about whether the work should be continued or put on hold. The executive committee has recommended holding on this work until 2024.

The CT board engaged in brief table discussions, followed by a response from Barbara Boigegrain affirming the work on behalf of Wespeth.

Action: Moved the advisory group, US Contextual Ministries, move forward with the work as presented in their written report. **Motion Approved.**

The committee asked for my time on the agenda after a break, to allow for further discussion on their work in light go the vote.



Report on Connectional Assessment - Josephine Deere, Chair

Deere reported that the committee Recommends that we discontinue the work of this Advisory Group.

Action: Josephine Deere moved the CT receive the report. **Motion Passed. Report Received.**

Report on Agency Evaluation- Brad Brady, Chair

The board celebrates that there is no report.

Report on Vital Congregation – 4 Area of Focus- Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

Rev. Bigham-Tsai shared about the most recent meeting of the strategic team. There is a new language for the Four Areas of Focus.

At this time the team has not set numeral goals for the next quadrennium.

Action: Chair moved the CT receive the report. **Motion Passed. Report Received.**

The Connectional Table Convened an Executive Session.

Summary of the session: The Chair, Bishop Alsted, shared that the CT received information about a new recommendation to the allocation proposal for the next quadrennium. The CT decided not to make any changes to the allocation proposal approved on Tuesday.

Report U.S. Contextual Ministries (Continued)- Jerry Devine, Chair of Editorial Team

Rev. Devine presented on the legislation (which was handed out) written by the USCM advisory group and walked the board through the document.

Initial discussion occurred around the clarification of if all that was before the body would be going to 2020 or 2024 General Conference. It was clarified that all would be going to the 2020 General Conference if approved by the body. A point was raised that all legislation making Constitutional changes should be the priority, and all legislation connected to Constitutional changes should be linked to that work.

Several comments and recommendations were raised, Bishop Alsted clarified that all comments should be in the form of a motion to change the document.

A brief break was called to read the documents. Upon reconvening Rev. Devine went systematically through the document.

Stage 1 Committee on US Matters legislative items

1. New Paragraph between ¶506 and ¶507 (lines 2-17 of the document)

Action: Judi Kenaston motioned to add 2 people from each Central Conference with voice and no vote; seconded; **Vote called, Amendment passed.**

Action: Tonya Murphy motioned to add “elected by the Standing Committee on Central Conference matters.” Seconded. **Called vote taken. Amendment passed**

Action: Benedita amendment that those people be 1 clergy and 1 laity. Second. **Called vote taken. Amendment passed**

The Chair called for the vote on full motion. **Action:** Adding two person from each Central Conference, clergy and lay, elected by the standing committee on central conference matters. So that the sentence reads: “A Committee on US Matters shall be composed of General Conference delegates representing the annual conference in the United States, two persons from each Central Conference (1 clergy and one lay) elected by the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, and shall have a legislative function. **Motion Passed.**

Action: Approve new paragraph between ¶ 506 and ¶507 as amended and as presented in the document before us. **Motion Passed.**

2. Amend section 10 and 11 of ¶507 (Line 19-24)

Action: Motion to approve this legislation from the CT as it is before for us from the committee. **Motion Passed.**

Gary Graves recommended that this section be reviewed and confirm that it aligns with the current General Conference rules.

Committee on US Matters

- Enabling legislation (lines 26-53)

Action: Bishop Swanson motioned that edit line 39 of the document to say that the legislation set the number of subcommittees. Seconded. **Motion Passed**

Action: Call for a vote to Approve Enabling Legislation line 26-53 of the document before us. **Motion Passed**

- Additional enabling legislation (*line 56-63*)

This item was struck from the report by the presenting committee.

Stage II Petitions: Petitions to Establish the US Central Conference

Constitutional amendments

3. ¶10 Article III. petition - 84-86 lines
Action: Motion to approve this legislation from the CT as it is before for us from the committee. **Motion Passed.**
4. ¶ 16.4 petition- Line 89-90
Action: Motion to approve this legislation from the CT as it is before for us from the committee. **Motion Passed.**
5. ¶ 28. Article I. petition 92-96 lines
Action: Motion to approve this legislation from the CT as it is before for us from the committee. **Motion Passed.**
6. ¶ 31, Article IV. petition Line 98-100
Action: Motion to approve this legislation from the CT as it is before for us from the committee. **Motion Passed.**
7. ¶ 38 petition lines 102-104
Action: Motion to approve this legislation from the CT as it is before for us from the committee. **Motion Passed.**

Changes to Disciplinary paragraphs

8. ¶ 540. petition (109-141 lines)
The body was confused by the phrase, “that it may include territory not included within the United States” (line 132 and 133). It was recommended that it needs better wording.
Action: Motion to approve this legislation with the expectation that the wording will be edited by the writing team. Seconded. **Motion Passed.**
9. ¶ 541 (line 143- 166)
Action: Motion to review the language on line 152. Motion to approve the document with appropriate edits determined by the committee. Seconded. **Motion Passed.**
10. ¶ 542 (petition lines 167- 200)
Action: Motion to approve this legislation from the CT as it is before for us from the committee. **Motion Passed.**



11. ¶ 543 (petition lines 201-297)

Body granted the right to speak to Meg Lassiatt (General Board of Higher Education), she recommends the edition of course of study to Line 271; thus adding a new subparagraph between subparagraphs 15 and 16 that states:

“The education requirement for local pastors shall be approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.”

Action: Motion to amend the document to include a new subparagraph (between 15 and 16) that reads “The education requirement for local pastors shall be approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.” Seconded. **Amendment Passed.**

Action: Vote called to approve the paragraph as amended. **Motion Passed.**

Non-disciplinary petition (line 340-369)

Action: Motion to approve this legislation from the CT as it is before for us from the committee. **Motion Passed.**

Action: Moved the entire document before us as amended or referred to a committee. **Seconded. Motion Passes.**

The entire package was passed. We will send it back to the advisory group to make these changes. We will finalize this work at an online meeting later this year.

Closing remarks from Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

Bigham-Tsai offered remarks related to this being the last meeting of the quadrennium for this board. She spoke about the liminality of this moment in the life of the United Methodist Church.

Recess for dinner

At dinner, Leadership Discernment and Community Life committee offered a brief program to honor all those who have completed their service to the Connectional Table. Those honored included: Pete Agulia, Ole Birch, Brad Brady, Kim Cape, Josephine Deere, Bishop Ciriaco Francisco, Beverly Jones, William Meekins, Benedita Nhambiu Penicela, Jovito Sermonita, and Mike Slaughter.

Meeting of CT Board adjourned at 6:30 with the conclusion of dinner.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, CT Staff

Spring 2019 Joint Connectional Table and GCFA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2019
Embassy Suites Airport Nashville, Tennessee
Grand Ball Room

Thursday, April 4

Minutes

The GCFA meeting began with opening prayer led by Bishop McKee at 8:08 a.m.

Roll Call for the GCFA Board

<u>Present:</u>	Christine Dodson	LaToya Redd Thompson
Djoman Mathurin Adjrahe	Miran Kim	Vasanth Victor
Per-Endre Bjørnevik	Bishop Michael McKee	Valarie Willis
Bishop Minerva Carcaño	Sandy Olewine	Steve Wood
Reggie Clemons	Kenneth Ow	
Steven Court	Dustin Petz	<u>Regrets:</u>
Mary Daffin	Zac Riddle	David Bell
Regan Reyes De Guzman	Anthony Tang	Judy Colorado

GCFA Morning meeting

GCFA held business meeting until the Connectional Table members arrived for worship 9 am.

JOINT MEETING OF THE CONNECTIONAL TABLE AND GCFA PLENARY

Worship

Cynthia Wilson, Discipleship Ministries, led the community in a service with Preaching by Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai and Communion served by Bishop McKee and Bishop Alsted.

Roll Call for the Connectional Table

Present: (V indicates Voting Member)	Evans	Cashar V	Krause	Dan (late)
Aguila	Pete V	Francisco	Ciriaco V	Kumar
Alsted	Christian V	Gatdula	Venus Mae V	McKee
Belles	Sarah V	Graves	Gary	Meekins
Birch	Ole V	Hanke	Gilbert	Milford
Boigegrain	Barbara	Hettmann	Michelle V	Murphy
Brady	Brad V	Jen	Mike Dio V	Nelson
Cleaver III	Emanuel V	Jones	Beverly V	Nhambiu-Penicela, BeneditaV
Coles	Amy V	Jung	Hee-Soo V	Niesen
Day	Fred	Jung	Markus V	Nuckols
Deere	Josephine V	Kenaston	Judi V	Perez
DeVine Jerome V		Kent	Cynthia V	Postell
Dharmaraj	Jacob V	Kitete	Prosper V	Prudente
				Karen V



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Scott	Robin V	Brown	Shareka V	McMillan	Duncan
Sermonia	Jovito (Jun) V	Cape	Kim	Oglesby	Dennis V
Swanson	James V	Day	Fred	Olson	Harriett
Tuitahi	Monalisa V	Dotson	Junius	Slaughter	Mike V
Watson	Michael V	Dyck	Sally V	Park	Jeremiah V
Wiggins Hare	Dawn	Gifford	Kelley V	Postell	Lathem V
Wilbourn	Miller V	Hawkins	Erin	Webb	Mark V
Zürcher	Stefan V	Henry-Crowe	Susan		
		Kemper	Thomas		
Regrets:		Malone	Tracy V		
BledsoeEarl V		McAlilly	William		

CT Allocation Presentation by CT members: Brad Brady, Amy Coles, Lysette Perez, and Consultant: Bill Brownson

The CT Allocations Team presented their report (Exhibit B). The committee reviewed the values they used in allocating the funds and then gave an overview of the amount available for allocation. It had been at least 20 years since the allocations changed radically. Because budgets of the agencies and funds receiving general church funds will have significant decreases this upcoming quadrennium, the CT Allocations Team thought it was necessary to do additional allocation work. CT is responsible for evaluating the agencies funded by the World Service Fund. CT Allocations Team looked at each agency’s missional capacity, mandates and financial capacity. After learning more about the different funds they issued a first draft of allocations report. After issuing the first draft of allocations, CT received additional requests from funds beyond the amount in the contingency fund. The CT allocation team then revised their recommendation. CT presented their final allocations to the CT and GCFA boards. (The full report is available on the CT website and presentation is below.)

There was a recommendation that the next CT allocation team use a similar process to do recommend allocations for future quadrennium.

Presentation from GCFA GAEM Committee by Christin Dodson and Steve Wood (exhibit A)

Christine Dodson spoke about the work of GCFA. She thanked CT for their extensive work with the allocations. Steve Wood acknowledge how the CT and GCFA have collaborated so far. CT continued throughout the process to ask GAEM to affirm the CT’s approach to reserves and values. During the Tuesday meeting, GAEM was not prepared to give more feedback to CT at that time. This is a new process and we are thankful for this work.

Steve Wood explained that the GEAM committee had two concerns with the proposed CT Allocations: that all should share in the reductions, and that it appears unequitable to have such large cuts to UMCOM. He stated the first concern was resolved at the last CT meeting but seems



like there could possibly still be disagreement about the allocation to UMCOM. GAEM shared information about how they might allocate funds.

Bishop Alsted shared that on Wednesday during their meeting the CT reviewed the information from GCFA's GAEM committee and decided to stay with its initial allocation for UMCOM. The board discussed why the GAEM committee made its recommendation.

The Board engaged in a time of question and answer and open discussion. It was recommended that the two board engage in small group discussions around the tables. Discussion occurred with tables mixing to ensure GCFA and CT members talked with each other.

Action: The two boards voted on the recommendations from CT (separately).

A vote of hand was called on the questions: The approval of the proposal from CT for the funding of allocations which was presented at the GCFA and CT joint meeting

In favor: 29

Opposed: 3

Abstention: 0

CT Board Approved the Motion.

A vote of hand was called on the questions: The approval of the proposal from CT for the funding of allocations which was presented at the GCFA and CT joint meeting

In favor: 9

Opposed: 8

Abstention: 1

GCFA Board Approved the Motion.

Agreement on the allocation was reached. Bishop Alsted offered a prayer before lunch.

The GCFA board recessed for lunch and committee meetings at 12:15; the joint meeting of Connectional Table board and GCFA board adjourned at 12:15.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, CT Staff (In consultation with GCFA's minutes)



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Appendix A - Allocation Documents (sent before the meeting)

- I. Edited Allocations Report
- II. Addendum to the Allocations Report (reflects recent changes)
- III. Connectional Table Allocations Recommendations: Executive Summary for report published January 29, 2019
- IV. Allocations FAQ
- V. Document detailing the process for discussion

Recommendations for Allocations of the 2021-2024 Quadrennial Budget

CT Allocations Team
Report January 29, 2019
Updated: March 20, 2019



Connectional Table

The United Methodist Church

OVERVIEW

The Connectional Table (CT) is mandated by The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church to make allocations to the five apportioned funds: **World Service, Africa University, Black College Fund, Ministerial Education Fund**, and the **Interdenominational Cooperation Fund**, (cf. BOD ¶806.1B, 806.2). As the Discipline notes,

*“The Connectional Table will review the program priorities, missional priorities, and special programs and the **estimated amount available** to the general program agencies, and then **establish the amounts to be distributed** to those agencies from the annual World Service allocation. The Connectional Table will review both the funding priorities and the estimated amount available to the other funds and then establish the amounts to be distributed to each.” BOD ¶806.2 (emphasis added)*

The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA), is to determine, in conversation with CT, the **amount available** for allocations, (cf. BOD¶806.1b.1). GCFA has made that determination after considering the recommendations of the *Apportionment Sustainability Task Force*, the *Economic Advisory Committee*, the *CT-GCFA Budget Advisory Team* and others.

Accounting for a proposed base percentage rate of 3.27% and estimated local church net expenditures, GCFA has determined that **\$361,555,000** is available for allocation to the five funds for the 2021-2024 quadrennium (See chart below). This is an 18% reduction over the current quadrennium. Because of changes to the Episcopal Fund, it is effectively a 23% reduction.

BASE PERCENTAGE RATE = 3.27%			
	18%		
EFFECTIVE REDUCTION = 22.7			

	2017-2020 Budget	2021-2024 Budget	% Change
Total Apportionments	\$ 604,033,991	\$ 498,654,000	-17.4%
GCFA Recommended Allocations:			
Episcopal Fund	\$ 92,019,335	\$ 100,026,000	8.7%
General Administration Fund	\$ 36,896,453	\$ 30,170,000	-18.2%
World Service Fund Fixed Charges	\$ 7,372,537	\$ 6,839,000	-7.2%
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund Fixed Charges	\$ 204,600	\$ 64,000	-68.7%
Total GCFA Recommended Allocations	\$ 136,492,925	\$ 137,099,000	0.4%
Amount Available for CT Allocations	\$ 467,541,066	\$ 361,555,000	-22.7%

It is important to note, however, that the original recommendation of the Apportionment Sustainability Task Force was a 25% reduction. With changes in the Episcopal Fund, this would have resulted in an actual 32% reduction in the amount of funds available to allocate.

The reductions in the overall budget are caused by this decrease in the funds available for allocation—a decrease in the size of the pie, so to speak. Such reductions are separate from changes that result from a shift in the allocations—in how the pie is cut. As you will see later in

this report, the actual share of the budget (the size of the slice of the pie) has not changed significantly for most agencies and funds. In some cases, that share of the pie has increased.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Since its inception, the Connectional Table has not made significant changes to allocations. However, there have been adjustments to allocations over the years (see timeline in Appendix A). For instance, in 2008 United Methodist Communications received an increased allocation to improve communications in the hope of stemming denominational decline. In 2012, \$12 million in allocations were shifted from the four major program agencies to fund the Central Conference Theological Fund and the Young Clergy Initiative. These adjustments were targeted to reduce impact on the smaller agencies. Following the failed Call to Action proposal in 2012, which put significant pressure on the general agencies, CT leadership stressed that there would be no changes to allocations in the 2016-2020 quadrennium, to allow a time of relationship and trust building. The expectation has been, however, that for the budget-setting process for the 2021-2024 quadrennium, that maintaining the same allocations would not be assumed. This expectation is reflected in the CT/GCFA Budget Advisory Team's Guiding Principles.

- *“Historical allocation of the WSF to the agencies as well as the level of funding for the Black College Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, Africa University Fund and the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund will not be assumed. The allocation will be made based in part on the following:*
 - *The church's missional priorities*
 - *Levels of reserves*
 - *Evaluations*
 - *Demonstrated commitment to administrative and program efficiencies.”*

CURRENT REALITY

The Apportionment Sustainability Task Force has highlighted realities that point to the necessity for change:

- We are an aging and shrinking denomination.
- The current trajectory of apportionments is no longer sustainable for annual conferences in the U.S., some of which are paying apportionments from reserves.
- There is a strong desire within the connection to redirect funds to the annual conference and local church level to support mission at the grass roots.

The \$361,555,000 available for allocation is a reduction of \$105,986,066 from the current quadrennium. Changes in allocations are not the cause of this reduction. However,

some agencies and funds will experience further reductions or no reduction at all because of changes in allocations.

With a reduction of nearly \$106 million and changes in allocations, agencies and funds likely will have to focus their ministry, consider reducing programming, seek increased opportunities for collaboration and partnership, and consider new ways of operating that may necessitate petitioning the General Conference for changes in mandates. Agencies and funds will be challenged to find ways to transition to new ways of operating, and the connection must support this transition.

This report takes these realities into account and includes recommendations for allocations to the five apportioned funds. We have given the leadership of these bodies an opportunity to provide feedback and have given serious consideration to their feedback, making some changes based on our foundational values (described later in this document) and budgetary constraints.

This process has not been easy. We have been very aware of the complexity of our task, and at times we have struggled. Each of us on the Allocations Team has been painfully aware of the significant changes that are ahead, of the important ministry that could be lost, the lives that could be upended and the anxiety that this very process is causing.

We have wrestled with the knowledge that change is painful, and we have tried our best to listen. We have held multiple listening sessions, met individually with treasurers and others, and have communicated about our process on a regular basis. We are very grateful for all who have made the time to meet with us, answered our questions and provided us with the data upon which we have based our work.

What follows are details about our reasoning; our biblical, theological and missional grounding; and more specifics about our recommendations. We prayerfully offer this work to The United Methodist Church.

REBUILDING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST: A THEOLOGICAL GROUNDING

The Body of Christ lives out its mission in an ever-changing, diverse global community. Even as we live with the tension of an expanding mission field and declining financial resources, we look to the future with the eschatological hope of the rebuilding of Zion. The psalmist reminds us that our focus is on resourcing the Church for generations to come.

“³⁵ For God will save Zion
and rebuild the cities of Judah;
and his servants shall live there and possess it;
³⁶ the children of his servants shall inherit it,
and those who love his name shall live in it.

(Psalm 69:35-36, NRSV)

Rebuilding offers the opportunity for the Church to take seriously the generative nature of our mission. Since its birth, passionate disciples have re-membered The United Methodist Church and been called to use their gifts in building up the Body of Christ. We have a responsibility to build upon that heritage. The 2021-2024 budget allocations provide an opportunity for the adaptation and change necessary to meet the needs of the Church of our children and grandchildren, which may look different from the Church we know today.

As we acknowledge the reality of reduced financial resources, we also celebrate the faithful and wise stewardship of our general agencies, commissions, national plans and funds. Just as Joseph stored grain during the “years of plenty” in order that there be sustenance during “the years of famine” (Genesis 41), some have effectively managed their resources in order to set aside reserves for the future.

Others, like those in Jesus’ parable who multiplied their talents, have effectively utilized their limited resources for significant ministry beyond their mandates. Still others have focused upon aligning mission and ministry to maximize their impact. We celebrate that these prudent practices are already helping protect our capacity for ministry even as we contemplate re-shaping the budget.

WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit...Now you are the Body of Christ and individually members of it,” (1 Corinthians 12: 12-13, 27).

Another aspect of the biblical vision for the Church, which emerges from 1 Corinthians 12, in turn informs these allocation recommendations.

First, we continually aspire to be a connectional Church where each part of the body works for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7). We have witnessed the benefits of synergy when each part of the body is highly functioning, coordinated and contributes its part without reservation. Such collaboration results in missional outcomes which far exceed the sum of the individual contributions.



Therefore, we have discerned the recommended allocations by looking holistically at the financial capacity of each individual agency and apportioned fund, and at all the agencies and funds “collectively” in relationship to the overall mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We see this mission as the common good for which we are all working at every level of the Church.

Second, we recognize the Spirit-given gifts and callings that find expression throughout every level of the Church. We value the many, diverse members of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:14) expressed through The United Methodist Church whether it be in a local, district, annual conference or general agency setting.

Therefore, we value that local churches and extensions ministries are “the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs” (United Methodist Book of Discipline (BOD), ¶ 120). We also recognize that “The annual conference is the basic body of the Church...,” (BOD ¶33). Annual conferences interpret and fund the best ways to equip their local churches. The budgetary changes being recommended can make possible the retention of more financial resources locally, while strategically focusing funding of the global, connectional mission represented in the five apportioned funds.

Further, we value the general agencies and funds because they are uniquely positioned to help express our common vision, mission, and ministry. Agencies and funds provide essential services and ministries beyond the scope of individual local congregations and annual conferences through services and ministries that are highly focused, flexible, and capable of rapid response (BOD ¶701.3). Funding the strategic, core mission of each agency and fund is still valid for a worldwide witness.

Third, we celebrate and defend the value that each part brings to the body. As Paul teaches, we acknowledge that each part of the body has a different capacity and function (1 Corinthians 12: 20-21).

Therefore, we recognize the unique, indispensable contributions of each of the smaller commissions and funds and are protecting their role and significance by minimizing financial hardships which otherwise might be brought about by more significant reductions in allocation.

In summary, we believe these biblical reflections are foundational to the connective nature of The United Methodist Church. As we present our budgetary recommendations, we seek scriptural alignment with the proposed budget allocations to support a “vital web of interactive relationships” (BOD ¶132).

THE VALUES THAT GUIDED US

The dictionary defines values as key principles or standards that guide behavior. As followers of Jesus, the standards that guide us are grounded in the witness of Jesus’ life. Indeed, we looked to the example of Jesus as we approached the complex task of making allocations for the quadrennial budget. We did what He did, every time He “went to the other side” for prayer. A prayer by the late Bishop Reuben Job, in particular, guided us. It noted:

“We have been given responsibility for decision making. It is a large responsibility, and the issues are complex and seldom clearly one way or the other. Even when we have gathered all the facts and looked at and listened to all the evidence, the answer may still be unclear. We bring our best thoughts and all of our previous experiences to the decision-making process, and still we find that prejudice, half-truths, insufficient evidence, and lack of wisdom leave us uncertain about God’s way in the matter. At times like this we long for the assurance of God’s presence with us. We yearn to ask Jesus, who always reflected God’s will, what our decision should be, what really is God’s will,” (From A Guide to Spiritual Discernment, compiled by Reuben Job).

Ultimately, the real question is, “What is God’s will? How do we find it?” Perhaps we begin by emptying ourselves of our own designs and opening ourselves to God’s Spirit in prayer. Then we focus on the mission of our Church. Our mission, as a key value, is at the core of everything we do. It shapes our visions and our dreams and guides us into a future that is in line with God’s call upon the Church. As our Book of Discipline notes:

“The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God’s grace and by exemplifying Jesus’ command to love God and neighbor, thus seeking the fulfillment of God’s reign and realm in the world.” (BOD ¶121)

As we considered allocations to the World Service funded agencies and other apportioned funds, we asked how each aligns with this **mission**. And we asked how the **missional priorities** of the agencies and the funds are lived out in line with the Four Areas of Focus, which are the missional priorities of the Church. We also sought to discern the **core mission** of the agencies and funds that must be sustained to maintain the identity and integrity of The United Methodist Church. We asked our agency and fund staff to identify **emerging missional priorities** that must be addressed if we are to continue to be vital and relevant in a changing world.

We also highlighted the value of **fairness and justice** as we engaged our work and asked what our Social Principles could teach us about ways to achieve equity in our process. Because of this value, we avoided across-the-board cuts. Instead, we considered the varying capacity of agencies and funds to sustain cuts without destroying core mission. In approaching our work in this way, we sought to ensure equity. Concerns for equity recognize that equal treatment across the board does not necessarily ensure equitable access.

As well, we focused on **stewardship**, recognizing that neither the Church nor its resources are ours. The Church belongs to Jesus Christ and its resources are His. We have been given stewardship of these resources for this time in the life of our connection. God is expecting us to be good stewards by ensuring that the Church's resources are fully aligned to its mission.

Finally, we sought to live out the value of **transparency** by holding multiple listening sessions, and by sharing our work with general secretaries and fund staff, agency and fund treasurers, agency chairs, and others. We sought to shine a light on our work in an effort to build trust and ensure collaboration. We choose transparency in our process as a way to be faithful to our call to the Christian life—a call to “walk in the light as Jesus is the light,” (1 John 1:7).

SOME ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT OUR PROCESS

We have taken a holistic approach that highlights our commitment to connectionalism.

As noted in our Theological Grounding, “First, we continually aspire to be a connectional Church where each part of the body works for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7)...Therefore, we have discerned the recommended allocations by looking holistically at the financial capacity of each individual agency and fund and at all the agencies and funds “collectively” in relationship to the overall mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We see this mission as the common good for which we are all working at every level of the Church.”

Indeed, we have sought to care holistically for the needs of the whole body (e.g. local churches, annual conferences, general church bodies). We have put everything on the table by examining the financial capacity of all agencies and funds in light of the mission of the whole connection.

We have been rigorous in our analysis.

We have based our work on factual information and data gathered from GCFA and agency and fund treasurers. We also have talked with treasurers on multiple occasions to clarify understandings of data and have used a consultant to help us with the financial aspects of this work. We have continued to invite feedback and refine our understandings.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALLOCATIONS

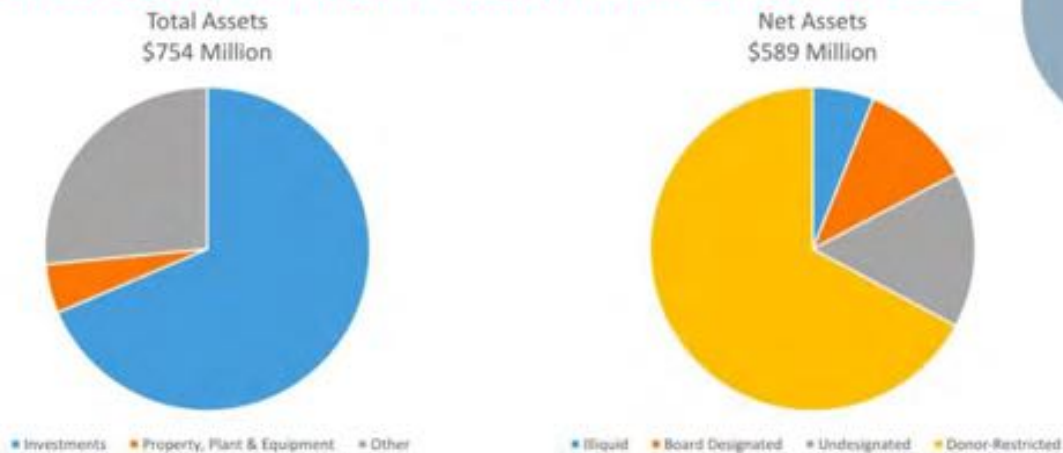
As we offer these recommendations, we begin by highlighting reasons for celebration. We celebrate that our agencies, commissions, national plans and funds continue to engage important ministry by:

- Finding innovative ways to reach out to a changing mission field;
- Preparing lay and clergy leaders for the Church and the world of tomorrow;
- Making inroads in global health and worldwide mission;
- Advocating for justice and for the inclusion of all people;
- Reaching out to be in ministry with our ecumenical partners; and
- Telling the United Methodist story through innovative and needed communications platforms.

We also celebrate that most of our agencies are well-reserved, and all of our agencies and funds are debt-free. Indeed, even at a time of declining resources, we have options and opportunities for ministry ahead.

WE HAVE RESOURCES:

CONSOLIDATED FUND & AGENCY SNAPSHOT-ASSETS



What follows are the recommendations that we have made and our rationale (based on our stated values). We offer these recommendations as a continuation of a process of open conversation, collaboration, and trust-building. We ask you to join us in giving them prayerful consideration.

1. MISSIONAL ALIGNMENT THROUGH THE WORLD SERVICE CONTINGENCY FUND

THE FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS



The World Service Contingency Fund is an already existing part of the World Service apportioned fund whose mandates are explained in the *Book of Discipline*, (cf. 806.3d). There it states, “...the General Council on Finance and Administration shall estimate and communicate to the Connectional Table the sum available at that time from World Service contingency funds to meet requests for additional funding from the general program agencies. The Connectional Table shall be authorized to approve allocations to the general program agencies for additional program funding up to the limit so established.”

As noted in the GCFA Financial Commitments Book, The World Service Contingency Fund “...provides funding for emerging needs in the World Service Fund areas that occur during a quadrennium. These funds are allocated to program agencies for new programs to address unanticipated needs. Contingency fund allocations must first be approved by both CT and GCFA.”¹

The most significant change in philosophy in how we do allocations is represented by our recommendation to increase the World Service Contingency Fund to approximately \$8.9 million and to focus it missionally. **(See Allocation Worksheet, Appendix B).**

¹ *The Financial Commitment of The United Methodist Church, 2017-2020*, General Council on Finance and Administration, p. 13-14.

This increase in the contingency fund is intended to ensure collaborative missional impact through the Four Areas of Focus (or any future missional priorities set by the denomination). This fund will continue under the granting direction of the Connectional Table and under the existing disciplinary mandates that describe the fund. As is the case already and as the Discipline mandates, the CT is ineligible for support from contingency funds.

We believe that this fund will nurture collaborative, adaptive, visionary, and innovative efforts to bring vitality to our worldwide connection through a sustained focus on evangelism and church growth, ministry with poor and underserved communities, global health and innovation in leadership and leadership development (our Four Areas of Focus) as well as other areas. And we further believe that this fund will enable the denomination to respond to emerging missional needs and priorities in an uncertain future. **Rationale (Mission, Missional Priorities, Emerging Missional Priorities):**

Applications from World Service funded program agencies will be considered for this funding. In reviewing applications, the Connectional Table will consider the following criteria:

- i. Ministry that addresses the missional priorities of the denomination, which are currently Vital Congregations through the Four Areas of Focus. Such ministry should further the mission of the Church and have impact beyond what any one agency or connectional body can do.
- ii. Ministry that furthers The United Methodist Church's worldwide identity.
- iii. Ministry that is innovative, adaptive and encourages experimentation.
- iv. Ministry that addresses emerging priorities.
- v. Ministry that is collaborative, non-duplicative and nurtures partnership. Such ministry should be beyond existing disciplinary mandates.
- vi. Recognizing that our connection is in a time of adaptation and change, this contingency can also fund transition to new ways of functioning.

Examples of already-existing ministries that have been supported by this fund are the collaborative work of the Immigration Task Force and COSROW's collaborative work on boundaries training through the Do No Harm events. Increasing this fund will give the connection greater opportunities to support innovation that addresses emerging needs.

At a time of great change, this fund also can give our connection the “imaginative capacity” to adapt, dream and develop the ministries that will lead us into the future.

2. THE SMALLER WORLD-SERVICE FUNDED COMMISSIONS

We recommend maintaining the current funding levels of three of the smaller World Service funded commissions (*The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCOSROW)*, *the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR)*, and *the Commission on United Methodist Men (UMM)*). **(See Allocation Worksheet, Appendix B). Rationale (Core Mission Sustainability, Fairness/Justice, Emerging Missional Priorities):**

- a. In the course of our listening sessions with the general secretaries, there was an expressed desire amongst that body to protect the core mission of the smaller commissions. The general secretaries affirmed, with us, that the smaller commissions have more limited revenue sources and reserve capacity.
- b. In line with the values of core mission sustainability and fairness, we recognize that a significant budget cut would prevent these three commissions from being able to sustain thriving ministry.
- c. In addition, COSROW and GCORR, and to a lesser extent UMM, are heavily dependent on apportionments for their program. Apportionment income as a percent of total expenses exceeds 75% for COSROW and GCORR.
- d. We recognized, in particular, the emerging issues related to the #MeToo movement and growing racism and authoritarianism around the world, that have made the work of GCORR, on cultural competency, of COSROW, on boundaries training and response team preparation, and of UMM on domestic violence prevention, especially important.

THE GENERAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation²</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$3,957,518	0.8%	\$3,958,000	1.1%	0.2%

² Rounded

THE GENERAL COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$7,354,467	1.6%	\$7,354,000	2%	0.5%

UNITED METHODIST MEN

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$1,476,974	0.3%	\$1,477,000	0.4%	0.1%

3. THE NATIONAL PLANS (Korean Ministry Plan, Comprehensive Plan for Pacific Island United Methodists, Asian American Language Ministries, Native American Comprehensive Plan, Strengthening the Black Church for the Twenty-First Century, National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry)

We recommend maintaining the current funding level for the National Plans, but seek to raise some key questions and considerations for the future. **(See Allocation Worksheet, Appendix B). Rationale (Core Mission Sustainability, Fairness/Justice, Mission, Emerging Missional Priorities):**

- a. We believe that the National Plans represent important ministry potential for the Church to more fully address a diversifying mission field in the United States. They are important to the UMC living more fully into its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- b. We also affirm that the National Plans are important in providing empowerment for underserved populations and communities.
- c. In line with our stated values of core missional sustainability and fairness, we recognize that a significant reduction in funding for some of the National Plans would negatively impact their ability to sustain their core mission.
- d. We are encouraged that the National Plans are currently involved in conversations about their future, and we would not want to impede those conversations by greatly decreasing funding at this time. However, we raise several questions that we suggest the National Plans engage over the remainder of the quadrennium as they have conversations about future mission and direction. These questions are as follows:

- i. What is the role of the National Plans within a worldwide Church? How do the National Plans further the UMC’s identity as a worldwide connection?
- ii. Might there be greater missional alignment and collaboration if the National Plans were associated with just one general agency. If this would provide needed synergy, which general agency would make the best missional fit?
- iii. We are aware that there have been conversations about consolidating the National Plans for missional impact. Noting that there are great differences in funding (for instance the Korean National Plan is funded at 300% of the Native American Plan), might the National Plans consolidate and pool resources for greater missional impact for all of the populations served?

KOREAN MINISTRY PLAN (KMP)

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$3,061,048	0.7%	\$3,060,000	0.8%	0.2%

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR
PACIFIC ISLAND UNITED METHODISTS (CPPIUM)**

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$540,302	0.1%	\$540,000	0.1%	0%

ASIAN AMERICAN LANGUAGE MINISTRIES (AALM)

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$1,398,428	0.3%	\$1,400,000	0.4%	0.1%

NATIVE AMERICAN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (NACP)

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$1,073,317	0.2%	\$1,075,000	0.3%	0.1%

STRENGTHENING THE BLACK CHURCH FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY (SBC21)

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$1,976,432	0.4%	\$1,975,000	0.5%	0.1%

NATIONAL PLAN FOR HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY (NPHLM)

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$3,143,830	0.7%	\$3,144,000	0.9%	0.2%

- 4. UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS (UMCOM)**— We recommend that the approximate \$1.432 million UMCOM receives as a fixed charge³ for the interpretation and promotion of giving for the World Service Fund remain unchanged. We also recommend that its on-ratio⁴ World Service funding be reduced by 37% due to the missional capacity that its reserves represent. We acknowledge that this change in funding will be challenging. However, we believe that UMCOM can continue to thrive. *(See Allocation Worksheet, Appendix B).*
Rationale (Stewardship, Mission, Core Mission Sustainability, Justice and Fairness):

United Methodist Communications is the communications agency of The United Methodist Church. It works globally to establish communications platforms

³Note that UMCOM receives funds for Interpretation Resources as a fixed charge of the World Service apportionment. These funds are used to promote giving and to help members of the connection understand the connectional funds to which they give. UMCOM also receives separately another approximate \$1.7 million for the interpretation and promotion of giving for Special Sundays.

⁴On-Ratio charges can change based on the payout rate or percentage of actual revenues coming in from the annual conferences. Fixed Charges do not change based on revenues.

throughout the connection and supports local churches and annual conferences in their communications efforts. We affirm the ministry UMCOM is continuing to do and we raise the following celebrations and considerations:

- a. We celebrate that UMCOM has substantial resources for mission. UMCOM’s reserves are substantial relative to other agencies and funds. It has net assets approaching \$75 million and receives the third largest apportionment allocation for the current quadrennium.
- b. Considering board-designated and undesignated assets, UMCOM has \$20 million in assets available within one year, which represents 194% of its expenses. This means that UMCOM could sustain its programming for nearly two years without any additional resources.
- c. UMCOM supports nearly 80% of its expenses with its \$70 million from apportionment dollars, which indicates a low use of its substantial reserve capacity.
- d. Stewardship and focus on the mission are key values in our allocations process. Good stewardship dictates the need for a prudent balance between apportioned funds and other resources, including reserves. When funds accumulate and grow over a long period of time, it is prudent to redirect limited apportionment resources to other missional areas (other agencies and funds).
- e. This change in allocation for UMCOM recognizes that its core mission can be sustained with a more accelerated right-sizing of its reserves or other resources and allows us to minimize the budgetary impact of the change in the base rate on the other agencies and funds and allocate for missional impact for the future.

UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$71,651,059	15.3%	\$45,000,000	12.4%	-2.9%

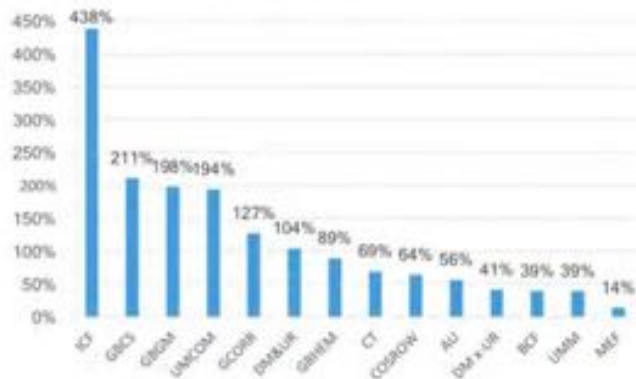
UMCOM & ICF

Values: Stewardship, Mission, Core Mission Sustainability, Justice/Fairness

Why: Considerations of financial capacity and reserves

- UMCOM: -37%
- ICF: -88%

• Funds available within 1 year, including board-designated: Total Expense



5. INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND (ICF)

We recommend reducing the funding for the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (ICF) by 88% for the 2021-2024 quadrennium only. The recommended 88% reduction represents a grant of \$1 million in funding pending further conversation and clarification.

(See Allocation Worksheet, Appendix B). Rationale (Stewardship, Mission, Core Mission Sustainability):

- The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund was created to fund ecumenical work largely through the dispersal of grants to organizations such as the World Council of Churches, the Pan Methodist Commission, the National Council of Churches and others. We recognize that this is important work. However, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund has significantly underutilized apportionment receipts over the past three quadrennia.
- As a result, by the end of 2017 this fund had accumulated reserves more than four times larger than its 2017 expenses.⁵ In addition, reserve levels are expected to grow another \$600,000 by the end of 2018.

⁵ At the end of 2017, ICF had 438% cash and investments relative to how much they spent.

- c. Taken together, ICF’s unspent receipts (reserves) are enough to cover all expenses for the 2021-2024 quadrennium based on recent spending patterns without the allocation of additional apportionments.
- d. We have already highlighted that stewardship and focus on the mission are key values in our allocations process. Good stewardship dictates that funds given through the apportionment be used to carry out mission. When funds accumulate and grow over a long period of time, it is prudent to redirect those funds to missional areas where they are needed and will be used.
- e. We also realize that the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund is revisioning for the future. For that reason, we are recommending the \$1 million in funding so that ICF can continue to vision and plan for ways in which it will utilize apportionments for mission while keeping its current activities funded through reserves.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$8,003,220	1.7%	\$1,000,000	.3%	-1.4%

OUR APPROACH TO RESERVES

The Connectional Table does not have a mandate to determine how agency or fund reserves should be managed. That is a decision of a board of directors of an agency or fund. The board determines reserve policies and missional uses of those reserves. The board can determine, when to designate reserves and when to exclude reserves from designation.

The CT's role is to allocate apportioned funds in light of the full disclosure of financial data. The Allocations Team has taken reserve levels into consideration as one indicator of financial capacity. The recommended allocations, based on financial capacity and other factors, do not dictate how agencies or funds should handle reserves. The realities of a reduced budget, however, require agencies and funds to manage their ministries with fewer resources. Whether an agency or fund decides to deal with that reality by tapping reserves or other resources, or by reducing program or both, is at the discretion of the agency or fund.

To better clarify how the Allocations Team considered reserves as an indicator of financial capacity, we offer the following observations and assumptions:

- We affirmed that agency financial structures and commitments are very different. We did not view all agencies in the same way or all agency reserves in the same way. For instance, we recognized that some of our agencies have reserves that are tied up in pension liabilities or commitments related to loans.
- Likewise, we assumed that substantial reserves that are not connected to such commitments indicate financial capacity to sustain funding reductions while sustaining core mission. This assertion also assumes that everyone will still need to focus mission at a time of shrinking resources. No resources were off the table.
- We assumed that if a board designates funds for reserves, it can also re-designate those funds for mission.
- We affirmed that agencies and funds need to have healthy reserves and internal policies to manage reserves. However, we also acknowledge that different agencies have differing levels of reserves and that there is no consensus about what are appropriate levels of reserves. It is of note that our primary financial institution, the General Council on Finance and Administration, has set an internal reserves policy for itself that mandates 3-6 months in operating expenses be kept in reserves. We would encourage the whole denomination to engage the conversation about contextually prudent upper and lower limits for reserve levels.
- We considered many factors beyond reserves including:
 - Revenue streams beyond apportionments
 - Other assets

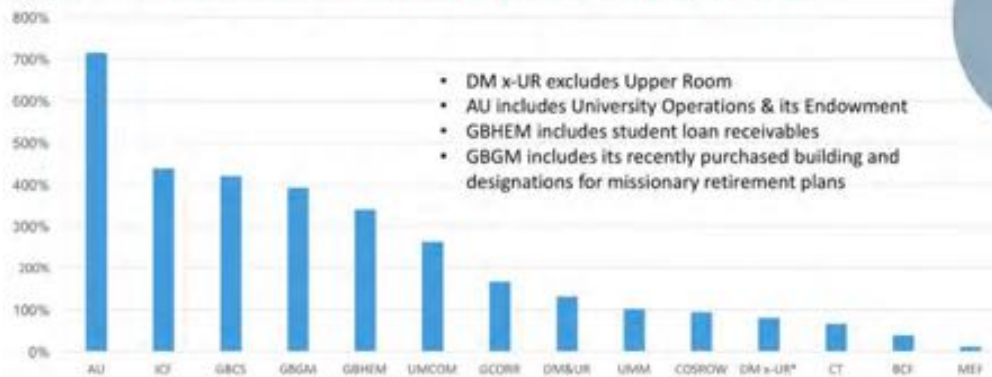
In our discussion about reserves we highlighted the values of mission, stewardship, core mission sustainability, transparency, and fairness/justice. We also grounded our thinking theologically in our understandings of connectionalism. In light of these values, we raise the following questions for consideration by our whole connection:

1. Considering that all monies given to agencies from apportioned funds ultimately come from the local church, is it a fair assumption that local churches give for mission? In what way can the whole church (including local churches and annual conferences) have a voice about reserve levels as they relate to the mission of our whole connection? **Values: mission, stewardship.**
2. How do reserve levels within different agencies comport with the priorities of the denomination as a whole? As a connectional church, and as the Body of Christ, how should we view reserves in light of the mission of the whole body? **Values: mission, stewardship.**
3. High reserves that are not allocated to legacy commitments such as pensions or loan liabilities indicate financial capacity. How is the denomination to balance the differences in financial capacity between agencies at a time of limited resources? One way to do this would be to grant a smaller allocation in apportioned funds because an agency with greater reserves has greater capacity. This is the approach that the Allocations Team took. Is it therefore appropriate to consider, in addition to other factors, the differing financial capacity of agencies based on reserve levels and the nature of commitments related to those reserves? **Values: fairness/justice, transparency, core mission sustainability.**
4. It has been suggested that reserves not be considered in the allocations process. Should the allocations and budgeting process include the full disclosure of all financial data? **Values: Transparency, Stewardship.**

AN ADDITIONAL OBSERVATION: As has been stressed before, we support the maintenance of prudent reserve levels. However, we recognize that there are varying understandings of what is prudent. We would therefore encourage future conversations that could provide guidance about appropriate levels (upper and lower thresholds) of reserves. Such guidance should consider differing financial structures and contexts and be grounded in a holistic understanding of the mission of The United Methodist Church.

NET ASSETS: 2017 TOTAL EXPENSES (%)

NOTE: THE COMPLEXION OF BALANCE SHEETS VARIES GREATLY

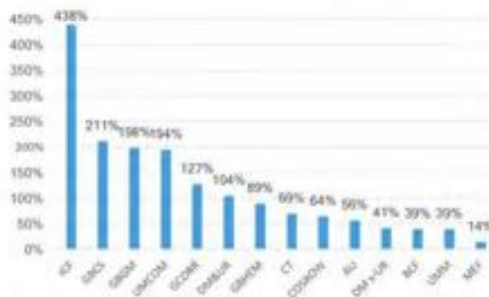


- DM x-UR excludes Upper Room
- AU includes University Operations & its Endowment
- GBHEM includes student loan receivables
- GBGM includes its recently purchased building and designations for missionary retirement plans

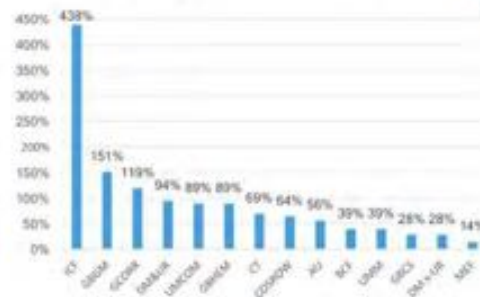
- A high ratio is an indication of financial capacity and solvency; assets may also represent significant donor-restricted assets that can't be spent in the short term.

FUNDS AVAILABLE WITHIN ONE YEAR TO MEET EXPENSES

FUNDS AVAILABLE WITHIN 1 YEAR, INCLUDING BOARD-DESIGNATED: TOTAL EXPENSE

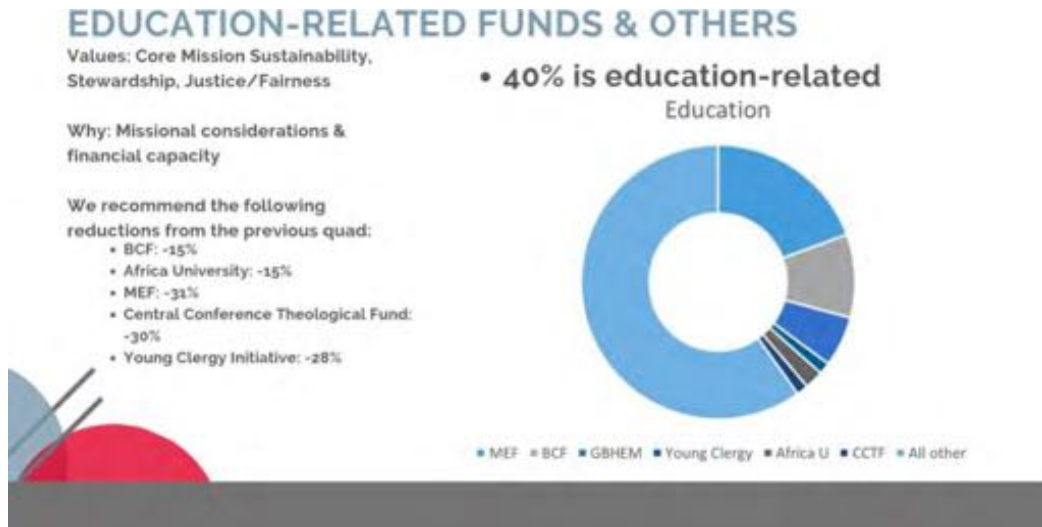


FUNDS AVAILABLE WITHIN 1 YEAR, EXCLUDING BOARD-DESIGNATED: TOTAL EXPENSE



- Indicates for how long an organization can pay its bills relative to prior year expenses; excludes things like real estate that would take more than a year to liquidate/access

6. EDUCATION FUNDS—We recommend reducing the allocation related to three education funds—Ministerial Education Fund (MEF), the Black College Fund (BCF) and Africa University (AU). *(See Allocation Worksheet, Appendix B). Rationale (Core Mission Sustainability, Stewardship):*



We recognize that these funds are crucial for preparing and equipping the future and current leaders of the Church. As well, all of these funds help to ensure the theological integrity of our connection.

- a. **MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND (MEF)**—The Ministerial Education Fund has the second highest (in excess of \$100 million) allocation from apportionments, second only to the General Board of Global Ministries. We believe that its core mission can be sustained with a recommended 31% reduction.

This recommended reduction in MEF should spur a needed conversation about whether or not we can continue to support 13 seminaries and all of our current licensing schools given declining resources. Associated questions and considerations include the following:

- I. We understand that a reduction in MEF could impact the connection between our seminaries and The United Methodist Church, as well as the associated training of United Methodist scholars. We encourage GBHEM to engage a conversation about how to nurture these relationships with our schools and seminaries in other ways beyond funding?

- II. In line with our value of stewardship, we acknowledge that each institution has other sources of funding, including funds coming from their own fundraising and endowments.
 - III. We understand that a reduction in funds allocated to the annual conferences could impact licensing schools and annual conference efforts to reduce clergy indebtedness. For this reason, we would encourage GBHEM to engage a conversation about the formula that determines how much goes to the annual conference and how much to the general Church.
- b. **BLACK COLLEGE FUND (BCF)**—In line with the values of core mission sustainability and fairness, we have limited the recommended reduction in the Black College Fund (relative to other reductions) to only 15%. We recommended this comparatively modest reduction in recognition of the historical significance and importance of Black colleges to The United Methodist Church and with a desire to sustain the core mission of this fund. We would raise some issues for consideration as follows:
- i. In light of the values of stewardship and mission, we would encourage examination of the distribution methodology for the Black College Fund. We do not believe that the continued practice of distributing funds equally to the Black Colleges is missionally sustainable. In addition, we would encourage exploration of how BCF disbursements are used by recipients and support the Church’s and colleges’ missions.
 - ii. We also would encourage some attention to how internal governance within our structure is impacting missional decisions.
- c. **AFRICA UNIVERSITY (AU)**—Given the importance of Africa University on the African continent and beyond, we sought to limit the recommended reduction to 15%—one of the lower recommendations for reductions in this allocation of funds. We raise the following observations and considerations:
- i. In recognition of the importance of the AU development office, which is the primary recipient of World Service funds on behalf of AU, it is our intent to ensure the sufficiency of proposed funds for AU’s development functions.
 - ii. We also recognize the complexity of AU’S governance structures and ministry, and we celebrate the ways in which AU has been accountable for the missional and effective deployment of its resources. We also affirm AU’s success at fundraising, its ability to

build its endowment, and the positive impact it has had on other fundraising efforts within the denomination.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$104,949,647	22.4%	\$72,000,000	19.9%	-2.5%

BLACK COLLEGE FUND

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$41,863,455	9%	\$35,584,000	9.8%	0.9%

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$9,368,872	2%	\$8,000,000	2.2%	0.2%

7. GENERAL CONFERENCE-GENERATED FUNDING FROM WORLD SERVICE—We have recommended reducing allocations to funds created by the General Conference, namely the **Central Conference Theological Fund** and the **Young Clergy Initiative**. (*See Allocation Worksheet, Appendix B*). **Rationale (Stewardship, Core Mission Sustainability, Justice/Fairness):**

- a. **The Young Clergy Initiative.** The United Methodist Church has been making efforts to recruit, train and retain young clergy for several quadrennia. Indeed, the Young Clergy Initiative was created in 2013 to continue this effort over three quadrennia, and we are seeing fruit.
 - i. One of the ways that we have seen fruit is that a commitment to the development of young clergy has become part of the culture of annual conferences and is being carried out across the denomination, at the general Church level, in the annual conferences and within local churches.

- ii. Therefore, in line with our values around stewardship and in the belief that the core mission of this fund can still be sustained, we have recommended reducing the funding to this initiative by 28%. Note also that at \$6.9 million current funding, the Young Clergy Initiative enjoys more abundant funding than two of our commissions which have a broader scope of ministry to sustain.
- iii. The Young Clergy Initiative was to extend through the 2021-2024 quadrennium. It would be prudent for GBHEM to begin now for transition planning as this initiative reaches completion.

b. **The Central Conference Theological Education Fund.** This fund was created at General Conference in 2012 and then doubled in size to \$10 million in 2016, by action from the floor of General Conference. To accommodate this significant increase, the budget was increased. Considering the current financial situation, we have recommended a \$7 million allocation, which is a 30% reduction in this fund. We recognize the importance of this area of ministry and note the following:

- i. In the 2016-2020 quadrennium, purposeful efforts are being made to create an endowment fund to support the long-term sustainability of theological education in the central conferences.
- ii. In addition, theological education in the central conferences is being supported through other work of the general agencies. Financial support also is coming from the central conferences.
- iii. This recommended allocation is still \$2 million more than the original 2012 allocation. We believe that this allocation, with the development of other revenue streams, can continue to sustain the important ministry of theological education in the central conferences.

YOUNG CLERGY INITIATIVE

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$6,952,413	1.5%	\$5,000,000	1.4%	-0.1%

THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$10,000,000	2.1%	\$7,000,000	1.9%	-0.2%

- 8. THE GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH & SOCIETY (GBCS)**—Though the effective reduction in the base rate and other changes in the budget have led to an expected 22.7% decrease in apportionments, we have limited the recommended reduction for the General Board of Church and Society to 20%. We acknowledge that this change in funding will be challenging. However, we believe that even with this change, GBCS can continue to thrive with greater collaboration and exploration of alternative sources of revenue. ***(See Allocation Worksheet, Appendix B). Rationale: Core Mission Sustainability, Mission, Emerging Missional Priorities, Stewardship, Justice and Fairness):***

The General Board of Church and Society is the primary body that promotes our Social Principles, thereby extending the witness of The United Methodist Church around the world. It is unique in its call to make advocacy foundational as it seeks to address issues that are emerging in importance and impact, such as global migration, rising authoritarianism, climate change and poverty. We affirm the ministry that GBCS has done and is continuing to do through the wise and prophetic use of its resources, and we raise the following celebrations and considerations:

- i. We celebrate that, in terms of financial capacity and solvency, GBCS has the third highest ratio of net assets to expenses (2017). As well, GBCS is well-reserved. In line with the values we have raised, we believe that GBCS’s core mission can be sustained.

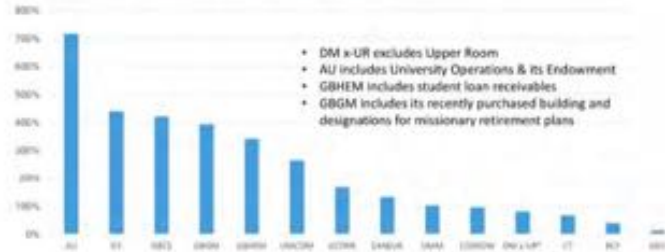
PROGRAM AGENCIES

Values: Core Mission
Sustainability, Mission, Emerging
Missional Priorities, Stewardship,
Justice/Fairness

Why: Considerations of financial
capacity and solvency

- GBHEM: -20%
- GBCS: -20%
- GBGM: -20%
- Discipleship Ministries: -15%

Net Assets: 2017 Total Expenses (%)



THE GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$11,021,677	2.4%	\$8,800,000	2.4%	0.1%

- 9. THE GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY (GBHEM)**—We also have limited our recommended reduction for GBHEM to 20% even though we expect a 22.7 percent decrease in the amount available to allocate this quadrennium. We know that this will still be challenging for GBHEM, however we believe that GBHEM can continue to thrive with greater collaboration and exploration of alternative sources of revenue. *(See Allocation Worksheet, Appendix B). Rationale: Core Mission Sustainability, Mission, Emerging Missional Priorities, Stewardship, Justice and Fairness):*

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry is the primary credentialing body for our denomination. Its work with United Methodist schools and seminaries is crucial to maintaining our theological heritage and the theological integrity of our connection. We affirm GBHEM’s ministry and the ways in which it has used its resources, and we raise the following celebrations and considerations:

- i. We celebrate the financial solvency and capacity of GBHEM which has the second highest ratio of net assets to expenses. It also is well reserved.
- ii. We have noted that GBHEM has expansive mandates in the Book of Discipline (32 objectives per ¶1405). We recognize that this change in allocations may necessitate GBHEM focusing its ministry and perhaps proposing legislation to General Conference to modify the scope of its work.

THE GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$26,932,588	5.8%	\$21,546,000	6%	0.2%

10. THE GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES (GBGM)—We have limited our recommended reduction for GBGM to 20% as well, a recommended reduction that is lower than the expected 22.7 percent decrease in the amount available to allocate this quadrennium. We also believe that though this change will be challenging, GBGM can continue to thrive with greater collaboration and exploration of alternative sources of revenue. *(See Allocation Worksheet, Appendix B). Rationale: Core Mission Sustainability, Mission, Emerging Missional Priorities, Stewardship, Justice and Fairness):*

The General Board of Global Ministries is helping to reshape missionary service by training, equipping and sending missionaries “from everywhere to everywhere.” We affirm GBGM’s ministry and the ways in which it effectively utilizes resources, and we raise the following celebrations and considerations:

- i. We celebrate that GBGM has the highest net assets of all of the agencies. It is well reserved, though much of its reserve is donor designated or tied to missionary pensions.
- ii. GBGM has recently relocated to an area that will better sustain its mission into the future. As well, GBGM has made it a priority to reflect the worldwide Church in its hiring, in its deployment of missionaries and in its overall ministry model.

THE GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$111,338,501	23.8%	\$89,071,000	24.6%	0.8%

11. DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES (DM)— Discipleship Ministries is in a financially sensitive position, and we have concerns about the sustainability of its core mission at a time of great need for the growth of the Church. For instance, in terms of net assets to total expenses for 2017, Discipleship Ministries had the lowest ratio of any of the general agencies or commissions by a significant margin. It also has less than a three-month reserve. For these reasons and others, we have limited our recommended reduction for Discipleship Ministries to 15%. We know that this recommended reduction will still be challenging, yet we believe that Discipleship Ministries can continue to thrive with greater collaboration and exploration of alternative sources of revenue. *(See Allocation Worksheet, Appendix B). Rationale: Core Mission Sustainability, Mission, Emerging Missional Priorities, Stewardship, Justice and Fairness):*

Discipleship Ministries is leading our denomination in evangelism as the agency seeks to help annual conferences and local congregations, “See All the People” around them. Such ministry is crucial to the continued growth of the Church and the continued learning that is necessary as we seek to better reach out to a changing mission field. We celebrate the prophetic leadership of Discipleship Ministries and we raise the following observations and considerations:

- i. We celebrate that Discipleship Ministries is ahead of the curve in focusing its ministry for strategic impact. It has reorganized its staff to better focus its mission. This reorganization is having positive budgetary impact and reflects good stewardship and a healthy understanding of the connection’s current financial reality.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$34,952,169	7.5%	\$29,700,000	8.2%	0.7%

12. The Connectional Table (CT)— We are recommending a 5% reduction in CT’s allocation. *(See Allocation Worksheet, Appendix B)*. **Rationale: Core Mission Sustainability, fairness.**

The Connectional Table discerns and articulates the vision for our worldwide Church and stewards the mission, ministry and resources of our connection in consultation with the Council of Bishops. We celebrate the ways in which the CT is living more fully into this purpose with a sustained focus on vital congregations through the Four Areas of Focus and the worldwide nature of our Church, and we offer the following considerations:

- a. GCFA made a similar 5% reduction in the allocation for General Commission on Archives and History from the General Administration Fund. This recommendation for the CT is in line with that, and we believe can sustain the CT’s core mission.
- b. Note, however, that the Connectional Table is already carrying out its responsibilities with a very limited staff and has depleted some reserves.
- c. The CT anticipates being able to revise its makeup to become a smaller body that better reflects the worldwide Church. However, this change is unlikely to decrease meeting and travel expenses because it will reflect a better representation from the central conferences.
- d. In addition, the Connectional Table is heavily dependent on apportionments. And, unlike the general agencies, the CT cannot apply for contingency funds. A more substantial reduction in allocation would impact the CT’s ability to carry out its work.

THE CONNECTIONAL TABLE

<i>Current Allocation</i>	<i>Current Percentage (of available funds)</i>	<i>Next Quad Recommendation</i>	<i>Next Quad Percentage</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
\$2,140,350	0.5%	\$2,033,000	0.6%	0.1%

SIDEBAR B: THE SHARE OF THE PIE

As you can see from the chart, we have not actually changed the share of the budget allocated (size of the slice of the pie) significantly in most cases. Indeed, all except five agencies/funds show an increase in their share of the overall budget. This does not mean that agencies and funds are not experiencing budget reductions. However, as we have stressed, the reductions in the overall budget are because of the decrease in the funds available for allocation—a decrease in the size of the pie. Such reductions are separate from changes that result from a shift in the allocations—or in how the pie is cut. As the chart suggests, the actual share of the budget (share of the pie) has increased for most agencies and funds.

Of course, no agency or fund wanted to experience reductions. When we released preliminary recommendations on January 11, 2019, we received requests for reconsideration totaling approximately \$26.7 million. These requests exceeded what we had to allocate. We did, however, reconsider in some cases by shifting funds from the World Service Contingency Fund.



AGENCY/ FUND	CURRENT % ALLOCATION	PROPOSED % ALLOCATION	% CHANGE	INC./DEC. SHARE
GBGM	23.8	24.6	0.8	Increase
MEF	22.4	19.9	-2.5	Decrease
UMCOM	15.3	12.4	-2.9	Decrease
BCF	9.0	9.8	0.9	Increase
DM	7.5	8.2	0.7	Increase
GBHEM	5.8	6	0.2	Increase
GBCS	2.4	2.4	0.1	Increase
CCTF	2.1	1.9	-0.2	Decrease
AU	2.0	2.2	0.2	Increase
ICF	1.7	0.3	-1.4	Decrease
GCORR	1.6	2	0.5	Increase
YCI	1.5	1.4	-0.1	Decrease
COSROW	0.8	1.1	0.2	Increase
NPHLM	0.7	0.9	0.2	Increase
KMP	0.7	0.8	0.2	Increase
CT	0.5	0.6	0.1	Increase
SBC21	0.4	0.5	0.1	Increase
UMM	0.3	0.4	0.1	Increase
NACP	0.3	0.3	0.1	Increase
AALM	0.3	0.4	0.1	increase
CPPIUM	0.1	0.1	0	No Change

13. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AGENCIES AND FUNDS—In addition to the recommendations for the agencies and funds that we have highlighted in this document, we make the following suggestions:

- a. That all agencies and funds review their disciplinary mandates to ensure the scope of expectation is in line with financial resources. In some cases, agencies or funds may wish to suggest revisions to their mandates.
- b. That World Service funded agencies explore alternative sources of revenue beyond World Service allocations such as an increase in the annual Benefit Trust disbursement, a review of board and donor designated assets for purpose and missional alignment, and changes in spending policies on invested assets.
- c. That all agencies review their governance structures to ensure boards understand their fiduciary responsibilities to the respective agencies and to any funds that they oversee.
 - i. Further, that governance structures and practices ensure that funds are represented in decision-making processes in ways that further the specific fund’s mission.
- d. That our agencies and funds explore greater collaboration and seek to decrease duplicative services. One such example is in having publishing operations at GBHEM, Discipleship Ministries/Upper Room and the United Methodist Publishing House.
- e. That all of the agencies and funds consider seriously the greater use of shared services including IT, human resources, communications, financial management services and the like. It is likely that the greatest area of duplication among our agencies is in administrative services.
- f. That our agencies and funds explore ways to decrease meeting costs by expanding online meeting capacity and reducing the size of boards where such action has not already occurred and where appropriate.

IN CONCLUSION

This report is being offered to the Connectional Table and the General Council on Finance and Administration for consideration at their joint April 2019 meeting. These bodies will decide whether or not to alter the recommendations it includes or receive them as they are. Ultimately, however, the allocation of the budget is a decision of the General Conference. This allocations report lays before the General Conference key missional and stewardship questions with which we invite it to grapple as it makes decisions about the quadrennial budget.

- How does the General Conference want to respond to the work of the Apportionment Sustainability Task Force? What are the implications for mission of a given response, and will that response achieve the results desired?
- What are the General Conference's missional priorities? If they continue to be the Four Areas of Focus, will the General Conference support a missional use of an increased World Service Contingency Fund to support innovative work in the Four Areas of Focus?
- How does the General Conference want to prioritize the work of the church? If money follows mission, what do the priorities of this budget in the aggregate say about commitment to the mission of the church? For instance, what percentage of the budget does the connection want to spend on specific ministry areas, in the aggregate?

These are the types of missional and stewardship questions we all will face as we seek to proactively prepare for the future. Such preparation is not just about cuts to budgets. It also is about opportunities for creativity, innovation, and change that can help ensure a church for generations to come. This invites us into an imaginative process of rebuilding that is grounded in a vision of hope expressed in the ancient promise of Psalm 69.

³⁵ For God will save Zion
and rebuild the cities of Judah;
and his servants shall live there and possess it;
³⁶ the children of his servants shall inherit it,
and those who love his name shall live in it.

(Psalm 69:35-36, NRSV)

It is this hope upon which we stand.

May God bless and keep you,
Connectional Table Allocations Team

Bishop Christian Alsted



Rev. Kenneth J. Bigham-Tsai



Brad Brady



Amy Coles



Dave Nuckols



Lyssette Perez



APPENDIX A

HISTORICAL ALLOCATIONS TIMELINE

2004-2008

At the 2004 General Conference, the Connectional Table came into being as an outgrowth of the General Council on Ministries. The denomination was enjoying a growth budget. GCFA and the newly-formed CT created a joint *Program Budget Task Group* that provided listening sessions to help set the bottom line and shape the budget. This was the quadrennium where the Four Areas of Focus were set as missional priorities, and there was a mid-quad process around budgeting in line with the Four Areas of Focus.

In the course of the budget process, the agencies provided goals, outcomes and budget requests. At the spring 2007 joint CT/GCFA meeting, the joint Program Budget Task Group listened to each of the agency presentations and made a recommendation about allocations.

Don House, a United Methodist economist, also provided economic projections, and the base percentage rate was set at the spring 2007 meeting. However, because projections were lower than what the agencies had initially requested, the agencies had to reduce their budget requests in the joint meeting.

The Economic Advisory Committee was formed for the next quadrennium in recognition of the need for multiple voices in the setting of projections.

2008-2012

The budget-setting process during this quadrennium happened within the context of the Great Recession. Spurred by denominational decline and a financial crisis, an effort emerged to restructure the denomination. The Tower's Watson Report was commissioned and the Interim Operations Team shaped *The Call to Action*.

There also was a joint CT evaluation and budget group. However, in 2010, the CT decided to separate the budget process from evaluation. That quadrennium a joint CT/GCFA Budget Task Force also was formed to work on the Call to Action and the budget. All agencies and apportioned funds were asked to propose three budgets: no increase, modest decrease, drastic decrease. The allocations stayed generally the same, but all funds were reduced. The change in allocations that did come about did so, not as a result of action by the CT, but as a result of work of the general agencies with the Economic Advisory Committee. Twelve million in allocations shifted from the four major program agencies to fund the Central Conference Theological Fund and the Young Clergy Initiative. These adjustments were targeted to reduce

impact on the smaller agencies. Ultimately the Call to Action and other restructure legislation failed at General Conference.

2012-2016

This quadrennium provided a time to regroup and come together after the tensions that resulted from restructuring efforts. GCFA and CT created two joint teams: The Budget Leadership Team and the Budget Process Team. The Budget Process Team was a larger group that included CT and GCFA members and agency treasurers. However, due to a lack of clarity about roles and responsibilities, this team was disbanded. The Budget Leadership Team (BLT) remained. It developed the Budget Principles and determined that there would be no changes to allocations to allow time for trust and relationship building. These budget principles were approved by both CT and GCFA boards.

In 2013, the EAC, with Don House as chair, did a preliminary bottom line projection. The CT Finance Committee went to the August 2014 GCFA meeting to approve the bottom line. The recommendations from the various groups changed throughout the quadrennium: the EAC's preliminary projection was \$625 million with the BLT proposing \$617 million. The EAC updated its projections to \$603 million using the next year's lower than anticipated worship attendance figures. Thus, the new bottom line recommendation was \$603 million, which the CT supported. The general secretaries then proposed an even lower figure of \$599 million. Ultimately, the \$599 million proposal went to the General Conference. Delegates added five million for the Central Conference Theological Fund for a \$604 million budget.

2016-2020

The budget setting-process this quadrennium has been the work of a joint Budget Advisory Team comprised of CT and GCFA members and staff. That team has refined and approved budget principles. The CT and GCFA boards also approved a collaboration agreement in 2017 that details how the CT and GCFA will work together. In addition, the CT has again proposed separating the evaluation and budgeting process, noting that the evaluation data will be used in the budget process this quadrennium as descriptive, not evaluative of the ministries of the agencies.

At their August 2018 meeting, GCFA set the base percentage rate, reflecting an 18% reduction. Because of changes to the Episcopal Fund, this reduction will actually be an estimated 23%. This base rate was set with input from the BAT. However, GCFA has determined, based on their reading of the Discipline, that the full CT will not have a role in setting the base rate as has been done in the past and reflected in our Guiding Principles and Budget Timeline. The CT has formed a CT Budget Allocations Team to determine allocations per the CT's approved process. This team will do its work in preparation for a CT vote on allocations at the spring 2019 joint meeting with GCFA.

APPENDIX B

	2017-2020 Quad	Current %	2021-2024 Quad	Change in \$\$	Change in %	Share in %	Change in % Share
Total Apportioned @ 3.27 Net Expenditures	\$ 604,033,991		\$ 498,654,000	\$ (105,379,991)	-17%		
Less							
Episcopal Fund	\$ 92,019,335		\$ 100,026,000	\$ 8,006,665	9%		
General Administration Fund	\$ 36,896,453		\$ 30,170,000	\$ (6,726,453)	-18%		
Available before fixed charges & On-Ratio	\$ 475,118,203		\$ 368,458,000	\$ (106,660,203)	-22%		
Fixed Charges							
Interdenomination GCFA-Fixed	\$ 204,600		\$ 64,000	\$ (140,600)	-69%		
GCFA	\$ 7,372,537		\$ 6,839,000	\$ (533,537)	-7%		
Total Fixed Charges	\$ 7,577,137		\$ 6,903,000	\$ (674,137)	-9%		
On-Ratio & Fixed-Available	\$ 467,541,066		\$ 361,555,000	\$ (105,986,066)	-23%		
Fixed							
Connectional Table	\$ 2,140,350	0.5%	\$ 2,033,000	\$ (107,350)	-5%	0.6%	0.1%
Interpretation Resources	\$ 1,432,197	0.3%	\$ 1,432,000	\$ (197)	0%	0.4%	0.1%
Total Fixed	\$ 3,572,547	0.8%	\$ 3,465,000	\$ (107,547)	-3%	1.0%	0.2%
On Ratio							
COSROW	\$ 3,957,518	0.8%	\$ 3,958,000	\$ 482	0%	1.1%	0.2%
GCORR	\$ 7,354,467	1.6%	\$ 7,354,000	\$ (467)	0%	2.0%	0.5%
Minority Group Self-Determination Fund	\$ 2,488,777	0.5%	\$ 2,489,000	\$ 223	0%	0.7%	0.2%
United Methodist Men	\$ 1,476,974	0.3%	\$ 1,477,000	\$ 26	0%	0.4%	0.1%
UMCOM	\$ 71,651,059	15.3%	\$ 45,000,000	\$ (26,651,059)	-37%	12.4%	-2.9%
Korean (GBGM)	\$ 3,061,048	0.7%	\$ 3,060,000	\$ (1,048)	0%	0.8%	0.2%
Pacific Island (GBGM)	\$ 540,302	0.1%	\$ 540,000	\$ (302)	0%	0.1%	0.0%
Asian American (GBGM)	\$ 1,398,428	0.3%	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,572	0%	0.4%	0.1%
Native American (DM)	\$ 1,073,317	0.2%	\$ 1,075,000	\$ 1,683	0%	0.3%	0.1%
Strengthening the Black Church (DM)	\$ 1,976,432	0.4%	\$ 1,975,000	\$ (1,432)	0%	0.5%	0.1%
National Hispanic Plan (GBGM)	\$ 3,143,830	0.7%	\$ 3,144,000	\$ 170	0%	0.9%	0.2%
Interdenominational Cooperation	\$ 8,003,220	1.7%	\$ 1,000,000	\$ (7,003,220)	-88%	0.3%	-1.4%
Ministerial Education (inc AC 25% share)	\$ 104,949,647	22.4%	\$ 72,000,000	\$ (32,949,647)	-31%	19.9%	-2.5%
Black College Fund	\$ 41,863,455	9.0%	\$ 35,584,000	\$ (6,279,455)	-15%	9.8%	0.9%
Africa University	\$ 9,368,872	2.0%	\$ 8,000,000	\$ (1,368,872)	-15%	2.2%	0.2%
Central Conference Theological Fund (HEM)	\$ 10,000,000	2.1%	\$ 7,000,000	\$ (3,000,000)	-30%	1.9%	-0.2%
Young Clergy Initiative (HEM)	\$ 6,952,413	1.5%	\$ 5,000,000	\$ (1,952,413)	-28%	1.4%	-0.1%
GBHEM	\$ 26,932,588	5.8%	\$ 21,546,000	\$ (5,386,588)	-20%	6.0%	0.2%
GBCS	\$ 11,021,677	2.4%	\$ 8,800,000	\$ (2,221,677)	-20%	2.4%	0.1%
GBGM	\$ 111,338,501	23.8%	\$ 89,071,000	\$ (22,267,501)	-20%	24.6%	0.8%
DM	\$ 34,952,169	7.5%	\$ 29,700,000	\$ (5,252,169)	-15%	8.2%	0.7%
Total On-Ratio-Program Agencies	\$ 463,504,694	34%	\$ 349,173,000	\$ (114,331,694)	-25%	96.6%	62.9%
World Service Contingency Fund	\$ 463,825		\$ 8,917,000	\$ 8,453,175	1822%	2.5%	2.5%
Total On-Ratio	\$ 463,968,519	99.2%	\$ 358,090,000	\$ (105,878,519)	-23%	99.0%	-0.2%
Grand Total On Ratio, CT & Interpretation	\$ 467,541,066	100%	\$ 361,555,000	\$ (105,986,066)	-23%	100.0%	0.0%
Running Total of available amount	\$ -		\$ -				

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Recommendations for Allocations of the 2021-2024 Quadrennial Budget **RECONSIDERATIONS AFTER SPECIAL SESSION**

CT Allocations Team Addendum March 19, 2019

After the General Conference 2019 Special Session and continued discussions with the Budget Allocation Team and GCFA staff, the CT allocation team offers the following adjustments to the previous allocation recommendation published in January of 2019.

WORLD SERVICE CONTINGENCY FUND

The team began with \$13.9 million in the World Service Contingency Fund knowing we would reduce it as we adjusted other allocations. The team later arrived at an \$8.9 million recommended allocation for the contingency fund, which was published in the January report, after receiving feedback and requests for reconsideration from the agencies and funds. We believed this funding would nurture collaborative, adaptive, visionary and innovative efforts to bring vitality to our worldwide connection through a sustained focus on evangelism and church growth, ministry with poor and underserved communities, global health and innovation in leadership and leadership development (our Four Areas of Focus) as well as other areas. We further believed that this fund would enable the denomination to respond to emerging missional needs and priorities in an uncertain future.

The team recognizes that the results of the Special Session now leave us in a time of extreme uncertainty and anxiety. To bring stability to our connection at a time when innovation would be an added challenge, the team has decided to return the WSCF to an allocation more in line with past quadrennia.

Rather than allocating nearly \$8.9 million to the World Service Contingency Fund, **the team recommends allocating the majority of the balance based on our values and leaving \$1.4 million in the WCSF.** We realize this is still slightly higher than in the past quad, but in this uncertain time the denomination will need more funds readily available.

PREVIOUS CHANGES- REDUCTION IN WORLD SERVICE CONTINGENCY FUND

After a meeting on January 11 with the General Secretaries, Treasurers and Fund Administrators and requests for reallocation from each fund, the allocation team had previously recommended additions in funding to the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund and the Central Conference Theological Education Fund by reducing the WSCF from its original \$13.9. This included a recommended addition to the Central Conference Theological

Fund of \$2 million in response to feedback from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and others and a desire to continue to highlight the importance of theological education in the central conferences. This also included a \$1 million addition to ICF in response to their request.

SUPPORTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN MINISTRY

In line with our values of mission, missional priorities and emerging missional priorities for the denomination, **the allocations team recommends additional funding for the Ministerial Education Fund, and the Young Clergy Initiative. This additional funding has been made possible by the reduction of the World Service Contingency Fund.** The rationale is as follows:

Based on continued conversations with and requests from individual seminaries, The Association of United Methodist Theological Schools and GBHEM, the allocations team recognized the unique challenges facing our theological institutions, seminarians, and newer clergy throughout our connection. Though The United Methodist Church already greatly values its young people, even greater value must be placed on the future of our denomination during this time of change.

Ministerial Education Fund

The Ministerial Education Fund (MEF), which receives the second-highest recommended allocation from apportionments, supports our 13 seminaries and all of our current licensing schools, even during times of declining resources. A study commissioned by the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS) notes that, MEF is a crucial material connection that the thirteen official seminaries and their students have with the denomination. Our thirteen seminaries educate about 60% of (primarily US) UMC students enrolled in Master of Divinity degree programs as they seek ordination in the UMC. The 13 seminaries, provide the second largest source of funds for the preparation of United Methodist clergy outside the U.S. The allocation team is proud of the historic commitment to MEF as a key indicators of the UMC's dedication to an educated clergy, and we recognize that our Wesleyan tradition and ethos is passed down through education at our seminaries and theological schools. The allocation team was also made aware that a primary use of MEF funds is in supporting scholarships, financial aid, and has allowed seminaries to only increase tuition relative to inflation and absorb the increase of higher education for students in both Master of Divinity programs and Course of Study.

Rather than a 31% reduction, **we recommend a 27% reduction to the Ministerial Education Fund.** This would give the fund an additional \$5 million in its quadrennial allocation, for a total allocation of \$77 million. Note that this \$5 million increase in funding for MEF is in addition to a \$2 million increase previously recommended by the allocation team. This represents a total of \$7 million added to MEF funding. By adding this funding and therefore limiting the reduction to MEF, the allocation team demonstrates a concern for the financial health of United Methodist-affiliated seminaries, and of students seeking ordination. This new recommendation keeps the Ministerial Education Fund closer to its 2017-2020 quadrennial budget.

Young Clergy Initiative

We have already seen the fruits of supporting our young people and early career clergy. The Young Clergy Initiative (created in 2013 to recruit, train and retain young clergy over three quadrennia) has left with us an everlasting commitment to the development of young clergy that has become part of the culture at every level of the denomination, including programs and initiatives coordinated by annual conference and general

agencies. Though The United Methodist Church already greatly values its young people, even greater value must be placed on the future of our denomination during this time of change.

Rather than a 28% reduction, **we recommend a 14% reduction to the Young Clergy Initiative.** This gives the fund a \$6 million budget for the 2021-2024 quadrennium, which is much closer to its budget for the 2017-2020 quad. This 14% reduction is less than the 22.7% reduction in allocation dollars.

Ministerial Education Fund and Young Clergy Initiative are vital, important ministries we do not want to see diminished.

UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS

UMCOM has prioritized collaboration by offering grants to United Methodist Men and The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women that pay the salary and benefits of communicators for those commissions. The team celebrates the spirit of those partnerships and, in March 2019, recommended an additional \$1.5 million allocation to UMCOM. The values of stewardship, emerging missional priorities and core mission are reflected in UMCOM's partnership.

Though UMCOM requested an additional \$8.5 million, the allocation team recommended the additional \$1.5 million to help support the communicators in the smaller World Service funded commissions.

With this addition in funding, we recommend that its on-ratio World Service funding be reduced by 35% instead of 37%, as we continue to highlight the nature of the financial capacity that UMCOM's reserves represent. This allocation increases their share to 12.9% of the proposed budget.

**Request for Reconsideration from Agencies and Fund after January 11 meeting,
and after Special Session 2019.**

AGENCY/FUND	RESPONSE	REQUESTED ADDITION TO ALLOCATION	ACTION IN JANUARY 2019	ACTION IN MARCH 2019	TOTAL CHANGE
The National Plans	Accepted Allocation	NA	No Change	No Change	No Change
Commissions/Smaller Agencies (UMM, COSROW, GCORR, CT)	Accepted Allocation	NA	No Change	No Change	No Change
GBGM, GBCS, GBHEM, DM	Accepted Allocation with some statements of impact	NA	No Change	No Change	No Change
HEM ON BEHALF OF MEF, CCTF, AU, BCF, YCI (EDUCATION FUNDS)	Reconsideration	<u>MEF \$8,700,000</u> <u>CCTF \$4,000,000</u> <u>AU \$431,985</u> <u>BCF \$2,093,110</u> <u>YCI \$909,515</u>	<u>+\$2 million</u> <u>+\$2 million</u> <u>No Change</u> <u>No Change</u> <u>No Change</u>	<u>+\$5 million</u> <u>No Change</u> <u>No Change</u> <u>No Change</u> <u>+\$1 million</u>	<u>+\$7 million</u> <u>+\$2 million</u> <u>No Change</u> <u>No Change</u> <u>+\$1 million</u>
African University	Reconsideration	Requested no reduction funding	No Change	No Change	No Change
UMCOM	Reconsideration	\$ 8,738,295	No Change	+\$1.5 million	+\$1.5 million
ICF	Reconsideration	\$ 1,783,160	+\$1 million	No Change	No Change
WSCF	Reconsideration	N/A	-\$ 5 million	-\$ 7.5 million	-\$ 12.5 million
		Total request reconsideration: \$26,656,065	+\$5 million to agency & funds	+\$7.5 million to agency & funds	

Distribution of the allocation by percentage to each fund

AGENCY/FUND	CURRENT % ALLOCATION	PROPOSED % ALLOCATION	% CHANGE	INC./DEC. SHARE
General Board of Global Ministries	23.8	24.6	0.8	Increase
Ministerial Education Fund	22.4	21.3	-1.1	Decrease
United Methodist Communications	15.3	12.9	-2.4	Decrease
Black College Fund	9.0	9.8	0.9	Increase
Discipleship Ministries	7.5	8.2	0.7	Increase
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	5.8	6	0.2	Increase
General Board of Church and Society*	2.4	2.4	0.1	Increase
Central College Theological Education Fund	2.1	1.9	-0.2	Decrease
Africa University	2.0	2.2	0.2	Increase
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	1.7	0.3	-1.4	Decrease
General Commission on Religion and Race	1.6	2	0.5	Increase
Young Clergy Initiative	1.5	1.7	0.2	Increase
General Commission on the Status and Role of Women	0.8	1.1	0.2	Increase
National Plan Hispanic/Latino Ministry	0.7	0.9	0.2	Increase
Korean Ministry Plan	0.7	0.8	0.2	Increase
Connectional Table	0.5	0.6	0.1	Increase
CORR Action Fund	0.5	0.7	0.2	Increase
Strengthen the Black Church for the 21 st Century	0.4	0.5	0.1	Increase
United Methodist Men	0.3	0.4	0.1	Increase
Native American Comprehensive Plan*	0.3	0.3	0.1	Increase
Asian American Language Ministries	0.3	0.4	0.1	Increase
Interpretation Resources (fixed charge)	0.3	0.4	0.1	Increase
Comprehensive Plan Pacific Island United Methodist	0.1	0.1	0	No Change

(*GBCS and NACP represent a .01 increase in allocation amount according to this chart due to rounding.)

	2017-2020 Quad	Current %	2021-2024 Quad	Change in \$\$	Change in %	Share in %	Change in % Share
Total Apportioned @ 3.27 Net Expenditures	\$ 604,033,991		\$ 498,654,000	\$ (105,379,991)	-17%		
Less							
Episcopal Fund	\$ 92,019,335		\$ 100,026,000	\$ 8,006,665	9%		
General Administration Fund	\$ 36,896,453		\$ 30,170,000	\$ (6,726,453)	-18%		
Available before fixed charges & On-Ratio	\$ 475,118,203		\$ 368,458,000	\$ (106,660,203)	-22%		
Fixed Charges							
Interdenomination GCFA-Fixed	\$ 204,600		\$ 64,000	\$ (140,600)	-69%		
GCFA	\$ 7,372,537		\$ 6,839,000	\$ (533,537)	-7%		
Total Fixed Charges	\$ 7,577,137		\$ 6,903,000	\$ (674,137)	-9%		
On-Ratio & Fixed-Available	\$ 467,541,066		\$ 361,555,000	\$ (105,986,066)	-23%		
Fixed							
Connectional Table	\$ 2,140,350	0.5%	\$ 2,033,000	\$ (107,350)	-5%	0.6%	0.1%
Interpretation Resources	\$ 1,432,197	0.3%	\$ 1,432,000	\$ (197)	0%	0.4%	0.1%
Total Fixed	\$ 3,572,547	0.8%	\$ 3,465,000	\$ (107,547)	-3%	1.0%	0.2%
On Ratio							
COSROW	\$ 3,957,518	0.8%	\$ 3,958,000	\$ 482	0%	1.1%	0.2%
GCORR	\$ 7,354,467	1.6%	\$ 7,354,000	\$ (467)	0%	2.0%	0.5%
Minority Group Self-Determination Fund	\$ 2,488,777	0.5%	\$ 2,489,000	\$ 223	0%	0.7%	0.2%
United Methodist Men	\$ 1,476,974	0.3%	\$ 1,477,000	\$ 26	0%	0.4%	0.1%
UMCOM	\$ 71,651,059	15.3%	\$ 46,500,000	\$ (25,151,059)	-35%	12.9%	-2.5%
Korean (GBGM)	\$ 3,061,048	0.7%	\$ 3,060,000	\$ (1,048)	0%	0.8%	0.2%
Pacific Island (GBGM)	\$ 540,302	0.1%	\$ 540,000	\$ (302)	0%	0.1%	0.0%
Asian American (GBGM)	\$ 1,398,428	0.3%	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,572	0%	0.4%	0.1%
Native American (DM)	\$ 1,073,317	0.2%	\$ 1,075,000	\$ 1,683	0%	0.3%	0.1%
Strengthening the Black Church (DM)	\$ 1,976,432	0.4%	\$ 1,975,000	\$ (1,432)	0%	0.5%	0.1%
National Hispanic Plan (GBGM)	\$ 3,143,830	0.7%	\$ 3,144,000	\$ 170	0%	0.9%	0.2%
Interdenominational Cooperation	\$ 8,003,220	1.7%	\$ 1,000,000	\$ (7,003,220)	-88%	0.3%	-1.4%
Ministerial Education (inc AC 25% share)	\$ 104,949,647	22.4%	\$ 77,000,000	\$ (27,949,647)	-27%	21.3%	-1.2%
Black College Fund	\$ 41,863,455	9.0%	\$ 35,584,000	\$ (6,279,455)	-15%	9.8%	0.9%
Africa University	\$ 9,368,872	2.0%	\$ 8,000,000	\$ (1,368,872)	-15%	2.2%	0.2%
Central Conference Theological Fund (HEM)	\$ 10,000,000	2.1%	\$ 7,000,000	\$ (3,000,000)	-30%	1.9%	-0.2%
Young Clergy Initiative (HEM)	\$ 6,952,413	1.5%	\$ 6,000,000	\$ (952,413)	-14%	1.7%	0.2%
GBHEM	\$ 26,932,588	5.8%	\$ 21,546,000	\$ (5,386,588)	-20%	6.0%	0.2%
GBCS	\$ 11,021,677	2.4%	\$ 8,800,000	\$ (2,221,677)	-20%	2.4%	0.1%
GBGM	\$ 111,338,501	23.8%	\$ 89,071,000	\$ (22,267,501)	-20%	24.6%	0.8%
DM	\$ 34,952,169	7.5%	\$ 29,700,000	\$ (5,252,169)	-15%	8.2%	0.7%
Total On-Ratio-Program Agencies	\$ 463,504,694	34%	\$ 356,673,000	\$ (106,831,694)	-23%	98.6%	65.0%
World Service Contingency Fund	\$ 463,825		\$ 1,417,000	\$ 953,175	206%	0.4%	0.4%
Total On-Ratio	\$ 463,968,519	99.2%	\$ 358,090,000	\$ (105,878,519)	-23%	99.0%	-0.2%
Grand Total On Ratio, CT & Interpretation	\$ 467,541,066	100%	\$ 361,555,000	\$ (105,986,066)	-23%	100.0%	0.0%
Running Total of available amount	\$ -		\$ -				

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CONNECTIONAL TABLE ALLOCATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY for Report Published January 29, 2019

The Connectional Table allocations team began with knowledge that we are in a time of change. In 2021-2024, it is estimated that we will have less money available for the five apportioned funds: World Service, Africa University, Black College Fund, Ministerial Education Fund and the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund. The base rate, as set by GCFA, that will go before the General Conference 2020 is 18% lower than the 2016-2020 quadrennium. Because of changes to the Episcopal Fund, it is effectively a 22.7% reduction. The base rate reductions represent a loss of \$105,986,066 from the current quadrennium and leave us with \$361,555,000 to allocate for the next quadrennium. **Changes in allocations did not cause this reduction. However, agencies and funds will experience varying levels of reductions because of changes in allocations.**

The team acknowledges that the \$106 million budgetary reduction and changes in allocations will not impact agencies and funds the same. Given this new reality, agencies and funds likely will have to focus their ministry, consider reducing programming, seek increased opportunities for collaboration and partnership, and consider new ways of operating that may necessitate petitioning the General Conference for changes in mandates.

OUR PROCESS

Given the new reality of the 22.7% reduction in the base rate, \$106 million budgetary reduction and changes in allocations, the allocations team knew that deep discernment and reflection were needed and, therefore, did not follow the typical budget-setting process. The team began in this mindset.

Since its inception in 2004, the Connectional Table has not made significant changes to allocation amounts. However, there have been adjustments over the years. These adjustments worked to reduce the impact on smaller agencies. Following the failed Call to Action proposal in 2012, which put significant pressure on the general agencies, CT leadership stressed that there would be no changes to allocations in the 2016-2020 quadrennium to allow a time of relationship- and trust-building. At the end of the 2012-2016 quadrennium, it was announced that the allocations would not be the same for the 2021-2024 quadrennium.

GCFA's and the CT's joint Budget Advisory Team determined that allocations would be made based in part on the following: the church's missional priorities; agencies' levels of reserves; evaluations; and demonstrated commitment to administrative and program efficiencies.

The allocations team grounded its work in two scriptures—Psalm 69:35-36 and 1 Corinthians 12—and developed a values-based process (listed below). The values-based approach cares for the whole of the connection and contrasts the traditional theory in budgeting, in which the amount of money a program receives indicates the importance of that program or fund to the organization's leadership. The team considered all programs important and balanced our stated values with rigorous financial analysis and consideration of connection-wide priorities, thereby lessening the impact of a 22.7% reduction in most cases.

We achieved this by taking the following steps:

- Grounding ourselves in theology and discernment;
- Analyzing agency and fund metrics, including:
 - Agency documents detailing missional priorities,
 - Spending plan narratives and meetings with GCFA staff, General Secretaries, and agency treasurers,
 - 2017 audited financial statements for each fund;
- Conducting evaluations of agencies and producing an evaluations report, a process that included:
 - Developing an evaluation philosophy,
 - Agency-created logic models that detailed projects, programs, operations, activities and goals, and the resources used to achieve those goals,
 - Reviewing evaluation reports and core mission documents for each agency;
- Designing a values-based allocations process that the Connectional Table approved at the Nov. 2018 meeting:
 - Key values: the UMC's mission, missional priorities, core mission of each fund/agency, emerging missional priorities for the denomination, fairness and justice, stewardship and transparency;
- Consulting with a financial professional, Bill Brownson, who:
 - Used GCFA and agency data (treasurers' reports, audited financial statements, etc.),
 - Produced comparison reports of audited financial statements,
 - Analyzed financial statements for overall agency capacity (indication of capacity included: reserves, invested assets, donor-restricted assets and illiquid assets);
- Conducting learning dialogues with the agencies and funds, some of whom expressed that this kind of conversation was a first;
- Consulting with GCFA; and
- Presenting a preliminary recommendation on Jan. 11, 2019, to all agencies and funds, after which we received requests for reconsideration totaling approximately \$26.7 million. These requests exceeded what we had to allocate. We did, however, reconsider in some cases by shifting funds from the World Service Contingency Fund.

The allocations team first had to determine if all the five funds would receive the same across-the-board reduction of 22.7%, in line with the overall budget cut. Realizing that a more holistic and complex approach was needed, the team developed the values-based approach mentioned above. This values-based approach was approved at the November 2018 CT meeting. As a result of this approach, the team decided that this large 22.7% cut to all funds would not be felt the same, since some funds would be unable to fulfill their core mission with that large of a reduction of funds.

The team acknowledges that this quadrennial budget allocation process represents significant change from the last three quadrennium in both process and financial resources available, but believe it benefits the entire connection.

ALLOCATIONS IN SUMMARY

SMALL COMMISSIONS AND NATIONAL PLANS

These organizations have smaller budgets, fewer reserves and are more apportionment-dependent. These commissions and national plans represent only 5.1% of the current budget, or \$23,983,000. A 22.7% across-

the-board reduction to these programs would not recuperate much money for the denomination, while negatively impacting their ability to sustain their core mission and thriving ministry within our Church. These organizations also demonstrate the capacity to engage in emerging missional priorities of the denomination. **The team recommends maintaining the current funding levels** of three of the smaller World Service funded commissions—The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW), the General Commission on Religion and Race (G CORR) and the Commission on United Methodist Men (UMM)—and the six national plans: Asian American Language Ministry, Korean Ministry Plan, National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, Native American Comprehensive Plan, Pacific Islander National Plan and Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century.

UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS

United Methodist Communications (UMCOM) has net assets approaching \$74 million, \$20 million of which represents 194% of its total expenses and is available within one year. The allocations team interprets this to mean that UMCOM can sustain its programming for nearly two years without any additional resources. UMCOM supports nearly 80% of its expenses with apportionment dollars, indicating a low use of its reserves. The team also assumed that board-designated reserves are different than donor designated reserves. Lastly, the team considered and questioned the high cost of communications for the denomination (UMCOM receives 15% of the allocated funds, which is the third-largest apportionment and does not include communications budgets for other agencies) compared to communications budgets for secular organizations, in which even 9% to 12% of the budget is considered high.

The allocations team recommended that the fixed charge UMCOM receives for the interpretation and promotion of giving for the World Service Fund remain unchanged. The team also recommended that its on-ratio World Service funding be reduced by 37% due to the nature of the financial capacity that its reserves represent. This allocation is 12.4% of the proposed budget. The team acknowledges that this change in funding will be challenging. However, we believe that UMCOM can continue to thrive.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND

There has been a complete transition of staff and reconfiguration of the ecumenical and interreligious ministries of the UMC in the last five years, which led to a large balance accumulating in reserves. The office is now staffed and revisioning for the future. For that reason, the team recommended \$1 million in funding so that ICF can continue to vision and plan for ways in which it will utilize apportionments for mission, while keeping its current activities funded through reserves.

The allocation represents 62% of the current yearly budget for ICF. At the end of 2018, there was a balance of \$5,840,185 in the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund. The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund spent \$1,604,025 in 2018. Taken together, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund's unspent reserves are enough to cover all expenses for the 2021-2024 quadrennium, based on recent spending patterns, without the allocation of additional apportionments. The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund staff alerted the team to the opportunity to invest their reserves to earn capital, and it would not be prudent to de-fund them and leave them no resources to invest by the end of the quadrennium.

The allocations team recommended reducing the funding for the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund by 88% for the 2021-2024 quadrennium only, which still gives \$1 million in funding.

EDUCATION FUNDS

The United Methodist Church greatly values education, dedicating at least 40% of the funds available to educational priorities in the denomination. Given the denomination's many missional priorities, the team welcomes discernment of the General Conference and the denomination on the question of how much money should be spent on any one area.

These changes reflect the allocations team's desire to further the mission of the whole church and balance all the needs of our connectional system in a season of declining resources.

Ministerial Education Fund

In line with the value of stewardship, the allocations team acknowledges and celebrates that each seminary and theological institution has other sources of funding, including funds coming from their own development offices and endowments. During the listening session with General Agencies and meetings with members of the Association of Theological Schools, questions arose about whether or not we can continue to support 13 seminaries and all of our current licensing schools given declining resources. This recommended reduction in the Ministerial Education Fund funding should spur a needed conversation about seminary education, clergy indebtedness and the number of seminaries the denomination can support. You may see the questions raised by the team on page 23 and 24 of the full report.

The Ministerial Education Fund has the second highest recommended allocation from apportionments—in excess of \$100 million. The allocations team believe that its core mission can be sustained with a recommended 31% reduction.

Africa University

GCFA released a report in January 2019 that shows the Africa University Fund is a popular ministry of the church, receiving 93.13% of its asking and 31 annual conferences investing in the apportionment at 100% or more. The team also recognize the complexity of Africa University's governance structures and ministry, and celebrates the ways in which Africa University has been accountable for the missional and effective deployment of its resources. The team also affirm Africa University's success at fundraising, its ability to build its endowment and the positive impact it has had on other fundraising efforts within the denomination. Africa University is a beacon of light for the denomination, and the desire to offer a limited 15% reduction rather than 22.7% speaks to the value of preserving the core mission of Africa University and the denomination.

Given the importance of Africa University on the African continent and beyond, **the team limited the recommended reduction to 15%**—one of the lower recommendations for reductions—and not an across-the-board 22.7% reduction.

Black College Fund

Aware that any cut to this fund will disproportionately affect Historically Black Colleges and Universities and racial-ethnic college students, and in light of the history of racial inequality and economic inequality in the United States, the allocations team valued limiting the reduction compared to the threshold reduction of 22.7%. **The team recommended a comparatively modest reduction of 15%** in recognition of the historical

significance and importance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities to The United Methodist Church and with a desire to sustain the core mission of this fund.

Young Clergy Initiative

The Young Clergy Initiative was created in 2013 to recruit, train and retain young clergy over three quadrennia, ending in the 2021-2024 quadrennium. The fruit of this short-term initiative is an everlasting commitment to the development of young clergy that has become part of the culture at every level of the denomination, including programs and initiatives coordinated by annual conference and general agencies. As a reasonable tapering off for the final quadrennium of this initiative, **the team recommended reducing the funding to this initiative by 28%**. It would be prudent for GBHEM to begin transition planning as this initiative reaches completion in 2024.

The Central Conference Theological Education Fund

The team celebrates that the Central Conference Theological Education Fund provides the means to support nearly 50 theological institutions in Africa, Asia (Philippines), and Europe which provide the ministerial training for clergy in the UMC. At present, the fund has more than \$2 million in unrestricted net assets, or two years of reserve funding, based on current funding and spending patterns. The fund could continue for two years without any additional apportionment funding. Throughout this quadrennium, purposeful effort has been devoted to creating an endowment to potentially support the long-term sustainability of theological education in the central conferences. Such education is already supported by the general agencies and the central conferences themselves. Though General Conference action increased the budget in 2016, the recommended allocation—a reduction from the 2016 increase—is still \$2 million more than the budget at its 2012 founding. The allocations team believes that this allocation, the two years of reserves available, and the continuation and development of other revenue streams, can sustain this important ministry.

The team recommended a 30% reduction in this fund (still a \$7 million allocation).

PROGRAM AGENCIES

Our program agencies continue to lead our denomination in the 4 Areas of Focus and in programming that connects to our mission as United Methodists to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We acknowledge that a change in funding will be challenging for each agency.

Despite the almost 22.7% decrease in apportionments, the allocations team limited the recommended reduction for the General Board of Church and Society (GBSC), General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) and General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) to 20%.

The team celebrates, however, that Discipleship Ministries is ahead of the curve in focusing its ministry for strategic impact, and has reorganized its staff to better focus its mission. Discipleship Ministries is in a financially sensitive position, and we are concerned about the sustainability of its core mission. **The allocations team limited the team recommended reduction for Discipleship Ministries to 15%.**

THE CONNECTIONAL TABLE

The Connectional Table (CT) is heavily-dependent on apportionments. And, unlike the general agencies, the Connectional Table cannot apply for world service contingency funds. A more substantial reduction in allocation would impact the Connectional Table's ability to carry out its work. **The team recommended a 5% reduction in the Connectional Table's allocation.**

WORLD SERVICE CONTINGENCY FUND

The recommended allocation for the World Service Contingency Fund is intended to ensure collaborative missional impact through the Four Areas of Focus (or any future missional priorities set by the denomination). The increased allocation to this fund represents the values of Mission, Missional Priorities and Emerging Mission Priorities.

This fund has the potential to nurture collaborative, adaptive, visionary and innovative efforts to bring vitality to our worldwide connection through a sustained focus on evangelism and church growth, ministry with poor and underserved communities, global health and innovation in leadership and leadership development (our Four Areas of Focus) as well as other areas. And the allocations team further believes that this fund will enable the denomination to respond to emerging missional needs and priorities in an uncertain future.

The team recommended increasing the World Service Contingency Fund (WSCF) to approximately \$8.9 million. This fund will continue under the granting direction of the Connectional Table and under the existing disciplinary mandates that describe the fund. As is the case already and as the Discipline mandates, the **Connectional Table is ineligible** for support from the World Service Contingency Fund.

CONCLUSION

Think of the budget as a pie, and each allocation recommendation as a slice of the pie. As you can see, the team has not actually changed the share of the budget allocated (size of the slice of the pie) significantly in most cases. Indeed, all except five agencies/funds show an increase in their share of the overall budget.

This does not mean that agencies and funds are not experiencing budget reductions. However, as the team has stressed, the reductions in the overall budget are because of the decrease in the funds available for allocation—a decrease in the size of the whole pie. Such reductions are separate from changes that result from a shift in the allocations—or in how the pie is cut. The actual share of the budget (slice of the pie) has increased for most agencies and funds.

Of course, no agency or fund wanted to experience reductions. When the team released preliminary recommendations on January 11, 2019, we received requests for reconsideration totaling approximately \$26.7 million. These requests exceeded what we had to allocate. We did, however, reconsider in some cases by shifting funds from the World Service Contingency Fund.

AGENCY/ FUND	CURRENT % ALLOCATION	PROPOSED % ALLOCATION	% CHANGE	INC./DEC. SHARE
GBGM	23.8	24.6	0.8	Increase
MEF	22.4	19.9	-2.5	Decrease
UMCOM	15.3	12.4	-2.9	Decrease
BCF	9.0	9.8	0.9	Increase
DM	7.5	8.2	0.7	Increase
GBHEM	5.8	6	0.2	Increase
GBCS	2.4	2.4	0.1	Increase
CCTF	2.1	1.9	-0.2	Decrease
AU	2.0	2.2	0.2	Increase
ICF	1.7	0.3	-1.4	Decrease
GCORR	1.6	2	0.5	Increase
YCI	1.5	1.4	-0.1	Decrease
COSROW	0.8	1.1	0.2	Increase
NPHLM	0.7	0.9	0.2	Increase
KMP	0.7	0.8	0.2	Increase
CT	0.5	0.6	0.1	Increase
SBC21	0.4	0.5	0.1	Increase
UMM	0.3	0.4	0.1	Increase
NACP	0.3	0.3	0.1	Increase
AALM	0.3	0.4	0.1	increase
CPPIUM	0.1	0.1	0	No Change

(GBCS and NACP represent a .01 increase in allocation amount according to this chart due to rounding.)

Please see the [full Allocations Report](#) for more detailed information. Please see the below FAQ for more information about the World Service Contingency Fund.

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ALLOCATIONS FAQ

THE 2021-2024 QUADRENNIAL BUDGET

WHY IS THE CT MAKING ALLOCATIONS?

The Connectional Table (CT) is mandated by The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church to make allocations to the five apportioned funds: World Service, Africa University, Black College Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, and the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, (cf. BOD ¶806.1B, 806.2).

HOW DOES THE CT DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE?

The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA), is to determine, in conversation with CT, the amount available for allocations, (cf. BOD ¶806.1b.1). GCFA has made the determination that **\$361,555,000** is available for allocation to the five funds for the 2021-2024 quadrennium. This is an **18% reduction** over the current quadrennium.

IS THE CT CUTTING THE BUDGET?

Yes and no. The \$361,555,000 available for allocation is a reduction of \$105, 986,066 from the current quadrennium—a decrease in the size of the pie, so to speak. Such reductions are separate from changes that result from a shift in the allocations—in how the pie is cut. Therefore, the CT is not cutting the overall budget. However, some agencies and funds will experience further reductions or no reduction at all because of changes in allocations.

WHAT HELPED THE CT ALLOCATIONS TEAM MAKE THEIR DECISIONS?

The allocation team grounded our work theologically. The team sought to guide our work with the key values of the **UMC's mission, missional priorities, core mission, emerging missional priorities, fairness and justice, stewardship, and transparency.** Finally, the team attempted to balance our rigorous analysis of financial data in light of the mission of the whole connection.

IS THEIR DECISION FINAL?

No, the proposed budget will go to the entire CT and GCFA, and then General Conference 2020 as proposed budget legislation.

ALLOCATIONS FAQ

THE 2021-2024 QUADRENNIAL BUDGET

WHAT ARE THE AGENCIES SUPPOSED TO DO AFTER SUCH HIGH BUDGET CUTS?

Agencies and funds likely will have to focus their ministry, consider reducing programming, seek increased opportunities for collaboration and partnership, and consider new ways of operating that may necessitate petitioning the General Conference for changes in mandates. Agencies and funds will be challenged to find ways to transition to new ways of operating, and the connection must support this transition.

The **World Service Contingency Fund** is there as a financial resource to aid agencies in this transition and aid collaborative, adaptive, visionary and innovative efforts to bring vitality to our worldwide connection.

WHAT IS THE WORLD SERVICE CONTINGENCY FUND?

The World Service Contingency Fund is part of the World Service apportioned fund which "...provides funding for emerging needs in the World Service Fund areas that occur during a quadrennium. These funds are allocated to program agencies for new programs to address unanticipated needs."

Examples of already existing ministries that have been supported by this fund are the collaborative work of the Immigration Task Force, and COSROW's boundaries training Do No Harm events. Increasing this fund will give the connection greater opportunities to support innovation that addresses emerging missional needs and priorities in an uncertain future.

The World Service Contingency Fund mandates are explained in the Book of Discipline, (cf. 806.3d).

WHY DOES IT GO UP SO DRAMATICALLY?

At a time of great change, this fund can give our connection the "imaginative capacity" to adapt, dream and develop the ministries that will lead us into the future. The \$8.9 million is the amount that we believe will be able to make a significant missional impact.

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Process for Allocations Discussion and Decision

General secretaries and other administrators for World Service funded agencies and commissions as well as the other apportioned funds are being invited to submit proposals for changes to their recommended allocation. We are asking that these proposals be submitted to the CT in writing by April 1, 2019. The requests must detail the suggested change, the rationale for the change and from where the funds would come. Below is the process we will use for discussing the allocations recommendation and making a decision.

I. Presentation of a Values-Based Allocations Proposal (CT Allocations Team)

II. SURFACING THE QUESTIONS

Discussion of the overall division of the pie. Do members affirm these divisions in principle? Surface the written requests for changes. Note these requests will be more fully discussed later.

- a. Do you affirm, in principle, the recommendation that the smaller commissions and plans maintain current funding, comprising approximately 10% of the pie? *Are there any written requests for changes?*
 - b. Do you affirm, in principle, the recommendations for the Connectional Table and the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund? *Are there any written requests for changes?*
 - c. Do you affirm, in principle, the reduction of the World Service Contingency Fund? *Are there any written requests for changes?*
 - d. Do you affirm, in principle, the recommendations for the Education Funds (MEF, BCF, YCI, AU, CCTF), which comprise approximately 45% of the pie? *Are there any written requests for changes?*
 - e. Do you affirm, in principle, the recommendations for the program agencies and UMCOM at approximately 65% of the pie? *Are there any written requests for changes?*
- ### III. Discuss the distributions within the larger slices of the pie by category and deal with requests. *We first will have these discussions at tables with brief reporting out. We will then have these discussions in the full plenary.*
- a. Smaller Commissions/CT/ICF/WSCF
 - b. Education Funds (MEF, AU, BCF, YCI, CCTF)
 - c. Program Agencies (GBGM, DM, GBCS, HEM) and UMCOM
- ### IV. Review and vote on final proposal
- ### V. Discussion of process for reconciliation with GCFA

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Appendix B

Allocations Presentation
Brad Brady, Amy Coles, Lysette Perez, Bill Brownson
Connectional Table Spring Meeting, 2019



CT ALLOCATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

REBUILDING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST



For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; and his servants shall live there and possess it; the children of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall live in it. (Psalm 69:35-36)

NOT JUST ABOUT MONEY, BUT ABOUT VALUES



UMC Mission



Agency's
Core Mission



Missional
Priorities



Emerging Missional
Priorities



Transparency



Fairness & Justice



Stewardship

OUR PROCESS

WE ACHIEVED THIS BY
TAKING THE FOLLOWING
STEPS:

- Grounding ourselves in theology and discernment;
- Analyzing agency and fund metrics, including:
 - Agency documents detailing missional priorities,
 - Spending plan narratives and meetings with agency treasurers, 2017 audited financial statements for each fund,
 - Reserves (ICF, UMCOM, CCTEF);



OUR PROCESS

WE ACHIEVED THIS BY
TAKING THE FOLLOWING
STEPS:

- Conducting evaluations of agencies and producing an evaluations report, a process that included:
 - Developing an evaluation philosophy,
 - Agency-created logic models that detailed projects, programs, operations, activities and goals, and the resources used to achieve those goals,
 - Reviewing evaluation reports and core mission documents for each agency;



OUR PROCESS

WE ACHIEVED THIS BY
TAKING THE FOLLOWING
STEPS:

- Consulting with a financial professional, Bill Brownson, who:
 - Used GCFA and agency data (treasurers' reports, audited financial statements, etc.),
 - Reviewed undesignated and board-designated reserves for each fund as reported in financial statements,
 - Analyzed financial statements for overall agency capacity (indication of capacity included: reserves, invested assets, donor-restricted assets and illiquid assets);



OUR PROCESS

WE ACHIEVED THIS BY
TAKING THE FOLLOWING
STEPS:

- Conducting learning dialogues and listening sessions with the agencies and funds-some of whom expressed that this kind of conversation was a first- and consulted with GCFA; and
- Presenting a preliminary recommendation on Jan. 11, 2019, to all agencies and funds, after which **we received requests for reconsideration totaling approximately \$26.7 million**. These requests exceeded what we had to allocate. We did, however, reconsider in some cases by shifting funds from the World Service Contingency Fund.



RESERVES



- The CT's approach to allocations is broader than any one purely financial consideration, such as reserves. It is a multi-layered, missionally focused and values-based approach.
- The CT does not determine any agency's reserve policies or the use of agency reserves.
- Consideration of reserves as an indication of financial capacity only materially impacted one allocations decision—UMCOM's.
- The CT Allocations Team worked hard to align with GCFA's definition of reserves, which we accept. It is as follows:
 - Available Reserves Definition:
 - Unrestricted Net Assets (including Board Designated Assets) reduced by the Net Book Value of Fixed Assets as of 12/31/2018.
 - Where a budget line item is for a "Restricted" purpose within one of the General Agencies, the amount used was the "Restricted" balance for that particular purpose (i.e. Core Action Fund within GCORR and CCTEF within GBHEM)

VALUES-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintain funding for small agencies and commissions, CT and the National Plans



Emerging Mission
Priorities



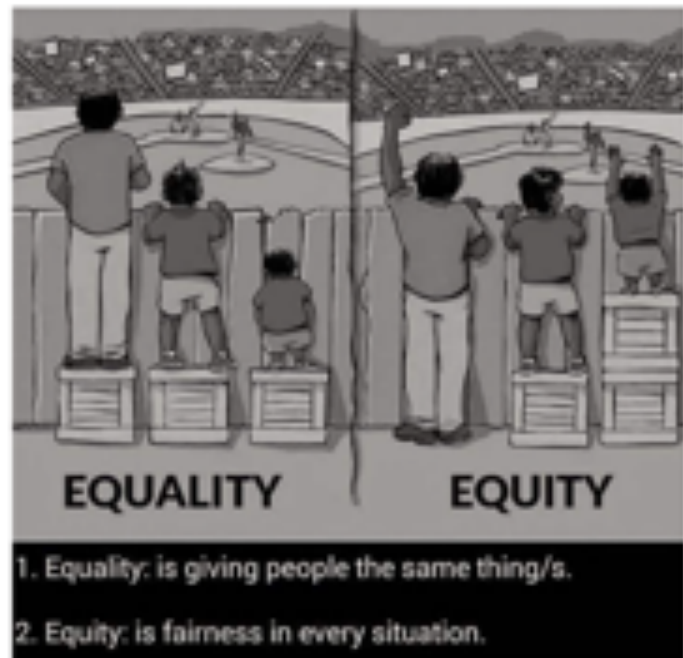
Agency's
Core Mission



Fairness & Justice

Why: Smaller budgets, fewer reserves,
more apportionment dependent

- National Plans: 0%
- COSROW: 0%
- United Methodist Men: 0%
- GCORR: 0%
- Connectional Table: -5%



*"Equality but I still don't know what balls mean by equity" by Leigh Blackall is licensed under CC BY 4.0

CURRENT QUADRENNIUM ALLOCATION: \$464 MILLION



Graph Total is \$465,645,044. When reduced by Fixed CT of \$2,140,350 and contingency of \$463,825 is added, this ties to the current quad on-ratio allocation of \$463,968,519 (ref: current quad GCFA commitment book)

VALUES-BASED RECOMMENDATION: EDUCATION-RELATED FUNDS & OTHERS



Fairness & Justice



Stewardship



Agency's
Core Mission

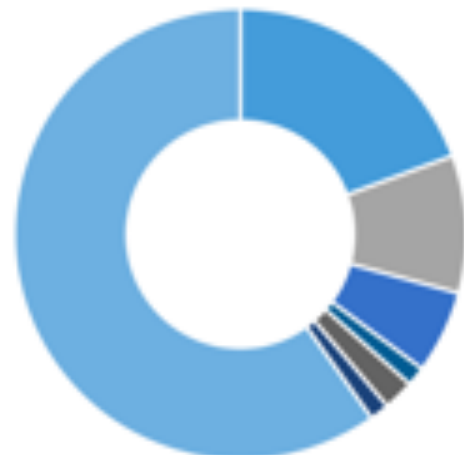
Why: Missional considerations & financial capacity

We recommend the following reductions from the previous quad:

- BCF: -15%
- Africa University: -15%
- MEF: -31%
- Central Conference Theological Fund: -30%
- Young Clergy Initiative: -28%

- 40% is education-related

Education



• MEF • BCF • GBHEM • Young Clergy • Africa U • CCTF • All other

VALUES-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS: UMCOM & ICF

These are the only entities for which considerations of financial capacity significantly impacted allocations. The decision was influenced by a missional view of the apportionment.



Stewardship



Agency's
Core Mission



UMC Mission



Fairness & Justice

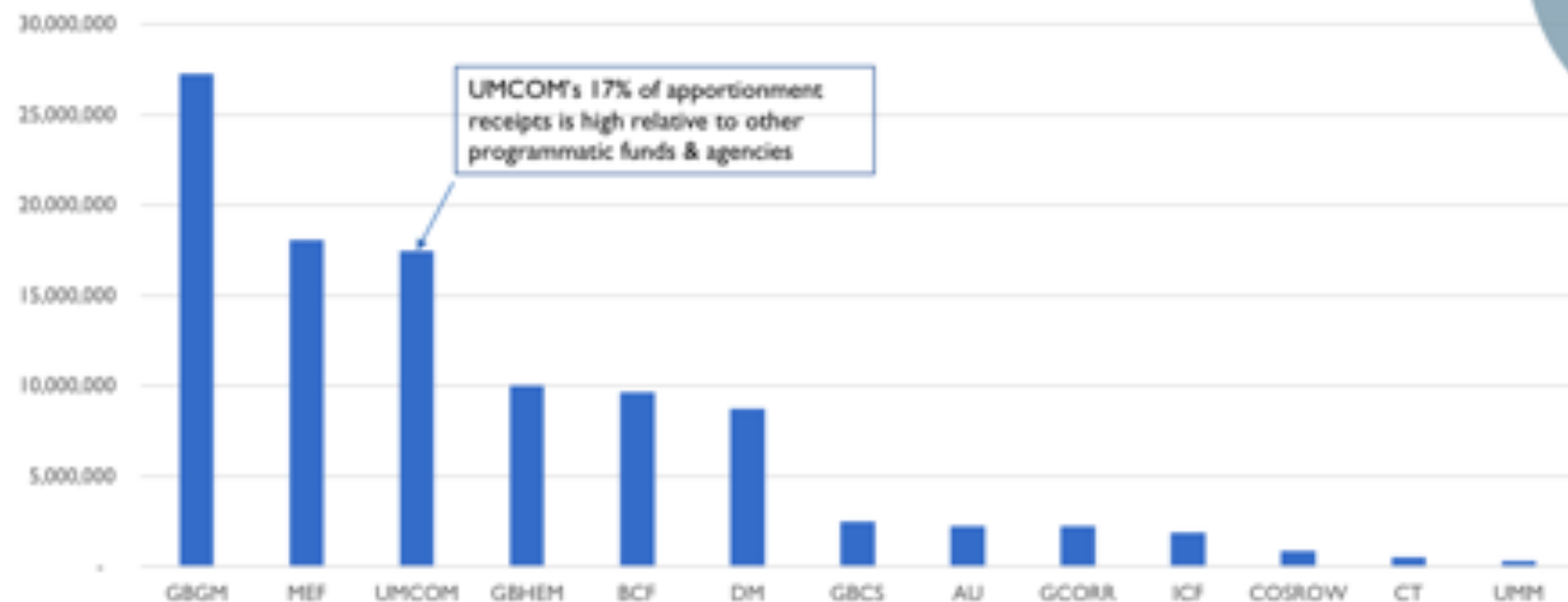
UMCOM

- Net assets approaching \$74 million
- \$20 million in reserves (194% of total expenses available in one year)
- Supports 80% of expenses with apportionment dollars
- Also considered the 17% of the apportionment devoted to communications budget (excluding other agency communications departments)

ICF

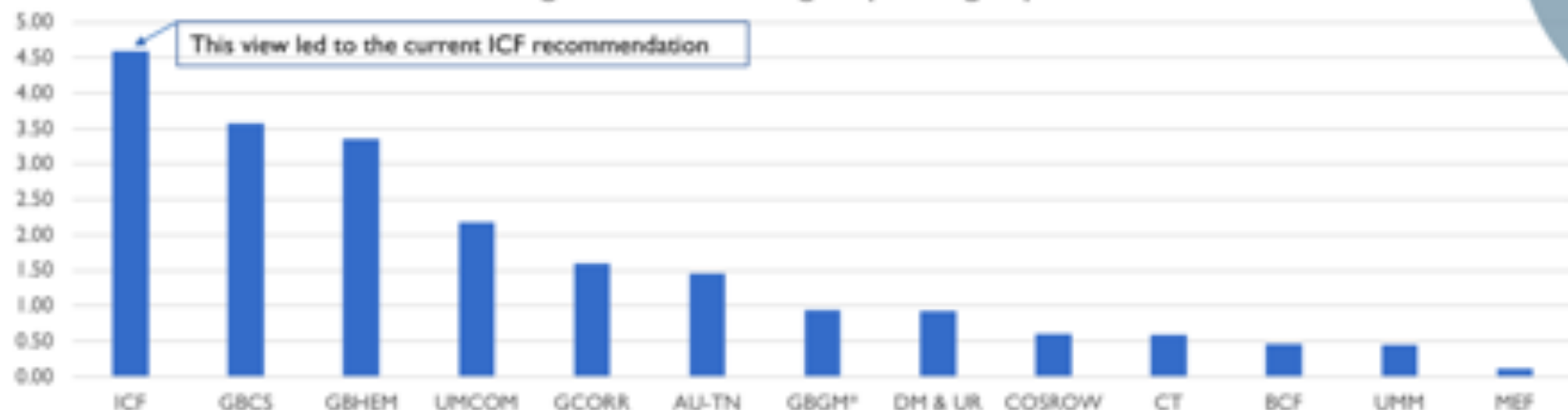
- In the process of reevaluating their operations
- In 2018, ICF spent \$1.6 million
- Requested reconsideration and funding of \$1.7 million
- \$1 million granted

APPORTIONMENT RECEIPTS: 2017 (FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)



4-YEAR AVERAGE OPERATING EXPENSE TO 12/31/17 UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Using 2014-2017 Average Operating Expenses



- GBGM's data adjusted for missionary pension plan liability
- The higher the number the more accumulated unrestricted net assets available to meet typical annual expenses

PROGRAM AGENCIES



Agency's
Core Mission

- GBHEM: -20%



UMC Mission

- GBCS: -20%



Emerging Missional
Priorities

- GBGM: -20%



Stewardship

- Discipleship Ministries: -15%

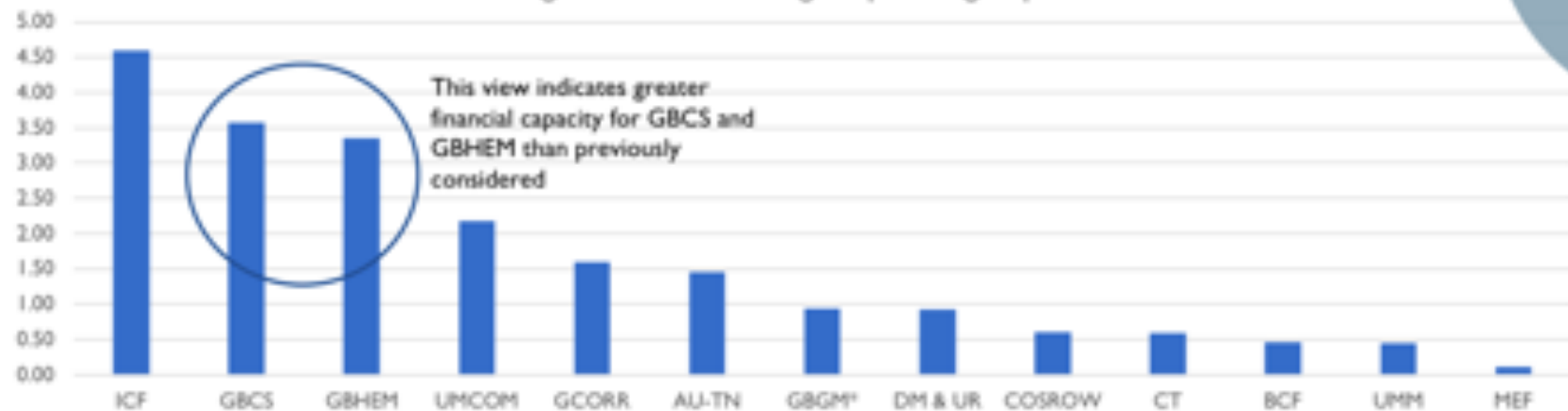


Fairness & Justice

This is where questions have arisen regarding differences between CT's and GCFA's analyses of financial capacity, particularly regarding **GBCS** and **GBHEM**.

4-YEAR OPERATING EXPENSE TO 12/31/17 UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

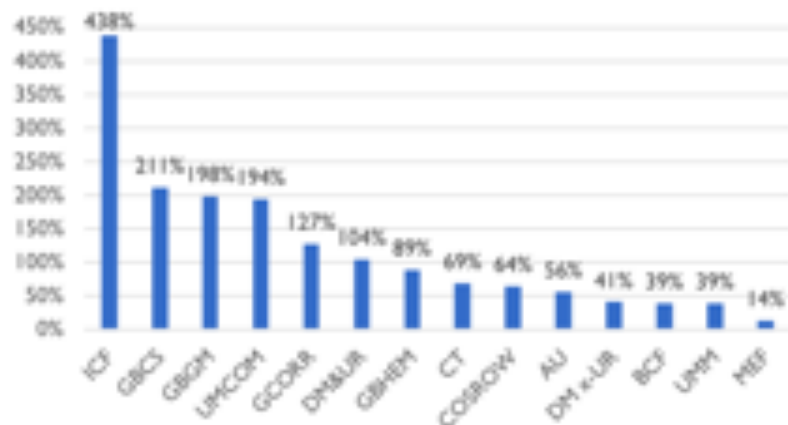
Using 2014-2017 Average Operating Expenses



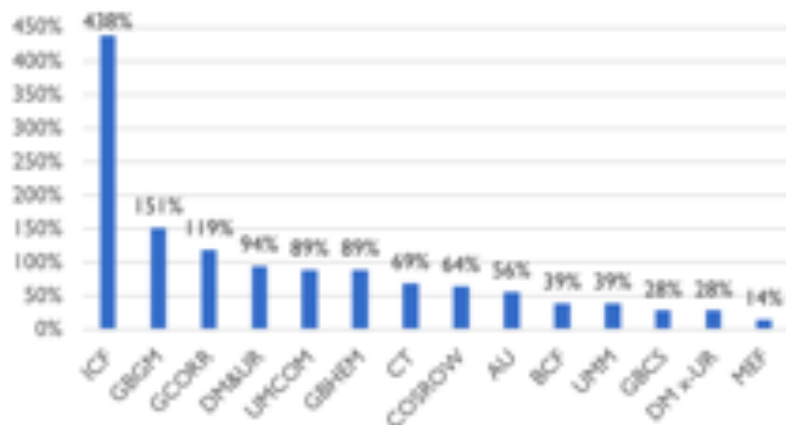
- GBGM's data adjusted for missionary pension plan liability
- Generally the higher the number the more accumulated unrestricted net assets available to meet typical annual expenses
- Unrestricted net assets in this analysis exclude illiquid assets, include board designated assets; they exclude donor restricted assets
- Source: GCFA

FUNDS AVAILABLE WITHIN ONE YEAR TO MEET EXPENSES

Funds available within 1 year, including Board-designated : Total Expense



Funds available within 1 year-excluding board-designated : Total Expense



Indicates for how long an organization can pay its bills relative to prior year expenses; excludes things like real estate that would take more than a year to liquidate/access. Note: GBGM's data is not adjusted for missionary pension plan liability.

FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS & WORLD SERVICE CONTINGENCY



Agency's
Core Mission



UMC Mission



Emerging Missional
Priorities

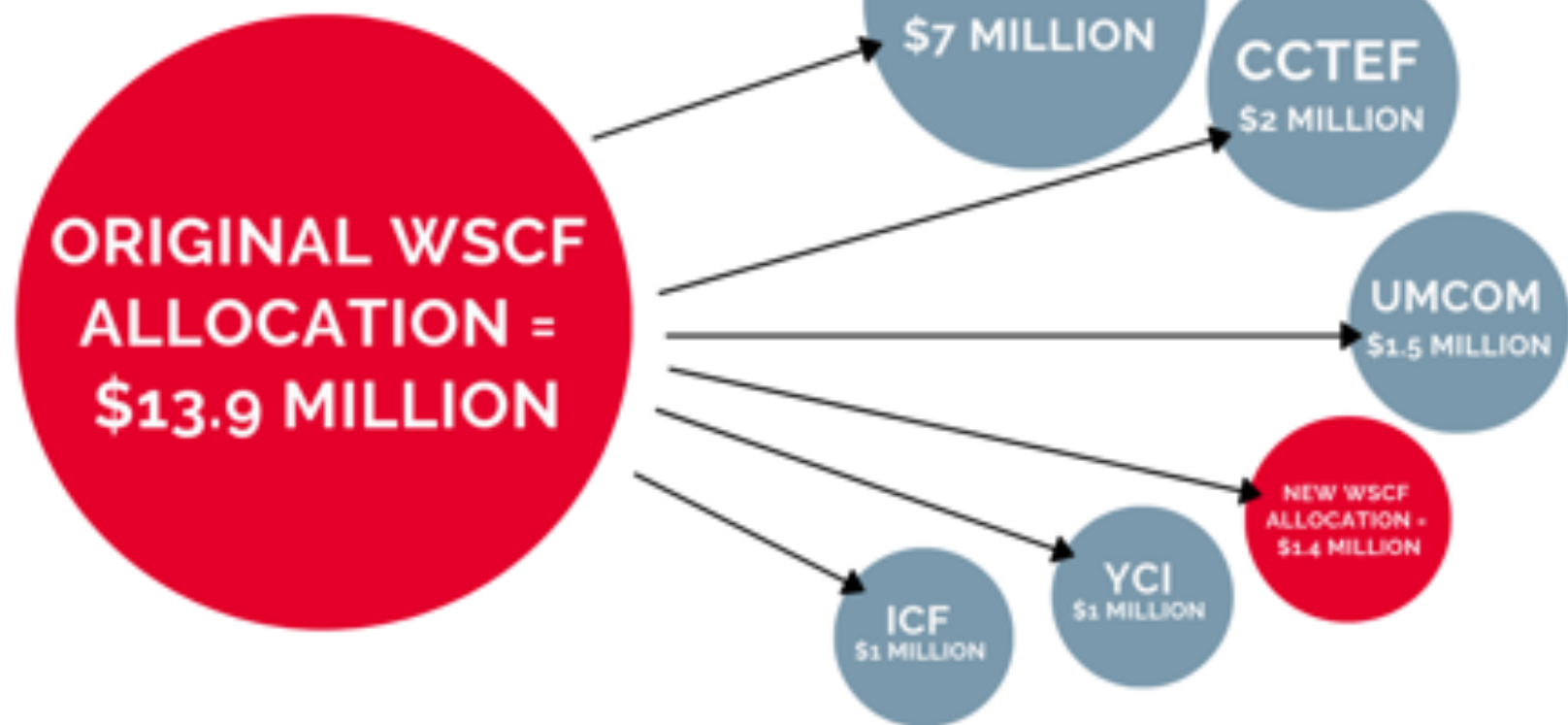
Why: Provides funds for the agencies to nurture collaborative, adaptive, visionary and innovative efforts to bring vitality to our worldwide connection through a sustained focus on the **Four Areas of Focus**

In light of the Special Session...

- there is heightened anxiety and uncertainty
- there is increased need for stability

Therefore, we have reconsidered the recommended allocations to this fund.

WSCF REALLOCATION



RESPONSES & RECONSIDERATION

AGENCY/FUND	RESPONSE	REQUESTED ADDITION TO ALLOCATION	ACTION IN JANUARY 2019	ACTION IN MARCH 2019
The National Park	Accepted allocation	NA	No change	No change
Commissions/Smaller Agencies (JMM, COSROW, GCOM, CT)	Accepted allocation	NA	No change	No change
GRDM, GBCI, GBHEM, DM	Accepted allocation with some statements of impact	NA	No change	No change
HEM ON BEHALF OF MEF, CCTF, AU, BCF, YD	Reconsideration	MEF \$4,700,000 CCTF \$4,000,000 AU \$411,985 BCF \$2,093,110 YD \$908,515	+ \$2 million + \$2 million No Change No Change No Change	+ \$5 million No Change No Change No Change + \$1 million
African University	Reconsideration	Requested no reduction funding	No Change	No Change
UMCDM	Reconsideration	8,738,295	No Change	+ \$1.5 million
CF	Reconsideration	1,781,160	+ \$1 million	No Change
WSF	Reconsideration	N/A	- \$5 million	- \$7.5 million
		Total request reconsideration: \$26,616,061	+ \$5 million to agency & funds	+ \$7.5 million to agency & funds

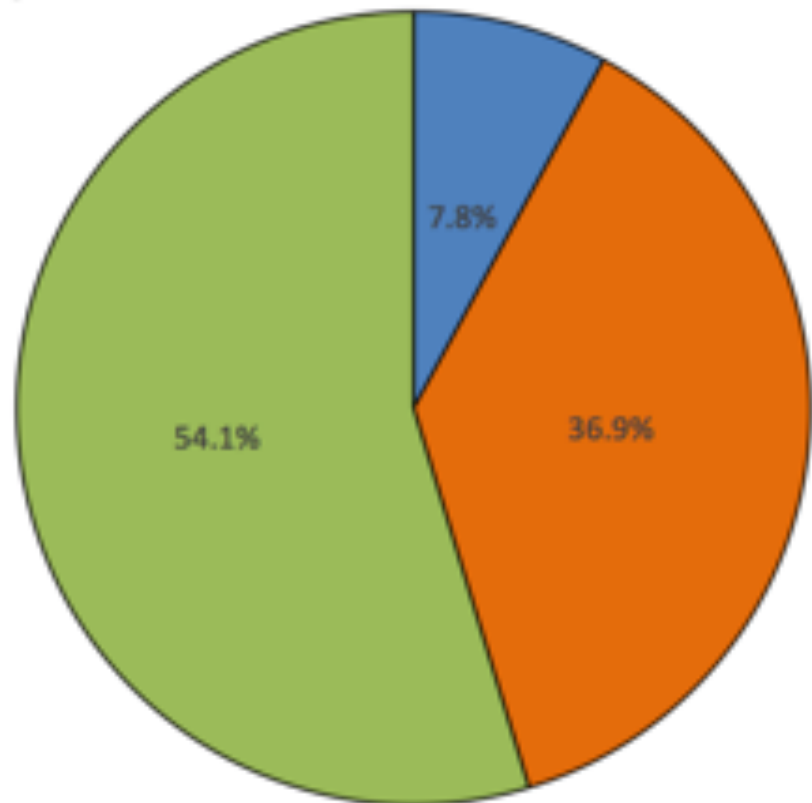
SHARE OF THE PIE

AGENCY/FUND	INC/DEC SHARE
Smaller agencies, national plans	Increase
ICF & UMCOM	Decrease
4 major program agencies	Increase
Education Funds (AU, BCF, YCI)	Increase
Education Funds (MEF,CCTF)	Decrease



Allocations According to Program Type

- Smaller Commissions, CT, ICF, Natl. Plans, WSCF: 7.8%
- Education Funds: 36.9%
- Program Agencies & UMCOM: 54.1%



Allocations According to Program Type

Smaller Commissions

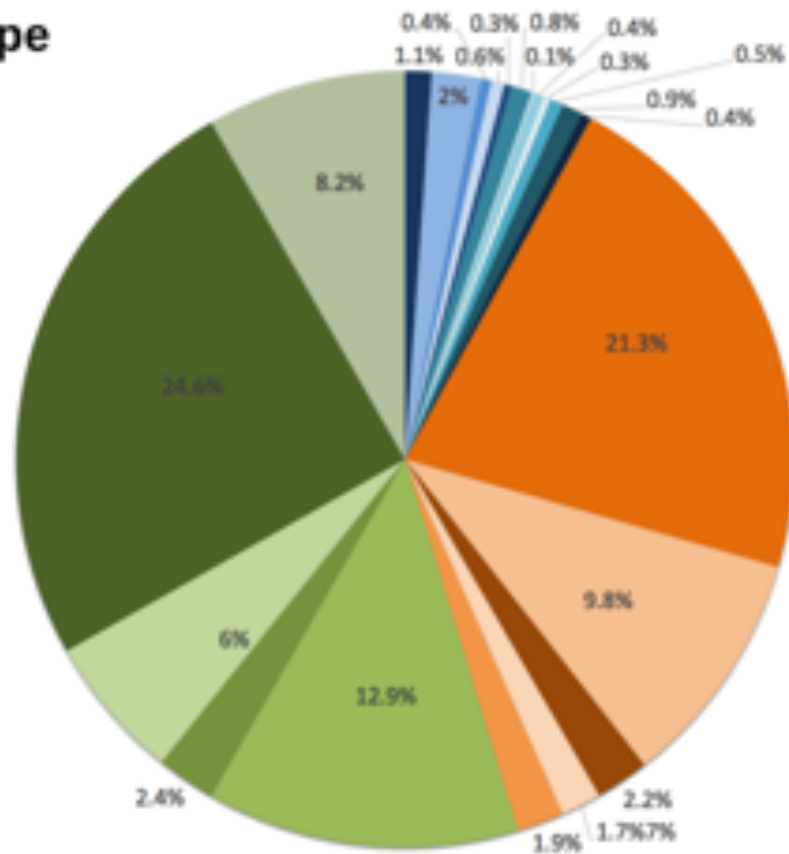
- GCSRW: 1.1%
- GCORR: 2%
- UMM: 0.4%
- CT: 0.6%
- ICF: 0.3%
- KPM: 0.8%
- CPPIUM: 0.1%
- AALM: 0.4%
- NACP: 0.3%
- SBC21: 0.5%
- NPHLM: 0.9%
- WSCF: 0.4%

Education Funds

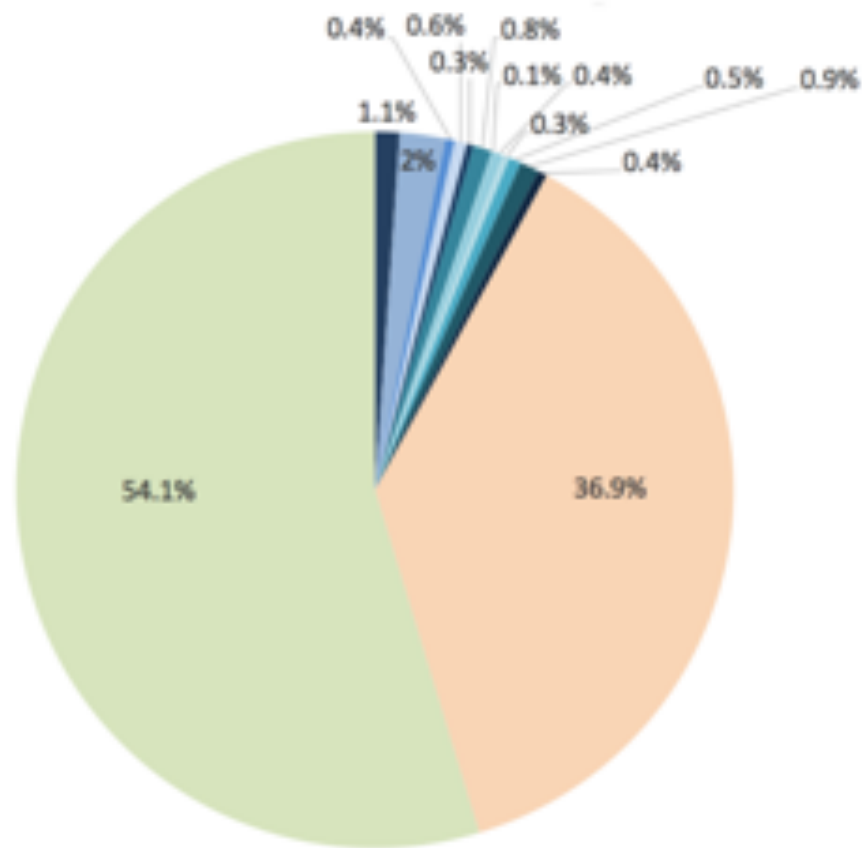
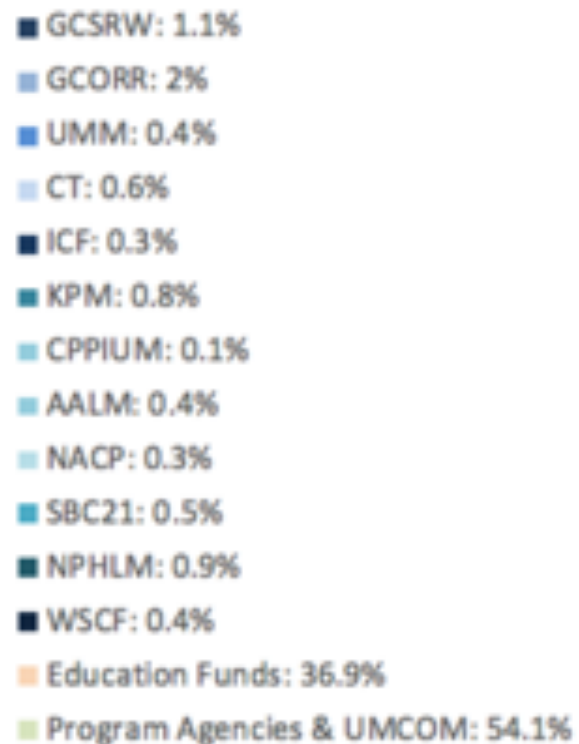
- MEF: 21.3%
- BCF: 9.8%
- AU: 2.2%
- YCI: 1.7%
- CCTEF: 1.9%

Program Agencies & UMCOM

- UMCOM: 12.9%
- GBCS: 2.4%
- GBHEM: 6%
- GBGM: 24.6%
- DM: 8.2%

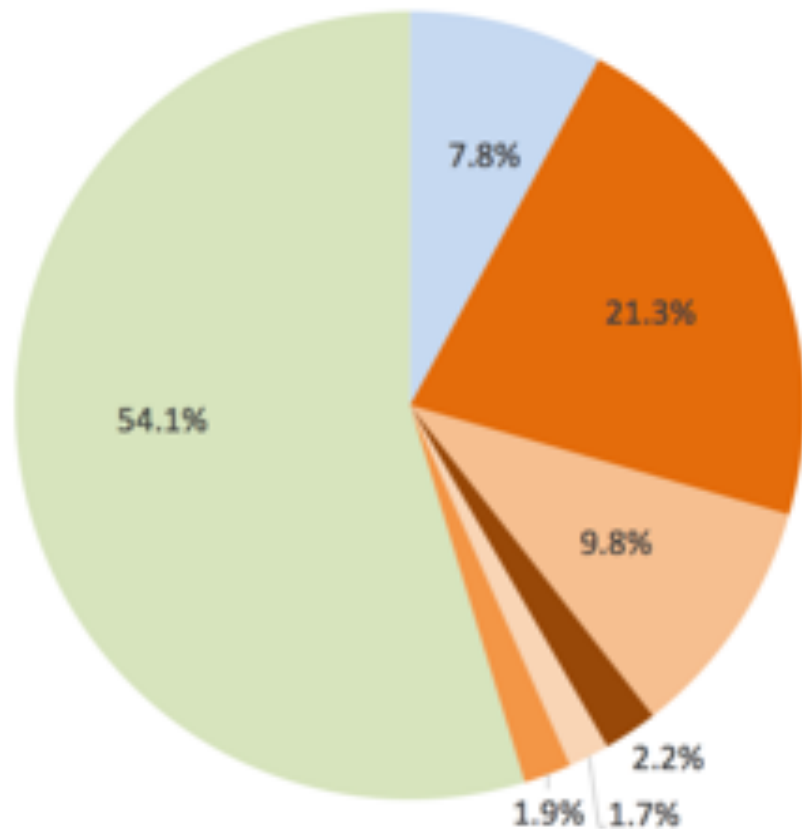


Smaller Commissions



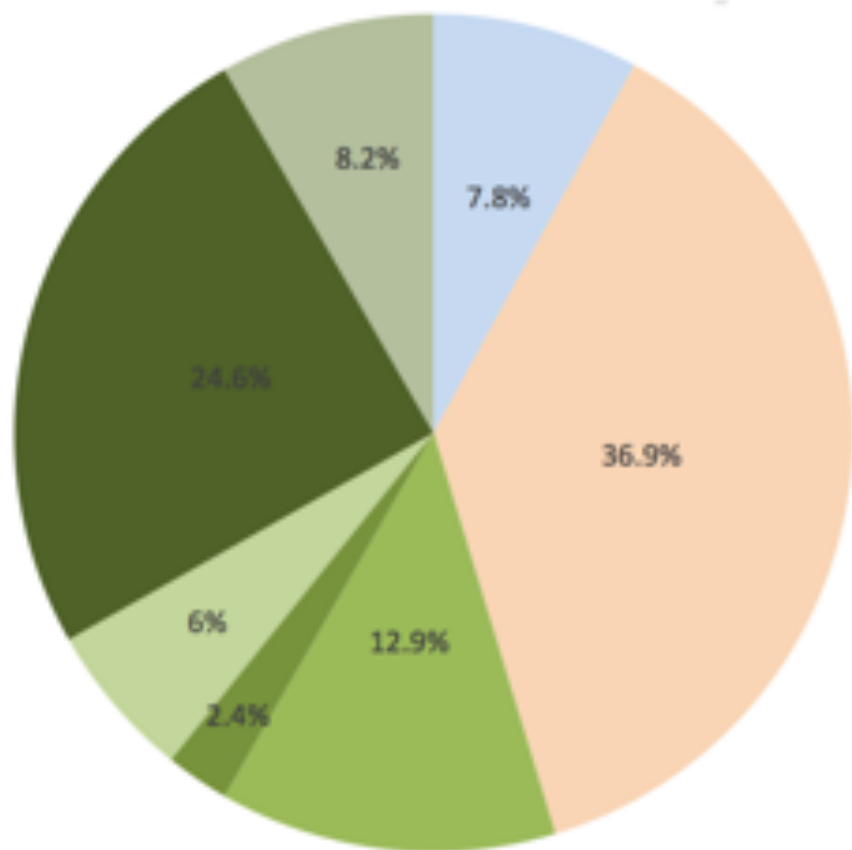
Education Funds

- Smaller Commissions, CT, ICF, Natl. Plans, WSCF: 7.8%
- MEF: 21.3%
- BCF: 9.8%
- AU: 2.2%
- YCI: 1.7%
- CCTEF: 1.9%
- Program Agencies & UMCOM: 54.1%



Program Agencies & UMCOM

- Smaller Commissions, CT, ICF, Natl. Plans, WSCF: 7.8%
- Education Funds: 36.9%
- UMCOM: 12.9%
- GBCS: 2.4%
- GBHEM: 6%
- GBGM: 24.6%
- DM: 8.2%



A decorative graphic featuring overlapping circles in shades of blue, red, and white, with thin black lines extending from the circles. The circles are positioned in the corners of the slide, with a large red circle in the top right and bottom left, and a light blue circle in the top right and bottom left.

Questions?

Appendix C

For the Sake of the Church A Statement in the Aftermath of the Special Session

The purpose of the Connectional Table is to discern and articulate the vision for the church and the stewardship of the mission, ministries, and resources of The United Methodist Church as determined by General Conference and in consultation with the Council of Bishops.

The Connectional Table is a forum for vision and implementation composed of members from all jurisdictions and central conferences in the worldwide connection. The desire is to make sure that all voices are represented around the table and are heard in the conversation about the mission and ministry of the Church.

We share this message with the Connectional Table to lead into reflection and conversation about how we as a forum for conversation about the mission and ministry of the church can best serve the denomination in the current situation after the called session of general conference.

Just 39 days ago, our General Conference met in St. Louis, Missouri. By a 54-vote margin, we approved the Traditional Plan, which stiffens enforcement of the current prohibitions against same sex marriage and commissioning and ordination of gay clergy. As a result of that decision, some have experienced relief. Others have experienced disappointment and pain. Many of our LGBTQIA+ siblings have expressed that our decision in St. Louis deeply wounded them. They experienced it as a rejection of their very selves.

As your chair and as your CCMO, we mourn the ways in which we, as the General Conference, at times fell short of the love and respect for one another we should have shown and took to hurting each other with our words, attitudes and actions. We are mindful that watching this happen was painful to all of us, especially to our LGBTQIA+ family members. We want to say to our LGBTQIA+ siblings, we affirm your worth as children of God, as members of the family of Christ. We value you, and we value your gifts for ministry. You are welcome here.

We lament the brokenness of our church. We lament that we have been fighting each other for decades over how we are to be in ministry with people whose self-identity is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, or asexual. We have been fighting for decades over differing understandings and interpretations of Scripture.

We have been fighting. And whatever we as individuals believe about Biblical authority or about same sex marriage, it is a reality that all of our fighting has been destructive of our body, of our witness, and of the very real human beings who are caught up in our fighting.

In spite of much prayer and spiritual centering in worship, the General Conference was a very public witness that we have gone to legislative and ideological war with one another. It was a public witness that we have picked up weapons and used them against one another. It was a public witness that we have damaged our own body.

And we have damaged the witness of the church. Perhaps you have seen the newspaper articles, some about charges of voter fraud. Friends, this is the witness of a church that does not belong to

us. It is the witness of the church of Jesus Christ that we have damaged. It is his body that we have harmed with our fighting.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

In the midst of all of the conflict and pain, one thing became clear at the Special Session. We are divided and may not be able to reconcile our differences with integrity. The conflict and division are likely to continue. Already, clergy, especially within the U.S., have pledged to resist by performing same sex marriages. We know that Boards of Ordained Ministry have pledged to continue to recommend candidates for commissioning and ordination, no matter their sexual orientation. We have heard of clergy members turning in their orders, of churches and annual conferences ready to stop paying apportionments or to leave the denomination entirely, of seminaries questioning their United Methodist affiliation, of annual conferences, a whole U.S. jurisdiction, and of a European central conference making statements of resistance. It is clear to us that this division did not and will not end with the vote in St. Louis. There will be no peace.

The Book of Jeremiah notes these words in Jeremiah 6:14:

“They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. ‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace.”

As your chair and as your CCMO, we cannot go along with business as usual and ignore the woundedness of our church. We cannot say, “Peace, Peace,” when there is no peace. And, we believe that there is no peace in this current situation, because the Special Session revealed differences that are deeper than differing opinions about human sexuality. We believe that what was revealed at the Special Session were very different visions for what it means to be the church in mission. Fundamental to our impasse are not only differing hermeneutics but also differing ecclesiologies and missiologies.

As much as we have both worked our entire ministries for the unity of the church, we believe that, because of these fundamental differences, there can be no unity as we have understood and practiced it in the past. We believe that we need to acknowledge the conversations happening throughout our connection about ways to go forward in ministry, perhaps even along separate paths.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Friends, we want to envision a future for the church that is marked by a sustainable peace. A peace that is not built upon clear, broad-based support (no matter which plan would have passed), is not sustainable. The continued fighting is not sustainable.

So, our question for you today is how do we get to a place of peace? How do we honor our beliefs and values in a way that brings peace? How are we going to be able to respect one another despite our differing ways of thinking? How are we going to hold onto our own convictions without trampling on the convictions of another? How are we going to be able to look each other in the eye and bless each other as fellow children of God?

At the heart of these questions is a desire for a solution that brings peace and the freedom to move into the future with integrity.

We believe that to achieve this kind of future requires that we define a unity that is based in our common Wesleyan tradition and in our common commitment to the mission field, but that is not necessarily defined organizationally, structurally or in our polity. We are not suggesting any specific plan. We are instead pointing to the need to move forward in ways that address the current reality of our church. So, we are here to plead with the church:

- We plead with the church, in this season of Lent, to enter with us into confession, repentance for our fighting and for ways we have wounded each other, and into deep prayer.
- We plead with the church to enter into reflection on our ecclesiology and our missiology. How can we describe in non-judgmental terms the differing visions for the church and its mission that were operative at the Special Session? How might our United Methodist scholars help us better define our ecclesiology and missiology in ways that free us all for ministry?
- We plead with the church to enter into reflection on our history, in particular the creation of The United Methodist Church in 1968 and the ending of the Central Jurisdiction. How might this coming together in a more just form inform us at a time when perhaps new structures must be born?
- We plead with the church to enter into reflection on our polity and ways in which our governance helps or hinders us at this sensitive time in the life of our denomination. How might our polity be used in good faith to free us all for the mission fields in which we have been placed and to which we have been called?
- We plead with the church to enter into conversations within, between and across all boundaries. We encourage the inclusion of our LGBTQIA+ siblings, members from across the worldwide connection and our ecumenical partners in these conversations. We encourage the inclusion of our young people and of people of color. Such conversations, some of which are already taking place, can bring to the table women and men, clergy and laity, those with power and those without power.
- We plead with the church to enter into a conversation that is based in the reality of our situation but that ultimately points toward hope. This is a seminal moment in the life of our church. If we choose, it does not have to be a moment of destruction. It can be a generative moment in which we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit and to the new thing that God might do in and through us.

The conversations we are suggesting must incorporate the wisdom of the institution while acknowledging that the institution has in many ways failed us. Indeed, as representatives of the institutional church, we know that the answers will not come from us. But we do have a role. We can seek to come alongside with conversations that are already happening and bring the reflections and ideas we may have as a connectional body gathering voices from across the worldwide denomination. We can acknowledge the conversations that are already happening

and create space for such conversations—space that will hold us in the creative tension that can take us forward while preventing the implosion of our denomination into chaos.

We are not calling for another Commission. We are pleading for conversation and reflection in search of an amicable solution. And we are wondering if the Connectional Table, in its role as a body that discerns and articulates vision, that stewards the mission, ministry and resources of our denomination, might begin to connect and encourage such conversations, acknowledging that these conversations are already happening. We are wondering if the CT can help to broker conversations and connect the people with whom we have relationships. We are wondering if we can help provide that “vital web of interactive relationships” that is the very essence of our worldwide connectionalism.

We also are pleading with the CT to honestly grapple with the impact of the Special Session on our own work. In particular, given our role in ensuring the missional effectiveness of our general agencies, we encourage discussion within the CT about the very real vulnerabilities of our general agencies and their ministries in this uncertain environment.

In the spirit of the season of Lent, we invite you into reflection on Psalm 51: 1-12 and into a time of confession and silent prayer. We will share with you the psalm and invite you into reflective silence for 15 minutes. Then, we will invite you into honest conversation about the issues we have raised, your thoughts and feelings; your hopes and dreams. We want to know what you think we can offer our church in the reality of this moment.

Pour le bien de l'Église Déclaration à la suite de la Session extraordinaire

Il y a 39 jours exactement, notre Conférence générale s'est réunie à Saint-Louis, dans l'État du Missouri. Par une marge de 54 voix, nous avons approuvé le Plan traditionnel, qui durcit l'application des interdits actuels concernant le mariage homosexuel et l'accès des personnes homosexuelles à l'envoi en mission et à l'ordination. Pour certains, cette décision a été un soulagement. Pour d'autres, une déception et une souffrance. Un grand nombre de nos frères et sœurs LGBTQIA+ ont fait savoir que la décision que nous avons prise à Saint-Louis les a profondément blessés. Elle a été ressentie comme un rejet de leur identité même.

En tant que président du Conseil des évêques et directrice des ministères connexionnels, nous sommes affligés qu'à la Conférence générale nous n'ayons pas toujours été à la hauteur de l'amour et du respect que nous aurions dû montrer les uns envers les autres et que nous en soyons venus à nous blesser par nos paroles, nos attitudes et nos actes. Nous savons que ce qui s'est passé a été douloureux pour chacun et chacune d'entre nous, en particulier pour les membres LGBTQIA+ de notre famille. Nous tenons à dire à nos frères et sœurs LGBTQIA+ que nous reconnaissons votre valeur en tant qu'enfants de Dieu, en tant que membres de la famille du Christ. Nous vous apprécions réellement, ainsi que vos dons pour le ministère. Vous avez votre place parmi nous.

Nous déplorons la désunion de notre Église. Nous déplorons le fait que nous nous disputons depuis des décennies sur la façon dont nous devons exercer le ministère avec des personnes dont l'identité est lesbienne, gay, bisexuelle, transgenre, queer, intersexuelle ou asexuelle. Nous nous disputons depuis des décennies sur des compréhensions et des interprétations divergentes des Écritures.

Nous nous disputons. Quelles que soient nos convictions personnelles à propos de l'autorité de la Bible ou du mariage homosexuel, le fait est que toutes ces disputes ont été destructrices pour notre corps, pour notre témoignage et pour les êtres humains bien réels pris dans nos querelles.

En dépit de nos nombreuses prières et du centrage spirituel du culte, la Conférence générale a rendu un témoignage très public de la guerre législative et idéologique que nous nous menons entre nous. Un témoignage public que nous avons pris les armes et que nous les avons utilisées les uns contre les autres. Un témoignage public que nous avons causé du tort à notre propre corps.

Et que nous avons causé du tort au témoignage de l'Église. Vous avez peut-être lu les articles de journaux, certains accusant de fraude fiscale. Chères amies, chers amis, il s'agit du témoignage d'une Église qui ne nous appartient pas. C'est au témoignage de l'Église de Jésus Christ que nous avons causé du tort. C'est son corps que nous avons blessé par nos querelles.

Seigneur, aie pitié de nous.

Parmi tous ces conflits, toutes ces souffrances, une chose est apparue clairement pendant la Session extraordinaire. Nous sommes divisés, et nous ne pourrions peut-être pas réconcilier nos

différences de façon intègre. Il est probable que le conflit et la division continuent. Des membres du clergé se sont d'ores et déjà engagés à résister, en particulier aux États-Unis, en célébrant des mariages homosexuels. Nous savons que des Conseils du ministère ordonné ont promis de continuer à recommander des candidatures à l'envoi en mission et à l'ordination sans distinction d'orientation sexuelle. Nous avons entendu dire que des membres du clergé refusent les ordres reçus, que des Églises et des conférences annuelles sont prêtes à cesser de payer leur part, voire à quitter entièrement notre dénomination, que des séminaires s'interrogent sur leur affiliation à l'Église méthodiste unie et que des conférences annuelles, une juridiction américaine entière et une conférence centrale européenne ont publié des déclarations de résistance. Il est clair pour nous que cette division ne s'est pas terminée et ne se terminera pas avec le vote de Saint-Louis. Les choses n'iront pas mieux de sitôt.

Le Livre de Jérémie contient ces paroles en Jérémie 6,14 :

« Ils soignent à la légère la blessure de mon peuple : « Tout ira bien, tout ira bien ! » disent-ils, et rien ne va ! »

En tant que président du Conseil des évêques et directrice des ministères connexionnels, nous ne pouvons pas faire comme si de rien n'était et ignorer les blessures de notre Église. Nous ne pouvons pas dire « Tout ira bien, tout ira bien ! » alors que rien ne va. Et nous pensons que la situation actuelle ne s'améliorera pas, parce que la Session extraordinaire a révélé des différences qui vont plus loin que des divergences d'opinions au sujet de la sexualité humaine. Nous pensons que pendant la Session extraordinaire se sont révélées des visions très différentes de ce que signifie être l'Église en mission. À la base de notre impasse se trouvent non seulement des herméneutiques différentes, mais aussi des ecclésiologies et des missiologies différentes.

Même si nous avons l'un comme l'autre œuvré à l'unité de l'Église durant tout notre ministère, nous pensons, du fait de ces différences fondamentales, qu'il ne peut plus y avoir d'unité telle que nous l'avons comprise et pratiquée autrefois. Nous pensons que nous devons prendre acte des conversations qui ont lieu dans toute notre connexion sur les moyens d'avancer dans le ministère en suivant éventuellement des chemins séparés.

Seigneur, aie pitié de nous.

Chères amies, chers amis, nous voulons envisager un avenir pour l'Église qui soit marqué par une paix durable. Une paix qui n'est pas bâtie sur un soutien clair et large – quel que soit le plan adopté – ne peut pas durer. On ne peut pas non plus se disputer en permanence.

C'est pourquoi nous vous posons la question aujourd'hui : comment allons-nous atteindre un lieu de paix ? Comment allons-nous honorer nos convictions et nos valeurs de façon à établir la paix ? Comment allons-nous pouvoir nous respecter les uns les autres malgré nos manières de penser différentes ? Comment allons-nous rester fidèles à nos propres convictions sans bafouer celles d'autrui ? Comment allons-nous pouvoir nous regarder dans les yeux et nous bénir les uns les autres en tant qu'enfants de Dieu ?

Ces questions émanent d'un désir profond de trouver une solution pour pouvoir envisager l'avenir avec intégrité, dans la paix et la liberté.

Nous pensons que pour vivre cet avenir, nous devons définir une unité basée sur notre tradition wesleyenne commune et notre engagement partagé envers le champ de mission, mais cela n'est pas nécessairement défini de façon organisationnelle, structurelle ou dans notre politique. Nous ne sommes pas en train de suggérer un plan particulier. Nous insistons plutôt sur la nécessité de progresser en tenant compte de la réalité de notre Église aujourd'hui. C'est pourquoi nous sommes là pour plaider avec l'Église.

- Nous implorons l'Église, en cette période de Carême, d'entrer ensemble en confession, repentons-nous de nos querelles et des blessures que nous nous sommes infligées et prions avec ferveur.
- Nous implorons l'Église d'engager une réflexion sur notre ecclésiologie et notre missiologie. Comment peut-on décrire, sans porter de jugement, les visions différentes de l'Église et de sa mission qui se sont manifestées pendant la Session extraordinaire ? Comment le vivier de spécialistes de l'Église méthodiste unie pourrait-il nous aider à mieux définir notre ecclésiologie et notre missiologie d'une manière qui nous libère tous pour le ministère ?
- Nous implorons l'Église d'engager une réflexion sur notre histoire, en particulier sur la création de l'Église méthodiste unie en 1968 et la disparition de la Juridiction centrale. Comment ce rassemblement sous une forme plus juste pourrait-il nous inspirer à une époque où il faudrait peut-être créer de nouvelles structures ?
- Nous implorons l'Église d'engager une réflexion sur notre mode d'organisation et sur les points positifs et négatifs de notre gouvernance en cette période sensible pour la vie de notre dénomination. Comment pourrait-on utiliser nos politiques en toute bonne foi pour nous libérer tous en vue des champs de mission sur lesquels nous avons été placés et appelés ?
- Nous implorons l'Église de converser les uns avec les autres, au-delà des frontières et des différences. Nous encourageons l'inclusion de nos frères et sœurs LGBTQIA+, de nos membres du monde entier et de nos partenaires œcuméniques dans ces conversations. Nous encourageons l'inclusion de nos jeunes et des personnes de couleur. De telles conversations, dont certaines ont déjà commencé, peuvent impliquer la participation de femmes et d'hommes, du clergé et des laïcs, de personnes influentes ou sans aucun pouvoir.
- Nous implorons l'Église d'entamer un dialogue basé dans la réalité de notre situation, mais qui tend à terme vers l'espoir. Nous sommes à un moment charnière de la vie de notre Église. Si nous le décidons, ce ne sera pas nécessairement un moment de destruction. Cela peut être un moment générateur, au cours duquel nous nous ouvrons à l'Esprit saint et à la nouveauté que Dieu peut apporter en nous et par nous.

Les conversations que nous suggérons doivent intégrer la sagesse de l'institution tout en reconnaissant que l'institution a essuyé de nombreux échecs. D'ailleurs, nous qui représentons l'Église institutionnelle, nous savons que les réponses ne viendront pas de nous. Mais nous avons quand même un rôle. Nous pouvons prendre acte des conversations qui se déroulent déjà

et créer un espace pour elles. Un espace qui nous maintiendra dans une tension créative capable de nous faire progresser tout en évitant l'implosion de notre dénomination et le chaos.

Nous n'exigeons pas une autre Commission. Nous exhortons au dialogue et à la réflexion afin de trouver une solution à l'amiable. Et nous nous demandons si la Table Connexionnelle, dont le rôle est de percevoir et d'articuler la vision, de diriger la mission, le ministère et les ressources de notre dénomination, peut commencer à rassembler les personnes et encourager de telles conversations, en reconnaissant que ces discussions ont déjà lieu. Nous nous demandons si la Table peut servir d'intermédiaire et connecter les personnes avec qui nous sommes en relations. Nous nous demandons si nous pouvons aider à fournir ce « réseau vital de relations interactives » qui est l'essence même de notre connexionnalité mondiale.

Nous implorons également la Table de nous atteler honnêtement aux effets de la Session extraordinaire sur nos propres travaux. En particulier, puisque nous sommes censés garantir l'efficacité missionnelle de nos agences générales, nous encourageons la Table à discuter des vulnérabilités très réelles de nos agences générales et de leur ministère dans cet environnement incertain.

Dans l'esprit de cette période de Carême, nous vous invitons à réfléchir aux versets 1 à 12 du psaume 51 et à prendre un moment de confession et de prière en silence. Nous partagerons ce psaume avec vous, et vous inviterons à le méditer en silence pendant 15 minutes. Ensuite, nous vous inviterons à discuter avec franchise des questions que nous avons soulevées, de vos opinions et sentiments, de vos rêves et espoirs. Nous souhaitons savoir ce que nous pouvons offrir à notre Église, selon vous, dans la réalité actuelle.

Pelo bem da Igreja Uma declaração na sequência da Sessão Especial

A nossa Conferência Geral reuniu-se há precisamente 39 dias em St. Louis, Missouri. Com uma margem de 54 votos, aprovámos o Plano Tradicional, que endurece a aplicação das atuais proibições do casamento entre pessoas do mesmo sexo e da designação e ordenação de clérigos homossexuais. Em resultado dessa decisão, algumas pessoas sentiram alívio. Outras pessoas sentiram desilusão e dor. Muitos dos nossos irmãos LGBTQIA+ manifestaram que a nossa decisão em St. Louis os feriu profundamente. Sentiram-na com uma rejeição do seu próprio ser.

Como vosso presidente e CCMO, lamentamos as formas pelas quais, como Conferência Geral, por vezes não demonstrámos o amor e respeito uns pelos outros que devíamos ter demonstrado, magoando-nos uns aos outros com as nossas palavras, atitudes e ações. Estamos cientes de que ver isso acontecer foi doloroso para todos nós, especialmente para os nossos membros da família LGBTQIA+. Queremos dizer aos nossos irmãos LGBTQIA+: afirmamos o vosso valor como filhos de Deus, como membros da família de Cristo. Valorizamos-vos, e valorizamos os vossos dons para o sacerdócio. São bem-vindos aqui.

Lamentamos a divisão da nossa igreja. Lamentamos ter lutado uns com os outros durante décadas sobre como devemos estar no ministério com pessoas, cuja identidade própria é lésbica, homossexual, bissexual, transexual, gay, intersexual ou assexual. Lutámos há décadas sobre diferentes entendimentos e interpretações das Escrituras.

Temos estado a lutar. E independentemente do que pensamos como indivíduos sobre a autoridade bíblica ou sobre o casamento entre pessoas do mesmo sexo, é uma realidade que todas as lutas destruíram o nosso corpo, o nosso testemunho, e dos seres humanos muito reais que são apanhados nas nossas lutas.

Apesar de muita oração e centralidade espiritual no culto, a Conferência Geral foi um testemunho muito público de que entrámos numa guerra legislativa e ideológica, uns contra os outros. Foi um testemunho público de que pegámos em armas e as utilizámos uns contra os outros. Foi um testemunho público de que lesámos o nosso próprio corpo.

E lesámos o testemunho da igreja. Talvez tenham visto os artigos nos jornais, alguns sobre acusações de fraude eleitoral. Amigos, isto é o testemunho de uma igreja que não nos pertence. Foi o testemunho da igreja de Jesus Cristo que lesámos. Foi o seu corpo que lesámos com as nossas lutas.

Senhor, tende piedade de nós.

No meio de todo o conflito e dor, uma coisa ficou clara na Sessão Especial. Estamos divididos e talvez não consigamos reconciliar as nossas diferenças com integridade. O conflito e a divisão irão provavelmente continuar. O clero, especialmente nos EUA, já declarou a sua resistência através da realização de casamentos entre pessoas do mesmo sexo. Sabemos que os Conselhos de Ministério Ordenado declararam continuar a recomendar candidatos para designação e ordenação, independentemente da sua orientação sexual. Ouvimos falar de membros de clero

entregarem as suas ordens, de igrejas e conferências anuais prontas a cessar o pagamento de contribuições ou a deixar a comunidade religiosa integralmente, de seminários questionarem a sua filiação na Igreja Metodista Unida, de conferências anuais, uma jurisdição norte-americana completa, e de uma conferência central europeia fazerem declarações de resistência. Para nós é claro que esta divisão não acabou, nem vai acabar com a votação em St. Louis. Não haverá paz.

O Livro de Jeremias menciona estas palavras em Jeremias 6:14:

«E curam a ferida da filha do meu povo levemente, dizendo: Paz, paz; quando não há paz.»

Como vosso presidente e CCMO, não podemos continuar a fazer o mesmo de sempre e ignorar a ferida de nossa igreja. Não podemos dizer, «Paz, Paz», quando não há paz. E consideramos que não há paz nesta situação atual, porque a Sessão Especial revelou diferenças que são mais profundas, do que as diferentes opiniões sobre a sexualidade humana. Consideramos que as revelações na Sessão Especial foram visões muito diferentes sobre o que significa ser a igreja em missão. Fundamental para o nosso impasse, não só são as diferentes hermenêuticas, mas também as diferentes eclesiologias e missiologias.

Por mais que tenhamos trabalhado conjuntamente em todos os nossos ministérios pela unidade da igreja, acreditamos que, por causa dessas diferenças fundamentais, não pode haver unidade como a entendemos e praticamos no passado. Acreditamos que precisamos de reconhecer as conversações realizadas ao longo da nossa ligação sobre as formas de avançar no ministério, talvez mesmo em caminhos separados.

Senhor, tende piedade de nós.

Amigos, queremos perspetivar um futuro para a igreja que seja marcado por uma paz sustentável. Uma paz que não seja construída sobre um apoio claro e amplo (independentemente de que plano teria sido aprovado), não é sustentável. A luta contínua não é sustentável.

Por isso, a nossa pergunta para vocês hoje é: como chegamos a um lugar de paz? Como honramos as nossas crenças e os nossos valores de forma a trazer paz? Como vamos conseguir respeitar-nos um ao outro apesar das nossas diferentes formas de pensar? Como vamos manter as nossas próprias convicções sem atropelar as convicções das outras pessoas? Como vamos conseguir olhar-nos nos olhos e abençoar-nos uns aos outros como irmãos e filhos de Deus?

No centro destas questões está o desejo de uma solução que traga paz e a liberdade de avançar para o futuro com integridade.

Acreditamos que para alcançar esse tipo de futuro temos de definir uma unidade baseada na nossa tradição wesleyana comum e no nosso compromisso comum com o âmbito missionário, mas isso não é necessariamente definido de forma organizacional, estrutural ou na nossa política. Não estamos a sugerir nenhum plano específico. Em vez disso, estamos a assinalar a necessidade de avançar de forma a lidar com a realidade atual da nossa igreja. Por isso, estamos aqui para apelar à igreja:

- Apelamos à igreja, neste período da Quaresma, que entre conosco em confissão, arrependimento pelas nossas lutas e pelas formas como nos ferimos, e em oração profunda.
- Apelamos à igreja que entre em reflexão sobre a nossa eclesiologia e a nossa missiologia. Como podemos descrever sem juízos de valor as diferentes visões sobre a igreja e a sua missão que se verificaram na Sessão Especial? Como poderão os nossos eruditos da Igreja Metodista Unida ajudar-nos a definir melhor a nossa eclesiologia e missiologia, de forma a libertar-nos a todos para o ministério?
- Apelamos à igreja que entre em reflexão sobre a nossa história, particularmente a criação da Igreja Metodista Unida em 1968 e o fim da Jurisdição Central. Como poderá esta união de forma mais justa informar-nos, num período em que talvez seja necessário criar novas estruturas?
- Apelamos à igreja que entre em reflexão sobre a nossa política e as formas pelas quais a nossa governação nos ajuda ou prejudica neste período sensível na vida da nossa comunidade religiosa. Como poderá ser utilizada a nossa política em boa-fé para nos libertar a todos para os âmbitos missionários em que fomos colocados e para os quais fomos chamados?
- Apelamos à igreja que entre em conversações dentro, entre e para além de todas as fronteiras. Incentivamos a inclusão dos nossos irmãos LGBTQIA+, dos membros de todas as ligações mundiais e dos nossos parceiros ecuménicos nessas conversações. Incentivamos a inclusão dos nossos jovens e das pessoas de cor. Essas conversações, algumas das quais já ocorrem, podem reunir mulheres e homens, clérigos e leigos, pessoas com poder e pessoas sem poder.
- Apelamos à igreja que entre numa conversação que se baseie na realidade da nossa situação, mas que, em última instância, caminhe no sentido da esperança. Este é um momento seminal na vida da nossa igreja. Se fizermos uma escolha, não tem de ser um momento de destruição. Pode ser um momento gerador, em que nos abrimos para o Espírito Santo e para algo novo que Deus poderá fazer dentro e através de nós.

As conversações que estamos a sugerir devem incorporar a sabedoria da instituição, reconhecendo, no entanto, que a instituição nos falhou de várias formas. De facto, como representantes da igreja institucional, sabemos que as respostas não virão de nós. Mas temos um papel a desempenhar. Podemos reconhecer as conversações que já estão a ser realizadas e criar espaço para essas conversações — espaço esse que nos manterá na tensão criativa que nos poderá fazer avançar, impedindo ao mesmo tempo a implosão da nossa comunidade religiosa para o caos.

Não estamos a pedir outra Comissão. Estamos a pedir conversação e reflexão em busca de uma solução amigável. E interrogamo-nos se a Mesa Conexional, na sua função de organismo que discerne e articula a visão, que gere a missão, o ministério e os recursos da nossa comunidade religiosa, poderá começar a fazer interligações e incentivar essas conversações, reconhecendo que estas já ocorrem. Interrogamo-nos se a Mesa Conexional (CT) pode ajudar a mediar as conversações e unir as pessoas com quem mantemos relações. Interrogamo-nos se podemos ajudar a fornecer essa «rede vital de relações interativas» que constitui a própria essência da conexidade mundial.

Apelamos também à CT que lide honestamente com o impacto da Sessão Especial no nosso próprio trabalho. Particularmente, tendo em conta a nossa função de garantir a eficácia missionária das nossas agências gerais, incentivamos a discussão dentro da CT sobre as vulnerabilidades muito reais das nossas agências gerais e dos seus ministérios neste ambiente incerto.

No espírito do período da Quaresma, convidamos-vos a refletir sobre o Salmo 51: 1-12 e a mergulhar num período de confissão e oração silenciosa. Iremos partilhar o salmo convosco e convidar-vos a um silêncio de reflexão durante 15 minutos. De seguida, iremos convidar-vos para uma conversa honesta sobre as questões levantadas, os vossos pensamentos e sentimentos; as vossas esperanças e os vossos sonhos. Queremos saber o que pensam sobre o que podemos oferecer à nossa igreja, na realidade deste momento.

Appendix D

The Camel story

Many years ago, a man died and left his camels to his three sons; one-half to the oldest, one-third to the second son, and one-ninth to the youngest. However, there was a problem--he had only 17 camels.

A dispute quickly arose among the brothers. The eldest son argued that the father's will was in error because one-half, one-third, and one-ninth do not add up to a whole. He felt that he should receive all the camels because this was the tradition in the community. The middle son said his wife had the potential to be very ill and pleaded for an extra camel so that he could sustain his family. Although the story was not true, it seemed like a good idea at the time to get that extra camel at all costs and deal with the family fallout later. The youngest son argued that what was allocated to him was actually one-sixth because a number reversal had occurred.

The adversarial negotiation escalated. The feud became so heated that the families did not speak to each other. The brothers no longer allowed their children to play together and terminated all joint ventures between themselves. One of the siblings even thought of killing some of the camels or one of his brothers. The brothers desperately needed to resolve this conflict. They finally agreed to go to a wise old woman in the community and tell her of their problem. They gave her the right to arbitrate their dispute and to dictate a solution. She said, "I am old and unable to ride my camel anymore. Why don't you take my camel? Then you will have 18 camels and you can divide them among the three of you."

The brothers gave half (or 9 of the 18 camels to the eldest son, a third (or 6) of them to the second son and a ninth (or 2) of them to the youngest son. One camel remained. The brothers were able to agree that they should return it to the old woman.

Appendix E

Report to General Conference Presentation
Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
Connectional Table Spring Meeting, 2019

Co-Visioning the Future of the Church

THE WORLD AND WORK OF THE CONNECTIONAL TABLE
IN THE 2017-2020 QUADRENNIUM

I: In the Midst of Uncertainty and Change a Renewed Focus on the CT's Purpose

This introduction would deal with how we have utilized adaptive leadership concepts to address the uncertainty and change facing our denomination. Highlight the ways in which a focus on the CT's purpose to discern and articulate vision helps move us from purely technical work to adaptive work.

II: Reviewing Our Work: Collaborative Strategies for Vitality

These sections (2 and 3) would review the work of the CT from the standpoint of accomplishments, issues that this work raises, and which of these areas of work would continue into the next quadrennium.

Ila: Bringing Vitality through the Four Areas of Focus

- 1) A New Messaging Strategy
- 2) Learnings from the Connectional Assessment Tool
- 3) Agency Evaluation and Missional Effectiveness

IIb: A Values-Based Approach to a Missional Budget



III: Reviewing Our Work: Living Into Being a Worldwide Church

- 1) A Global Forum
- 2) U.S. Contextual Ministries
- 3) Coming Alongside the Standing Committee
(Ch. 5)

IV: Leadership in an Uncertain Future

Here we would raise questions about the CT's role as the denomination moves into an uncertain future highlighting how the CT can be helpful in moving the denomination forward.

Appendix F

Chapter 5 group presentation
Ole Birch
Connectional Table Spring Meeting, 2019

FINAL STATUS

Advisory Group 2

in collaborative work with

the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters on

Chapter 5 – Administrative order,

PROPOSAL TO THE STAND. COM.

- We request that the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters (SCCCM) expand the mandate of the BOD ¶101 to allow for the creation of new material. As noted in the Theology of Agency document, “The agencies of The United Methodist Church are an integral part of the connection...that enlivens and connects United Methodists across the globe.”
- The SCCCM, in collaboration with the Committee on Faith and Order and the Connectional Table (CT), will bring legislation to the 2024 General Conference creating a new non-adaptable section of Chapter 5 of the General Book of Discipline which reflects the theological and missional components of agency which are essential wherever United Methodism exists.
- In accordance with the BOD ¶905.4-5, the CT will support the collaborative efforts of the General Agencies as they develop disciplinary language that specifically describes the agencies’ work in a way that reflects the theological and missional components of agency. This collaborative effort will be carried out in partnership with the SCCCM.

THE DECISION OF THE STAND. COM.

- ...for Part VI, Chapter 5 (Administrative Order) of the ~~2016~~2020 *Book of Discipline*, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters will work also in consultation with the Connectional Table for creating a new Part VI which reflects the theological and missional components of agency and expresses what is essential wherever United Methodism exists, and a new Part VII accordingly. In accordance with BOD ¶ 905.4-5, the Connectional Table will support the collaborative efforts of the General Agencies as they develop disciplinary language that specifically describes the agencies' work in a way that reflects the theological and missional components of agency. This collaborative effort of the Connectional Table will be carried out in partnership with the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters which will submit legislation on Part VI and Part VII to GC2024.

Appendix G

Update on a General Church Council/Global Forum

A non-disciplinary petition passed the 2016 General Conference, which directed the Connectional Table (CT) to recommend a model for a General Church Council (or Global Forum) to replace the Connectional Table by the next quadrennium. This work was to align with the work of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters and the Committee on Faith and Order for a General Book of Discipline. The CT convened a collaborative advisory group, co-chaired by Bishop Hope Morgan Ward and CT member Monalisa Tuitahi. The group worked throughout the quadrennium to provide a forum for conversations with key stakeholders and to begin to develop a framework for legislation that would re-envision the make-up of the CT and its mandates.

The vision and underlying principles for this work were stated as such:

Vision: A General Church Council (Global Forum) would be a geographically representative, intergenerational body exemplifying the diversity of our worldwide connection.

Key Principles:

- Build trust in three primary relationships:
 1. The General Conference through a partnership with the Commission on General Conference;
 2. Annual conferences through collaboration with active bishops and directors of connectional ministries; and
 3. Program-related general agencies through World Service stewardship, and administrative general agencies through stewardship of mission and vision alignment;
- Guide a uniquely Wesleyan/spiritual Connection; and
- Create an open-handed/permission-giving culture that enables innovation by fostering creativity and enhancing ministry at all levels of the church.

The Connectional Table has engaged conversations to move this work forward and has developed a possible framework for the make-up and mandates for a General Church Council or Global Forum. This framework still needs to be tested among various stakeholders before it can be developed into legislation.

As well, the uncertainty that has come as a result of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference and its aftermath raises questions about the advisability of developing this framework into legislation for the 2020 General Conference. As well, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters may not have completed the section on administrative order of a General Book of Discipline by the 2020 legislative deadline. This section includes the current paragraphs related to the CT. And, it is not clear that the Standing Committee will be able to offer a finished General Book of Discipline to the General Conference in 2020.

It is our recommendation, therefore, that this work be paused at this time. The Connectional Table will continue its collaborative work with the Council of Bishops into the next quadrennium, preparing to offer legislation for a General Church Council or Global Forum in 2024.

Appendix H

Narrative Overview of Legislation Toward a U.S. Central Conference: Two-Stage Proposal

The Connectional Table is considering bringing a legislative proposal to the GC2020 to create a United States Central Conference (USCC) comprising the current U.S. jurisdictional conferences. Currently, many General Conference petitions pertain mostly or exclusively to the UMC in the U.S. The U.S. Church has no venue other than General Conference for U.S.-specific legislation. The intent of a USCC is to provide an organizational structure for the U.S. to have parity with other existing central conferences for doing work on the adaptable portions of *The Book of Discipline*. It is important to note that this proposal is consistent with and complementary to the work on a *General Book of Discipline*. The *General Book of Discipline* is currently in design to allow only General Conference the ability to work on non-adaptable sections and allow central conferences to work on adaptable sections. It is also important to note that the proposal would not change the role and authority of U.S. jurisdictional conferences.

This proposal is designed in two stages. Stage I would function as both a contingency and an interim plan, because the constitutional amendments needed to create a U.S. Central Conference would require passage by the General Conference and ratification in the annual conference (see the diagram below depicting the relationship between Stages I and II). For this reason, Stage I would create a committee of the General Conference (called the Committee on U.S. Matters) comprising the GC delegates representing the annual conferences in the U.S. Discussion is also underway about how best to add additional members from the central conferences outside of the U.S. This committee would have a legislative function at GC2024 to consider U.S.-centric petitions that do not relate to the current central conferences outside the United States. The committee would process legislation that is U.S.-regional in nature and **not** global in nature; it would not develop any legislation. All legislation approved by the committee would also need to be approved by the General Conference plenary.

The main focus of the proposal is Stage II, which would create and organize a U.S. Central Conference to convene following the GC2024. Again, the U.S. Central Conference would encompass the U.S. jurisdictions, which would continue with the same jurisdictional powers and duties and the same geographic configurations. It is important to note that, if the U.S. Central Conference legislation is passed and ratified, the Committee on U.S. Matters would be interim and might never need to convene.

Stage I Legislation Overview: The Formation of Committee on U.S. Matters

The Stage I petition proposes the formation of a Committee on U.S. Matters, including it in the *Discipline* section on General Conference, creating a new paragraph between ¶ 506 and ¶ 507. The Committee, with legislative function, would include all of the General Conference delegates from annual conferences in the U.S. and would deliberate on petitions to the General Conference that only apply to U.S. matters, such as the U.S. clergy pension plan and resolutions related to U.S. policies and secular law. The inclusion of additional members from the central conferences outside of the U.S. would help bring insight on whether some legislation that is perceived as U.S.-centric may also have some global implications. This Committee may be an interim body and would continue functioning until a U.S. Central Conference or similar entity to provide governance for adaptable matters was created. At that point the Committee would cease to exist. While adoption of Stage II and creation of a U.S. Central Conference (as described below) is the desired end-state, Stage I legislation does not depend on adoption of Stage II legislation.

A second Stage I non-Disciplinary petition would provide guidance and direction to ensure that administration and planning for a Committee on U.S. Matters is addressed. This petition contains provisions for the initial convening and election of Committee officers, and the creation of subcommittees as needed to most effectively process the legislation assigned to the Committee, among other provisions.

Because of the unique nature of this Committee, the Connectional Table Advisory Group chair is taking steps to forge a partnership with the Commission on the General Conference and its Rules Committee to ensure that everyone is aware of and understands the proposal and can offer administrative guidance and support as appropriate.

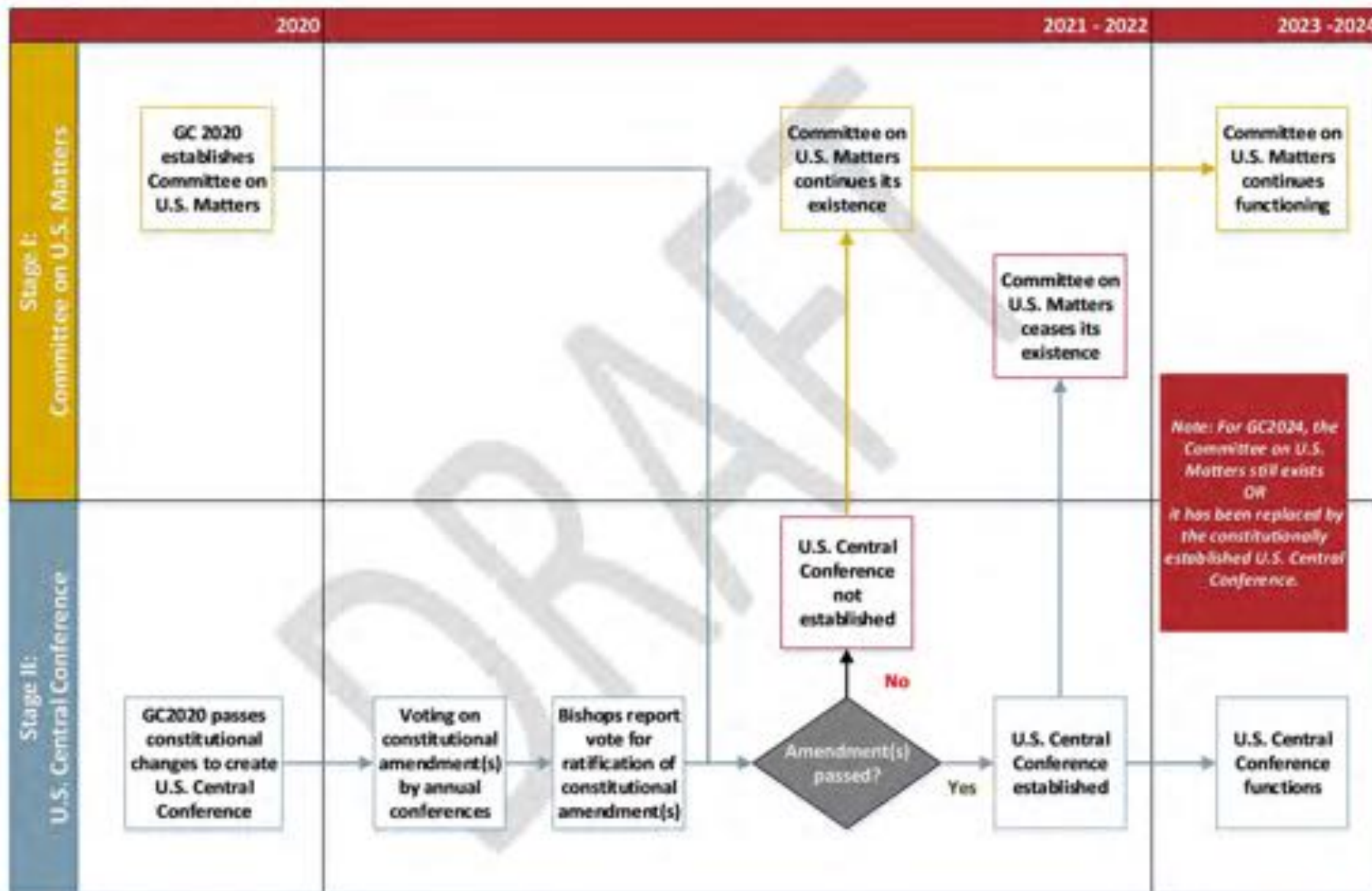
Stage II Legislation Overview: The Formation of a U.S. Central Conference

Constitutional Amendments: There are **five constitutional amendments** that would need to be proposed, four of which delete the phrase “outside the United States,” enabling a central conference to function within the geographic boundaries of the United States. The other important amendment would ensure the jurisdictions would continue to function with the same powers and duties they currently have.

Changes to Conferences [¶¶ 540s]: There would be **nine changes** to the paragraphs in **Section III. Central Conferences**. One would add the United States Central Conference to the list of central conferences in the BOD. The rest of the changes focus on composition and clarification of powers and duties. These changes would include specifying that the General Conference delegates of U.S. annual conferences are also the delegates to the U.S. Central Conference, defining the territory for the U.S. Central Conference as congruent with the territory of the U.S. annual conferences, and reiterating that the duties and authority of the U.S. Central Conference do not encroach on the duties and authority of the jurisdictional conferences.

Organization: Lastly, there would a petition calling for a 35-member interim committee on organization of the U.S. Central Conference appointed by the active jurisdictional bishops and directed to work with the Commission on the General Conference and the Business Manager of the General Conference to care for the organization and planning of a new central conference in the United States.

Stages I and II Relationship



Aperçu narratif de la législation en vue d'une conférence centrale des États-Unis : Proposition en deux étapes

La Table Connexionnelle envisage de soumettre au GC2020 une proposition législative visant à créer une conférence centrale des États-Unis (USCC) regroupant les conférences juridictionnelles américaines actuelles. Actuellement, de nombreuses pétitions de Conférence générale concernent principalement ou exclusivement l'UMC aux États-Unis. L'Église américaine n'a pas d'autre lieu que la Conférence générale pour faire adopter une législation spécifique aux États-Unis. L'initiative d'une USCC est de fournir une structure organisationnelle permettant aux États-Unis d'être au même niveau que les autres conférences centrales existantes afin de travailler sur les parties adaptables du « Livre de discipline ». Il est important de noter que cette proposition est conforme et complémentaire aux travaux sur un *Livre général de discipline*. Le *Livre général de discipline* est en cours de conception afin de permettre uniquement à la Conférence générale de travailler sur des sections non adaptables et de permettre aux Conférences centrales de travailler sur des sections adaptables. Il est également important de noter que la proposition ne changerait pas le rôle et l'autorité des conférences juridictionnelles américaines.

Cette proposition est conçue en deux étapes. L'étape I servirait à la fois de plan de contingence et de plan intérimaire, car les amendements constitutionnels nécessaires pour créer une conférence centrale des États-Unis nécessiteraient son adoption par la Conférence générale et sa ratification lors de la conférence annuelle (voir le diagramme ci-dessous illustrant la relation entre les étapes I et II). Pour cette raison, l'étape I créerait un comité de la Conférence générale (appelé Comité chargé des questions liées aux États-Unis) comprenant les délégués de la CG représentant les conférences annuelles aux États-Unis. Des discussions sont également en cours sur la meilleure manière d'ajouter des membres des conférences centrales en dehors des États-Unis. Ce comité aurait un rôle législatif lors de la CG2024 en vue d'examiner les pétitions spécifiques aux États-Unis et qui ne concernent pas les conférences centrales en cours en dehors des États-Unis. Le comité traiterait les projets de lois américaines de nature régionale et qui ne sont pas de nature globale. Il ne développerait aucune législation. Tous les projets de loi approuvés par le comité devront également être approuvés en plénière lors de la Conférence générale.

La proposition porte principalement sur l'étape II, qui créerait et organiserait une conférence centrale des États-Unis à convoquer à la suite de la CG2024. Encore une fois, la Conférence centrale des États-Unis engloberait les juridictions des États-Unis, qui continueraient avec les mêmes pouvoirs et devoirs juridictionnels et les mêmes configurations géographiques. Il est important de noter que, si la législation concernant la Conférence centrale des États-Unis est adoptée et ratifiée, le Comité chargé des questions liées aux États-Unis sera intérimaire et pourrait ne jamais avoir besoin de se réunir.

Étape I Aperçu de la législation : La formation du Comité chargé des questions liées aux États-Unis

La pétition de l'étape I propose la création d'un Comité chargé des questions liées aux États-Unis, qui sera inclus dans la section *Discipline* de la Conférence générale, créant ainsi un nouveau paragraphe entre les paragraphes 506 et 507. Le Comité, doté de fonctions législatives, comprendrait tous les délégués à la Conférence générale des conférences annuelles aux États-Unis et délibérerait sur les pétitions adressées à la Conférence générale qui ne concerneraient que les questions liées aux États-Unis, telles que le régime de retraite des membres du clergé américain et les résolutions relatives aux politiques américaines et à la loi laïque. L'inclusion de membres supplémentaires issus des conférences centrales situées en dehors des États-Unis permettrait de mieux comprendre si une législation perçue comme centrée sur les États-Unis peut également avoir des incidences à l'échelle mondiale. Ce comité pourrait être un organe intérimaire et continuerait à fonctionner jusqu'à la

création d'une Conférence centrale des États-Unis ou d'une entité similaire chargée de la gouvernance des questions adaptables. À ce stade, le comité cesserait d'exister. Bien que l'adoption de l'étape II et la création d'une conférence centrale des États-Unis (comme décrit ci-dessous) constituent la solution finale souhaitée, la législation de l'étape I ne dépend pas de l'adoption de la législation de l'étape II.

Une seconde pétition non disciplinaire de l'étape I fournirait des directives et une orientation afin de garantir que la gestion et la planification d'un Comité chargé des questions liées aux États-Unis sont traitées. Cette pétition contient des dispositions relatives à la convocation et à l'élection initiales des membres du bureau du Comité et à la création de sous-comités, le cas échéant, afin de traiter au mieux les législations confiées au Comité, entre autres dispositions.

De par la nature unique de ce comité, le président du groupe consultatif de la Table Connexionnelle prend des mesures pour nouer un partenariat avec la Commission concernant la Conférence générale et son Comité de règles afin de s'assurer que tout le monde connaisse et comprend la proposition et puisse offrir des conseils et un soutien administratif, le cas échéant.

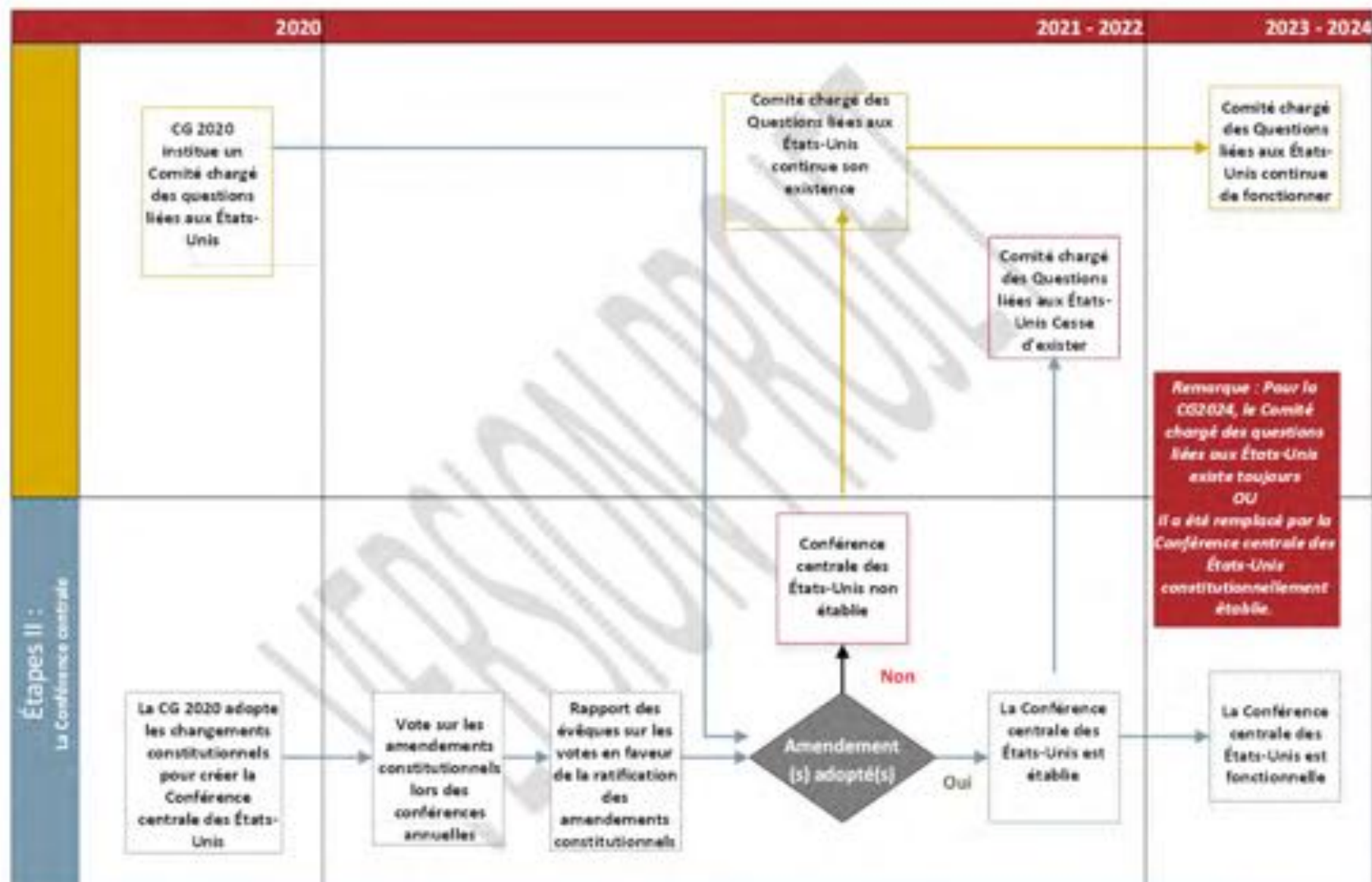
Étape II Aperçu de la législation : La formation d'une Conférence centrale des États-Unis

Amendements constitutionnels : Cinq amendements constitutionnels devront être proposés, dont quatre suppriment les termes « en dehors des États-Unis », permettant ainsi à une conférence centrale de fonctionner dans les limites géographiques des États-Unis. L'autre important amendement garantirait que les juridictions continueraient de fonctionner avec les pouvoirs et obligations qu'elles ont actuellement.

Changements dans les conférences [¶¶ 540s] : Neuf modifications seraient portées aux paragraphes de la **Section III. Conférences Centrales**. La Conférence centrale des États-Unis serait ajoutée à la liste des conférences centrales dans le BOD. Le reste des changements porte sur la composition et la clarification des pouvoirs et des devoirs. Ces modifications consisteraient notamment à préciser que les délégués à la Conférence générale des conférences annuelles des États-Unis sont également les délégués à la Conférence centrale des États-Unis, définissant ainsi le territoire de la Conférence centrale des États-Unis comme étant en harmonie avec le territoire des conférences annuelles des États-Unis et rappelant que les devoirs et l'autorité de la Conférence centrale des États-Unis n'empiètent pas sur les devoirs et l'autorité des conférences juridictionnelles.

Organisation : Enfin, une pétition réclamant la création d'un comité intérimaire de 35 membres sur l'organisation de la Conférence centrale des États-Unis, dont les membres sont nommés par les évêques juridictionnels actifs ; et qui sera chargé de collaborer avec la Commission de la Conférence générale et le Directeur Commercial de la Conférence générale pour traiter de l'organisation et la planification d'une nouvelle conférence centrale aux États-Unis.

Relation entre les étapes I et II



	2017-2020	Revised 2021-2024	Change to 2017-2020	% Change to 2017-2020	CT Final 2021-2024 Prop	% Change to 2017-2020
Total Apportioned @ 3.27 Net Expenditures	\$ 604,033,991	\$ 493,768,025	\$ (110,265,966)	-18.3%	\$ 493,768,025	-18.3%
Less GCFA Allocations:						
Episcopal Fund	\$ 92,019,335	\$ 98,176,000	\$ 6,156,665	6.7%	\$ 98,176,000	6.7%
General Administration Fund	\$ 36,896,453	\$ 30,110,000	\$ (6,786,453)	-18.4%	\$ 30,110,000	-18.4%
GCFA Fixed Charges						
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	\$ 204,600	\$ 64,000	\$ (140,600)	-68.7%	\$ 64,000	-68.7%
World Service Fund	\$ 7,372,537	\$ 6,839,000	\$ (533,537)	-7.2%	\$ 6,839,000	-7.2%
Total GCFA Fixed Charges	\$ 7,577,137	\$ 6,903,000	\$ (674,137)	-8.9%	\$ 6,903,000	-8.9%
Total GCFA Allocations	\$ 136,492,925	\$ 135,189,000	\$ (1,303,925)	-1.0%	\$ 135,189,000	-1.0%
Available Funds For CT Allocation	\$ 467,541,066	\$ 358,579,025	\$ (108,962,041)	-23.3%	\$ 358,579,025	-23.3%
World Service Fund						
Fixed Charges						
Interpretation Resources	\$ 1,432,197	\$ 1,432,000	\$ (197)	0.0%	\$ 1,068,114	-25.4%
Connectional Table	\$ 2,140,350	\$ 2,033,000	\$ (107,350)	-5.0%	\$ 2,021,858	-5.5%
Tot Total Fixed Charges	\$ 3,572,547	\$ 3,465,000	\$ (107,547)	-3.0%	\$ 3,089,972	-13.5%
On-Ratio						
General Board of Church & Society	\$ 11,021,677	\$ 8,800,000	\$ (2,221,677)	-20.2%	\$ 8,751,773	-20.6%
Discipleship Ministries	\$ 34,952,169	\$ 29,700,000	\$ (5,252,169)	-15.0%	\$ 29,537,233	-15.5%
General Board of Global Ministries	\$ 111,338,501	\$ 89,071,000	\$ (22,267,501)	-20.0%	\$ 88,582,858	-20.4%
General Board of Higher Education	\$ 26,932,588	\$ 21,546,000	\$ (5,386,588)	-20.0%	\$ 21,427,920	-20.4%
Central Conference Theological Fund	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$ (3,000,000)	-30.0%	\$ 6,961,637	-30.4%
Young Clergy Initiative	\$ 6,952,413	\$ 6,000,000	\$ (952,413)	-13.7%	\$ 5,967,118	-14.2%
United Methodist Communications	\$ 71,651,059	\$ 46,500,000	\$ (25,151,059)	-35.1%	\$ 46,601,201	-35.0%
Commission on Religion & Race	\$ 7,354,467	\$ 7,354,000	\$ (467)	0.0%	\$ 7,313,697	-0.6%
Minority Self-Determination Fund	\$ 2,488,777	\$ 2,489,000	\$ 223	0.0%	\$ 2,475,359	-0.5%
Commission on the Status & Role of Women	\$ 3,957,518	\$ 3,958,000	\$ 482	0.0%	\$ 3,936,309	-0.5%
United Methodist Men	\$ 1,476,974	\$ 1,477,000	\$ 26	0.0%	\$ 1,468,905	-0.5%
Ethnic National Plans:					\$ -	
Native American	\$ 1,073,317	\$ 1,075,000	\$ 1,683	0.2%	\$ 1,069,109	-0.4%
Strengthening the Black Church	\$ 1,976,432	\$ 1,975,000	\$ (1,432)	-0.1%	\$ 1,964,176	-0.6%
Asian American	\$ 1,398,428	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,572	0.1%	\$ 1,392,327	-0.4%
Korean	\$ 3,061,048	\$ 3,060,000	\$ (1,048)	0.0%	\$ 3,043,230	-0.6%
National Hispanic Plan	\$ 3,143,830	\$ 3,144,000	\$ 170	0.0%	\$ 3,126,770	-0.5%
Pacific Island	\$ 540,302	\$ 540,000	\$ (302)	-0.1%	\$ 537,041	-0.6%
Total On-Ratio-Program Agencies	\$ 299,319,500	\$ 235,089,000	\$ (64,230,500)	-21.5%	\$ 234,156,663	-21.8%
On-Ratio Missional Contingency Reserves	\$ 463,825	\$ 1,417,000	\$ 953,175	205.5%	\$ 414,715	-10.6%
Total On-Ratio, World Service	\$ 299,783,325	\$ 236,506,000	\$ (63,277,325)	-21.1%	\$ 234,571,378	-21.8%
On-Ratio Other Funds:						
Black College Fund	\$ 41,863,455	\$ 35,584,000	\$ (6,279,455)	-15.0%	\$ 35,388,987	-15.5%
Ministerial Education	\$ 104,949,647	\$ 77,000,000	\$ (27,949,647)	-26.6%	\$ 76,578,011	-27.0%
Africa University	\$ 9,368,872	\$ 8,000,000	\$ (1,368,872)	-14.6%	\$ 7,956,157	-15.1%
Interdenominational Cooperation	\$ 8,003,220	\$ 1,000,000	\$ (7,003,220)	-87.5%	\$ 994,520	-87.6%
Total Other On-Ratio Funds	\$ 164,185,194	\$ 121,584,000	\$ (42,601,194)	-25.9%	\$ 120,917,675	-26.4%
Total CT Allocations	\$ 467,541,066	\$ 361,555,000	\$ (105,986,066)	-22.7%	\$ 358,579,025	-23.3%

	2017-2020		% Change to 2017- 2020	UMCOM @ 30% Red.		UMCOM @ 31% Red.		Alt. Model	
	2017-2020	CT Final 2021- 2024 Prop		UMCOM @ 30% Red.	UMCOM @ 31% Red.	UMCOM @ 31% Red.	UMCOM @ 31% Red.	Alt. Model	Alt. Model
Total Apportioned @ 3.27 Net Expenditures	\$ 604,033,991	\$ 493,768,025	-18.3%	\$ 493,768,025	-18.3%	\$ 493,768,025	-18.3%	\$ 493,768,025	-18.3%
Less GCFA Allocations:									
Episcopal Fund	\$ 92,019,335	\$ 98,176,000	6.7%	\$ 98,176,000	6.7%	\$ 98,176,000	6.7%	\$ 98,176,000	6.7%
General Administration Fund	\$ 36,896,453	\$ 30,110,000	-18.4%	\$ 30,110,000	-18.4%	\$ 30,110,000	-18.4%	\$ 30,110,000	-18.4%
GCFA Fixed Charges									
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	\$ 204,600	\$ 64,000	-68.7%	\$ 64,000	-68.7%	\$ 64,000	-68.7%	\$ 64,000	-68.7%
World Service Fund	\$ 7,372,537	\$ 6,839,000	-7.2%	\$ 6,839,000	-7.2%	\$ 6,839,000	-7.2%	\$ 6,839,000	-7.2%
Total GCFA Fixed Charges	\$ 7,577,137	\$ 6,903,000	-8.9%	\$ 6,903,000	-8.9%	\$ 6,903,000	-8.9%	\$ 6,903,000	-8.9%
Total GCFA Allocations	\$ 136,492,925	\$ 135,189,000	-1.0%	\$ 135,189,000	-1.0%	\$ 135,189,000	-1.0%	\$ 135,189,000	-1.0%
Available Funds For CT Allocation	\$ 467,541,066	\$ 358,579,025	-23.3%	\$ 358,579,025	-23.3%	\$ 358,579,025	-23.3%	\$ 358,579,025	-23.3%
World Service Fund									
Fixed Charges									
Interpretation Resources	\$ 1,432,197	\$ 1,068,114	-25.4%	\$ 1,068,114	-25.4%	\$ 1,068,114	-25.4%	\$ 1,068,114	-25.4%
Connectional Table	\$ 2,140,350	\$ 2,021,858	-5.5%	\$ 2,021,858	-5.5%	\$ 2,021,858	-5.5%	\$ 1,712,280	-20.0%
Tot Total Fixed Charges	\$ 3,572,547	\$ 3,089,972	-13.5%	\$ 3,089,972	-13.5%	\$ 3,089,972	-13.5%	\$ 2,780,394	-22.2%
On-Ratio									
General Board of Church & Society	\$ 11,021,677	\$ 8,751,773	-20.6%	\$ 8,539,138	-22.5%	\$ 8,582,000	-22.1%	\$ 8,596,908	-22.0%
Discipleship Ministries	\$ 34,952,169	\$ 29,537,233	-15.5%	\$ 28,862,919	-17.4%	\$ 28,998,845	-17.0%	\$ 27,961,735	-20.0%
General Board of Global Ministries	\$ 111,338,501	\$ 88,582,858	-20.4%	\$ 86,434,863	-22.4%	\$ 86,867,848	-22.0%	\$ 86,844,031	-22.0%
General Board of Higher Education	\$ 26,932,588	\$ 21,427,920	-20.4%	\$ 20,908,324	-22.4%	\$ 21,013,062	-22.0%	\$ 21,007,419	-22.0%
Central Conference Theological Fund	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 6,961,637	-30.4%	\$ 6,961,637	-30.4%	\$ 6,961,637	-30.4%	\$ 6,961,637	-30.4%
Young Clergy Initiative	\$ 6,952,413	\$ 5,967,118	-14.2%	\$ 5,967,118	-14.2%	\$ 5,967,118	-14.2%	\$ 5,967,118	-14.2%
United Methodist Communications	\$ 71,651,059	\$ 46,601,201	-35.0%	\$ 50,155,741	-30.0%	\$ 49,439,231	-31.0%	\$ 51,480,891	-28.2%
Commission on Religion & Race	\$ 7,354,467	\$ 7,313,697	-0.6%	\$ 7,313,697	-0.6%	\$ 7,313,697	-0.6%	\$ 6,986,744	-5.0%
Minority Self-Determination Fund	\$ 2,488,777	\$ 2,475,359	-0.5%	\$ 2,475,359	-0.5%	\$ 2,475,359	-0.5%	\$ 2,364,338	-5.0%
Commission on the Status & Role of Women	\$ 3,957,518	\$ 3,936,309	-0.5%	\$ 3,936,309	-0.5%	\$ 3,936,309	-0.5%	\$ 3,759,642	-5.0%
United Methodist Men	\$ 1,476,974	\$ 1,468,905	-0.5%	\$ 1,468,905	-0.5%	\$ 1,468,905	-0.5%	\$ 1,403,125	-5.0%
Ethnic National Plans:		\$							
Native American	\$ 1,073,317	\$ 1,069,109	-0.4%	\$ 1,069,109	-0.4%	\$ 1,069,109	-0.4%	\$ 1,069,109	-0.4%
Strengthening the Black Church	\$ 1,976,432	\$ 1,964,176	-0.6%	\$ 1,964,176	-0.6%	\$ 1,964,176	-0.6%	\$ 1,964,176	-0.6%
Asian American	\$ 1,398,428	\$ 1,392,327	-0.4%	\$ 1,392,327	-0.4%	\$ 1,392,327	-0.4%	\$ 1,392,327	-0.4%
Korean	\$ 3,061,048	\$ 3,043,230	-0.6%	\$ 3,043,230	-0.6%	\$ 3,043,230	-0.6%	\$ 3,043,230	-0.6%
National Hispanic Plan	\$ 3,143,830	\$ 3,126,770	-0.5%	\$ 3,126,770	-0.5%	\$ 3,126,770	-0.5%	\$ 3,126,770	-0.5%
Pacific Island	\$ 540,302	\$ 537,041	-0.6%	\$ 537,041	-0.6%	\$ 537,041	-0.6%	\$ 537,041	-0.6%
Total On-Ratio-Program Agencies	\$ 299,319,500	\$ 234,156,663	-21.8%	\$ 234,156,663	-21.8%	\$ 234,156,663	-21.8%	\$ 234,466,241	-21.7%
On-Ratio Missional Contingency Reserves	\$ 463,825	\$ 414,715	-10.6%	\$ 414,715	-10.6%	\$ 414,715	-10.6%	\$ 414,715	-10.6%
Total On-Ratio, World Service	\$ 299,783,325	\$ 234,571,378	-21.8%	\$ 234,571,378	-21.8%	\$ 234,571,378	-21.8%	\$ 234,880,956	-21.6%
On-Ratio Other Funds:									
Black College Fund	\$ 41,863,455	\$ 35,388,987	-15.5%	\$ 35,388,987	-15.5%	\$ 35,388,987	-15.5%	\$ 35,388,987	-15.5%
Ministerial Education	\$ 104,949,647	\$ 76,578,011	-27.0%	\$ 76,578,011	-27.0%	\$ 76,578,011	-27.0%	\$ 76,578,011	-27.0%
Africa University	\$ 9,368,872	\$ 7,956,157	-15.1%	\$ 7,956,157	-15.1%	\$ 7,956,157	-15.1%	\$ 7,956,157	-15.1%
Interdenominational Cooperation	\$ 8,003,220	\$ 994,520	-87.6%	\$ 994,520	-87.6%	\$ 994,520	-87.6%	\$ 994,520	-87.6%
Total Other On-Ratio Funds	\$ 164,185,194	\$ 120,917,675	-26.4%	\$ 120,917,675	-26.4%	\$ 120,917,675	-26.4%	\$ 120,917,675	-26.4%
Total CT Allocations	\$ 467,541,066	\$ 358,579,025	-23.3%	\$ 358,579,025	-23.3%	\$ 358,579,025	-23.3%	\$ 358,579,025	-23.3%

	2017-2020 Quad	Current %	Final 2021-2014 Quad	Change in \$\$ Final	Final % Change	Final Share %	Allocation of 1,975,975
Total Apportioned @ 2.7 Net Expenditures	\$ 604,033,991		\$ 493,768,025	\$ (110,265,966)	-18.30%		
Less							
Episcopal Fund	\$ 92,019,335		\$ 98,176,000	\$ 6,156,665	6.70%		
General Administration Fund	\$ 36,896,453		\$ 30,110,000	\$ (6,786,453)	-18.40%		
Available before fixed charges & On-Ratio	\$ 475,118,203		\$ 365,482,025	\$ (109,636,178)			
Fixed Charges							
Interdenomination GCFA-Fixed	\$ 204,600		\$ 64,000	\$ (140,600)	-68.70%		
GCFA	\$ 7,372,537		\$ 6,839,000	\$ (533,537)	-7.20%		
Total Fixed Charges	\$ 7,577,137		\$ 6,903,000	\$ (674,137)	-8.90%		
On-Ratio & Fixed-Available	\$ 467,541,066		\$ 358,579,025	\$ (108,962,041)	-23.30%		
Fixed							
Connectional Table	\$ 2,140,350	0.5%	\$ 2,021,858	\$ (118,492)	-5.5%	0.6%	\$ 11,142
Interpretation Resources	\$ 1,432,197	0.3%	\$ 1,068,114	\$ (364,083)	-25.4%	0.3%	\$ 5,886
Total Fixed	\$ 3,572,547	0.8%	\$ 3,089,972	\$ (482,575)	-13.5%	0.9%	17,028
On Ratio							
COSROW	\$ 3,957,518	0.8%	\$ 3,936,309	\$ (21,209)	-0.5%	1.1%	\$ 21,691
GCORR	\$ 7,354,467	1.6%	\$ 7,313,697	\$ (40,770)	-0.6%	2.0%	\$ 40,303
Minority Group Self-Determination Fund	\$ 2,488,777	0.5%	\$ 2,475,359	\$ (13,418)	-0.5%	0.7%	\$ 13,641
United Methodist Men	\$ 1,476,974	0.3%	\$ 1,468,905	\$ (8,069)	-0.5%	0.4%	\$ 8,095
UMCOM	\$ 71,651,059	15.3%	\$ 46,601,201	\$ (25,049,858)	-35.0%	13.0%	\$ 256,799
Korean (GBGM)	\$ 3,061,048	0.7%	\$ 3,043,230	\$ (17,818)	-0.6%	0.8%	\$ 16,770
Pacific Island (GBGM)	\$ 540,302	0.1%	\$ 537,041	\$ (3,261)	-0.6%	0.1%	\$ 2,959
Asian American (GBGM)	\$ 1,398,428	0.3%	\$ 1,392,327	\$ (6,101)	-0.4%	0.4%	\$ 7,673
Native American (DM)	\$ 1,073,317	0.2%	\$ 1,069,109	\$ (4,208)	-0.4%	0.3%	\$ 5,891
Strengthening the Black Church (DM)	\$ 1,976,432	0.4%	\$ 1,964,176	\$ (12,256)	-0.6%	0.5%	\$ 10,824
National Hispanic Plan (GBGM)	\$ 3,143,830	0.7%	\$ 3,126,770	\$ (17,060)	-0.5%	0.9%	\$ 17,230
Interdenominational Cooperation	\$ 8,003,220	1.7%	\$ 994,520	\$ (7,008,700)	-87.6%	0.3%	\$ 5,480
Ministerial Education (inc AC 25% share)	\$ 104,949,647	22.4%	\$ 76,578,011	\$ (28,371,636)	-27.0%	21.4%	\$ 421,989
Black College Fund	\$ 41,863,455	9.0%	\$ 35,388,986	\$ (6,474,469)	-15.5%	9.9%	\$ 195,014
Africa University	\$ 9,368,872	2.0%	\$ 7,956,157	\$ (1,412,715)	-15.1%	2.2%	\$ 43,843
Central Conference Theological Fund (HEM)	\$ 10,000,000	2.1%	\$ 6,961,637	\$ (3,038,363)	-30.4%	1.9%	\$ 38,363
Young Clergy Initiative (HEM)	\$ 6,952,413	1.5%	\$ 5,967,118	\$ (985,295)	-14.2%	1.7%	\$ 32,882
GBHEM	\$ 26,932,588	5.8%	\$ 21,427,920	\$ (5,504,668)	-20.4%	6.0%	\$ 118,080
GBCS	\$ 11,021,677	2.4%	\$ 8,751,773	\$ (2,269,904)	-20.6%	2.4%	\$ 48,227
GBGM	\$ 111,338,501	23.8%	\$ 88,582,858	\$ (22,755,643)	-20.4%	24.7%	\$ 488,142
DM	\$ 34,952,169	7.5%	\$ 29,537,233	\$ (5,414,936)	-15.5%	8.2%	\$ 162,767
Total On-Ratio-Program Agencies	\$ 463,504,694	34%	\$ 355,074,338	\$ (108,430,356)	-23.4%	99.0%	\$ 1,956,662
World Service Contingency Fund	\$ 463,825		\$ 414,715	\$ (49,110)	-10.6%	0.1%	\$ 2,285
Total On-Ratio	\$ 463,968,519	99.2%	\$ 355,489,053	\$ (108,479,466)	-23.4%	99.1%	\$ 1,958,947
Grand Total On Ratio, CT & Interpretation	\$ 467,541,066	100%	\$ 358,579,025	\$ (108,962,041)	-23.3%	100.0%	\$ 1,975,975.0
Running Total of available amount	\$ -						

CT ALLOCATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

REBUILDING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; and his servants shall live there and possess it; the children of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall live in it. (Psalm 69:35-36)

OUR TASK

The Connectional Table is tasked by the Discipline with determining the allocations for five apportioned funds:

- World Service Fund (including the Contingency Fund)
- Ministerial Education Fund (MEF)
- Black College Fund
- Interdenominational Cooperation Fund
- Africa University



BOD-MANDATED TASK

“The Connectional Table will review the program priorities “missional priorities” and special programs and the estimated amount available to the general program agencies, and then establish the amounts to be distributed to those agencies from the annual World Service allocation. The Connectional Table will review both the funding priorities and the estimated amount available to the other funds and then establish the amounts to be distributed to each.”

BOD ¶806.2 (emphasis added)



Exhibit B

OUR THEOLOGICAL FOUNDING REBUILDING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; and his servants shall live there and possess it; the children of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall live in it. (Psalm 69:35-36)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit...Now you are the Body of Christ and individually members of it. (1 Corinthians 12: 12-13, 27)



NOT JUST ABOUT MONEY, BUT ABOUT VALUES



UMC Mission



Agency's
Core Mission



Missional
Priorities



Emerging Missional
Priorities



Transparency



Fairness & Justice



Stewardship

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the Connectional Table (CT) is for the discernment and articulation of the vision for the church and the stewardship of the mission, ministries, and resources of The United Methodist Church as determined by the actions of the General Conference and in consultation with the Council of Bishops. As part of the total mission of the church, the CT is to serve as a steward of the vision and resources for mission and ministry, provide fiscal responsibility, and establish policies and procedures to carry out the mission of the church. BOD ¶904

GCFA SUMMARY OF APPORTIONMENTS & ALLOCATIONS RECOMMENDATION MARCH 2019

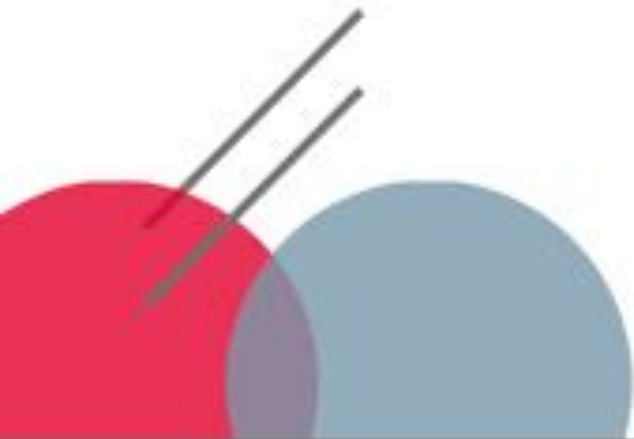
	2017-2020 Budget	2021-2024 Budget (Nov. 2018)	% Change	2021-2024 Budget (Revised Mar. 2019)	% Change
Total Apportionments	\$ 604,033,991	\$ 498,654,000	-17.4%	\$ 493,768,025	-18.3%
GCFA Recommended Allocations:					
Episcopal Fund	\$ 92,019,335	\$ 100,026,000	8.7%	\$ 98,176,000	6.7%
General Administration Fund	\$ 36,896,453	\$ 30,170,000	-18.2%	\$ 30,110,000	-18.4%
World Service Fund Fixed Charges	\$ 7,372,537	\$ 6,839,000	-7.2%	\$ 6,839,000	-7.2%
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund Fixed Charges	\$ 204,600	\$ 64,000	-68.7%	\$ 64,000	-68.7%
Total GCFA Recommended Allocations	\$ 136,492,925	\$ 137,099,000	0.4%	\$ 135,189,000	-1.0%
Amount Available for CT Allocations	\$ 467,541,066	\$ 361,555,000	-22.7%	\$ 358,579,025	-23.3%

OUR PROCESS

WE ACHIEVED THIS BY
TAKING THE FOLLOWING
STEPS:

Exhibit B

- Grounding ourselves in theology and discernment;
- Analyzing agency and fund metrics, including:
 - Agency documents detailing missional priorities,
 - Spending plan narratives and meetings with agency treasurers, 2017 audited financial statements for each fund,
 - Reserves;



OUR PROCESS

WE ACHIEVED THIS BY
TAKING THE FOLLOWING
STEPS:

- Conducting evaluations of agencies and producing an evaluations report, a process that included:
 - Developing an evaluation philosophy,
 - Agency-created logic models that detailed projects, programs, operations, activities and goals, and the resources used to achieve those goals,
 - Reviewing evaluation reports and core mission documents for each agency;



OUR PROCESS

WE ACHIEVED THIS BY
TAKING THE FOLLOWING
STEPS:

Exhibit B

- Consulting with a financial professional, Bill Brownson, who:
 - Used GCFA and agency data (treasurers' reports, audited financial statements, etc.),
 - Reviewed undesignated and board-designated reserves for each fund as reported in financial statements,
 - Analyzed financial statements for overall agency capacity (indication of capacity included: reserves, invested assets, donor-restricted assets and illiquid assets);



OUR PROCESS

WE ACHIEVED THIS BY
TAKING THE FOLLOWING
STEPS:

- Conducting learning dialogues and listening sessions with the agencies and funds-some of whom expressed that this kind of conversation was a first- and consulted with GCFA; and
- Presenting a preliminary recommendation on Jan. 11, 2019, to all agencies and funds, after which **we received requests for reconsideration totaling approximately \$26.7 million.** These requests exceeded what we had to allocate. We did, however, reconsider in some cases by shifting funds from the World Service Contingency Fund.



NOT JUST ABOUT MONEY, BUT ABOUT VALUES



UMC Mission



Agency's
Core Mission



Missional
Priorities



Emerging Missional
Priorities



Transparency



Fairness & Justice



Stewardship

FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS & WORLD SERVICE CONTINGENCY

Exhibit B



Agency's
Core Mission



UMC Mission



Emerging Missional
Priorities

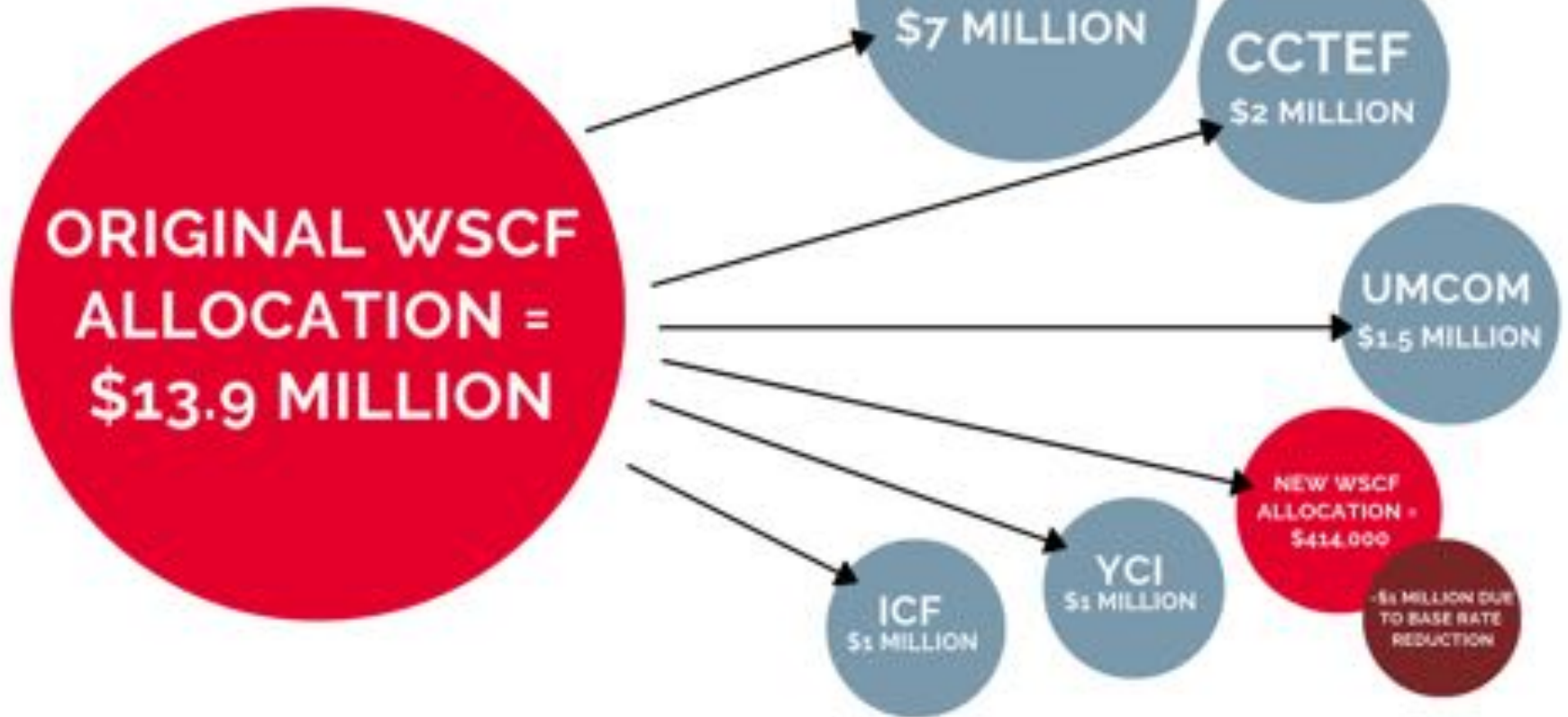
Why: Provides funds for the agencies to nurture collaborative, adaptive, visionary and innovative efforts to bring vitality to our worldwide connection through a sustained focus on the **Four Areas of Focus**

In light of the Special Session...

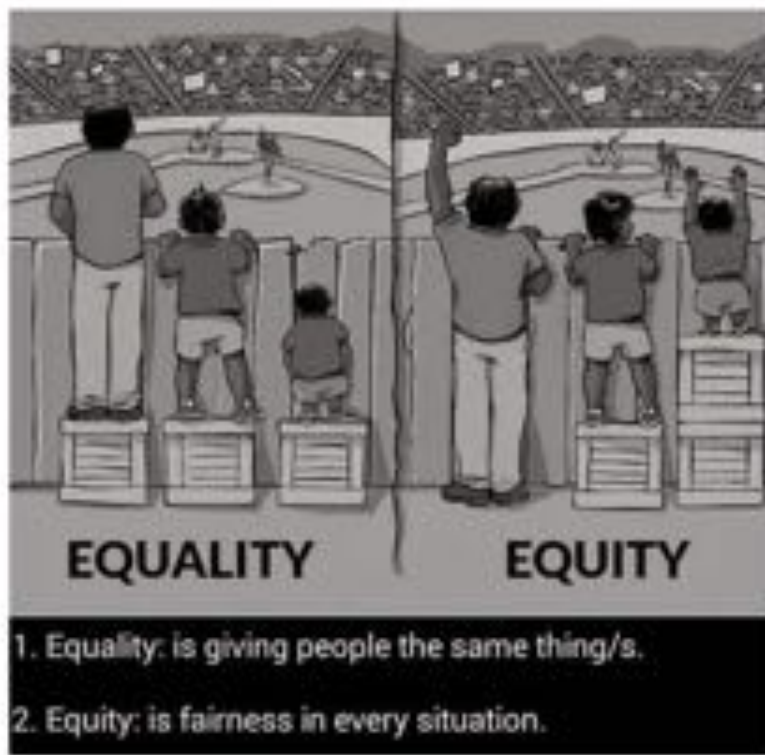
- there is heightened anxiety and uncertainty
- there is increased need for stability

Therefore, we have reconsidered the recommended allocations to this fund.

WSCF REALLOCATION



VALUES-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS



"Equality (but I still don't know what banks mean by 'equity') by Leigh Marshall is licensed under CC BY 3.0

VALUES-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintain funding for small agencies and commissions and the National Plans ;
Slight reduction for the CT



Emerging Missional
Priorities



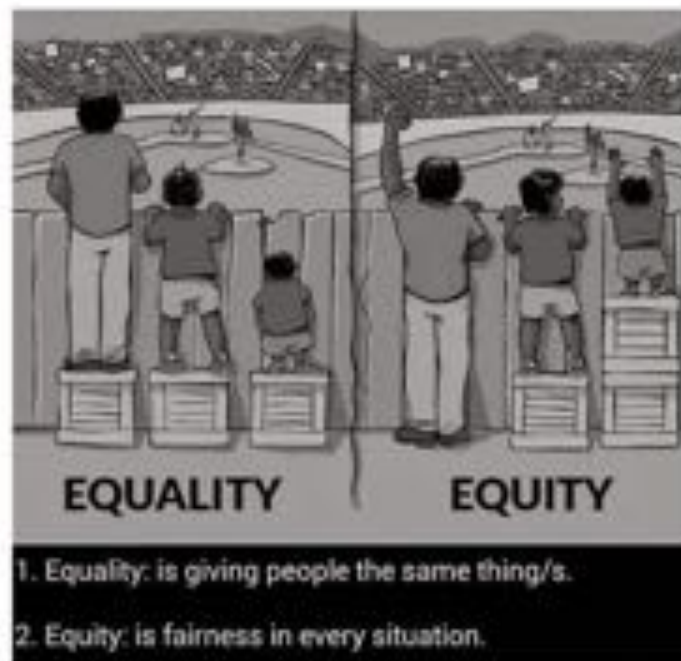
Agency's
Core Mission



Fairness & Justice

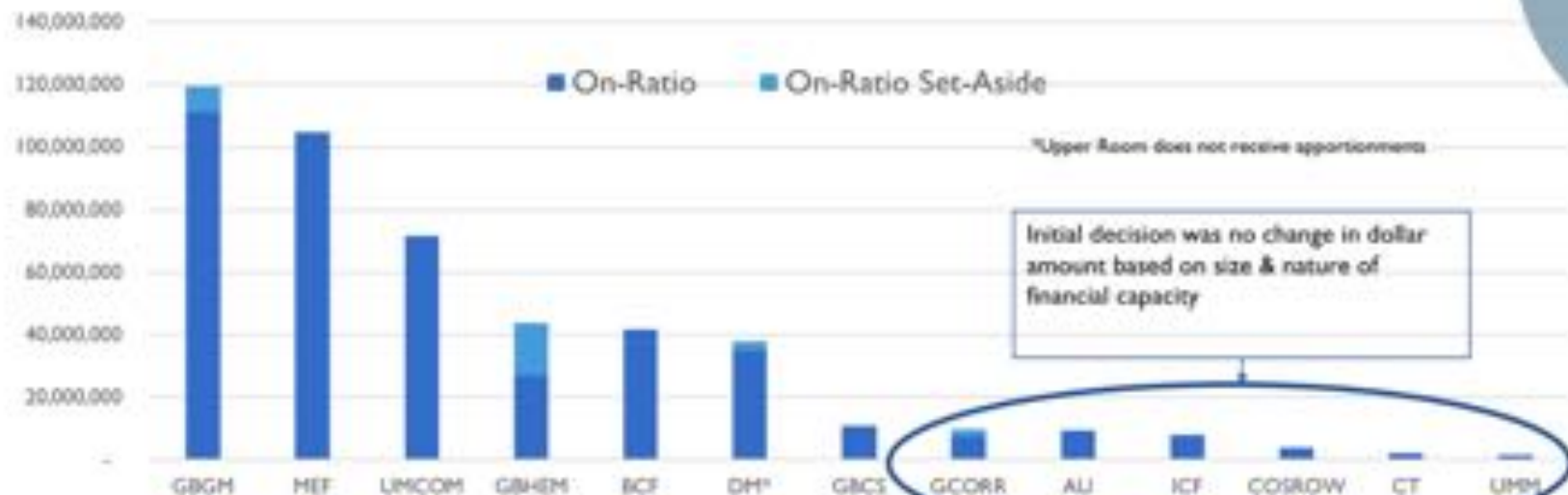
Why: Smaller budgets, fewer reserves,
more apportionment dependent

- National Plans: 0%
- COSROW: 0%
- United Methodist Men: 0%
- GCORR: 0%
- Connectional Table: -5%



"Equality but I still don't know what equity is" by Leigh Blackall is licensed under CC BY 4.0

CURRENT QUADRENNIUM ALLOCATION: \$464 MILLION



Graph Total is \$465,645,044. When reduced by Fixed CT of \$2,140,350 and contingency of \$463,825 is added, this ties to the current quad on-ratio allocation of \$463,968,519 (ref: current quad GCFA commitment book)

VALUES-BASED RECOMMENDATION: EDUCATION-RELATED FUNDS & OTHERS



Fairness & Justice



Stewardship



Agency's
Core Mission

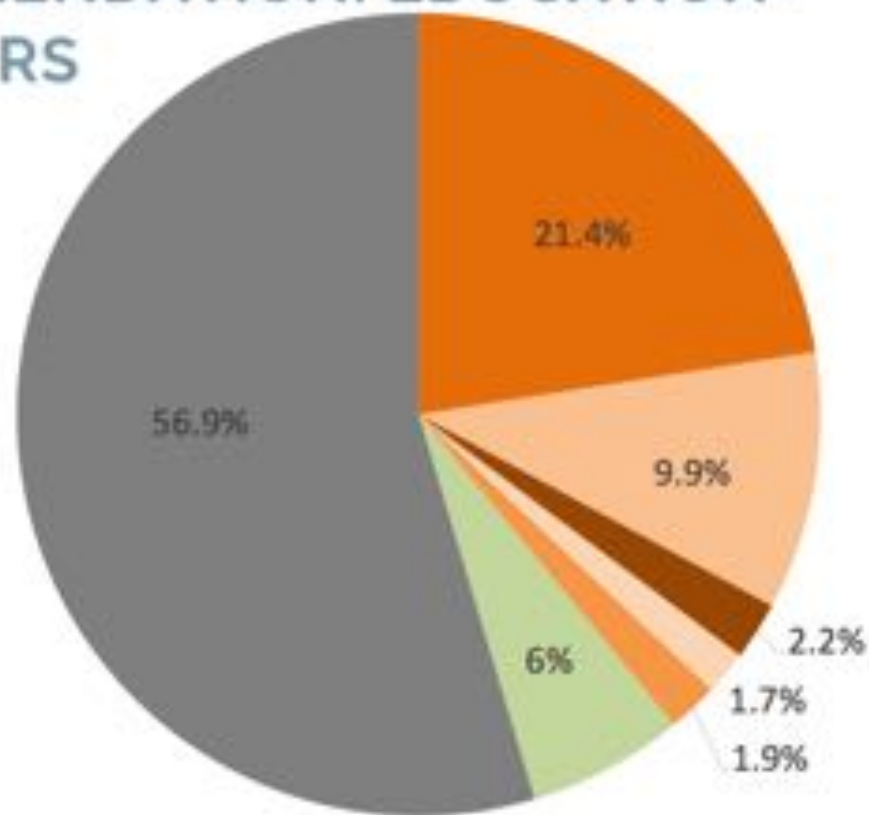
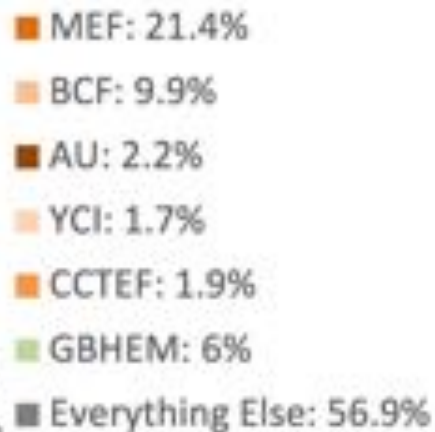
We recommend the following reductions from the previous quad:

- BCF: -15.5%
- Africa University: -15%
- MEF: -27%
- Central Conference Theological Fund: -30%
- Young Clergy Initiative: -14.2%

Why: Missional considerations & financial capacity

VALUES-BASED RECOMMENDATION: EDUCATION-RELATED FUNDS & OTHERS

- **43.1% is education-related**
37.1% excluding GBHEM



VALUES-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS: UMCOM & ICF

These are the only entities for which considerations of nature of financial capacity significantly impacted allocations. The decision was influenced by a missional view of the apportionment.



Stewardship



Agency's
Core Mission



UMC Mission



Fairness & Justice

UMCOM

- Net assets approaching \$74 million
- \$20 million in reserves (194% of total expenses available in one year)
- Supports 80% of expenses with apportionment dollars
- Also considered the 15% of the apportionment devoted to communications budget (excluding other agency communications departments)
- Recommended reduction -35%

VALUES-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS: UMCOM & ICF

These are the only entities for which considerations of nature of financial capacity significantly impacted allocations. The decision was influenced by a missional view of the apportionment.



Stewardship



Agency's
Core Mission



UMC Mission



Fairness & Justice

UMCOM

- Net assets approaching \$74 million
- \$20 million in reserves (194% of total expenses available in one year)
- Supports 80% of expenses with apportionment dollars
- Also considered the 15% of the apportionment devoted to communications budget (excluding other agency communications departments)
- Recommended reduction -35%

ICF

- In the process of reevaluating their operations
- In 2018, ICF spent \$1.6 million
- Requested reconsideration and funding of \$1.7 million
- \$1 million granted in January 2019
- Recommended reduction -88%

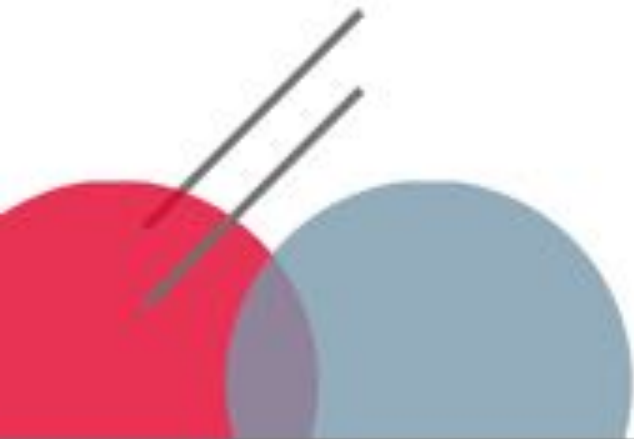
OUR APPROACH TO RESERVES

- Indicator of financial capacity
- Reserves in light of values
 - Connectionalism, mission, core mission sustainability
 - Stewardship, transparency
 - Fairness/justice/equity
- Affirmed the need for healthy reserve levels and policies



RESERVES

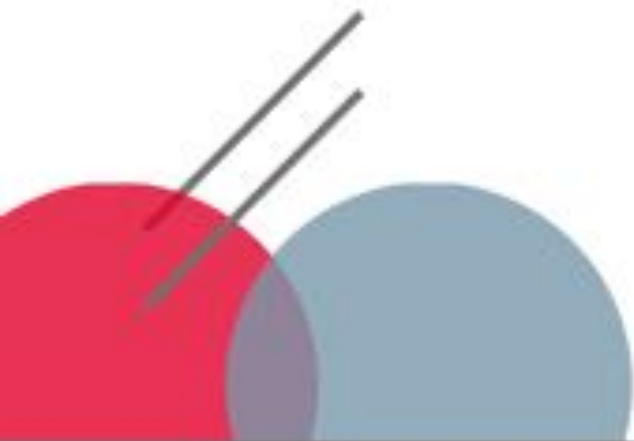
- The CT's approach to allocations is broader than any one purely financial consideration, such as reserves. It is a multi-layered, missionally focused and values-based approach.
- The CT does not determine any agency's reserve policies or the use of agency reserves.



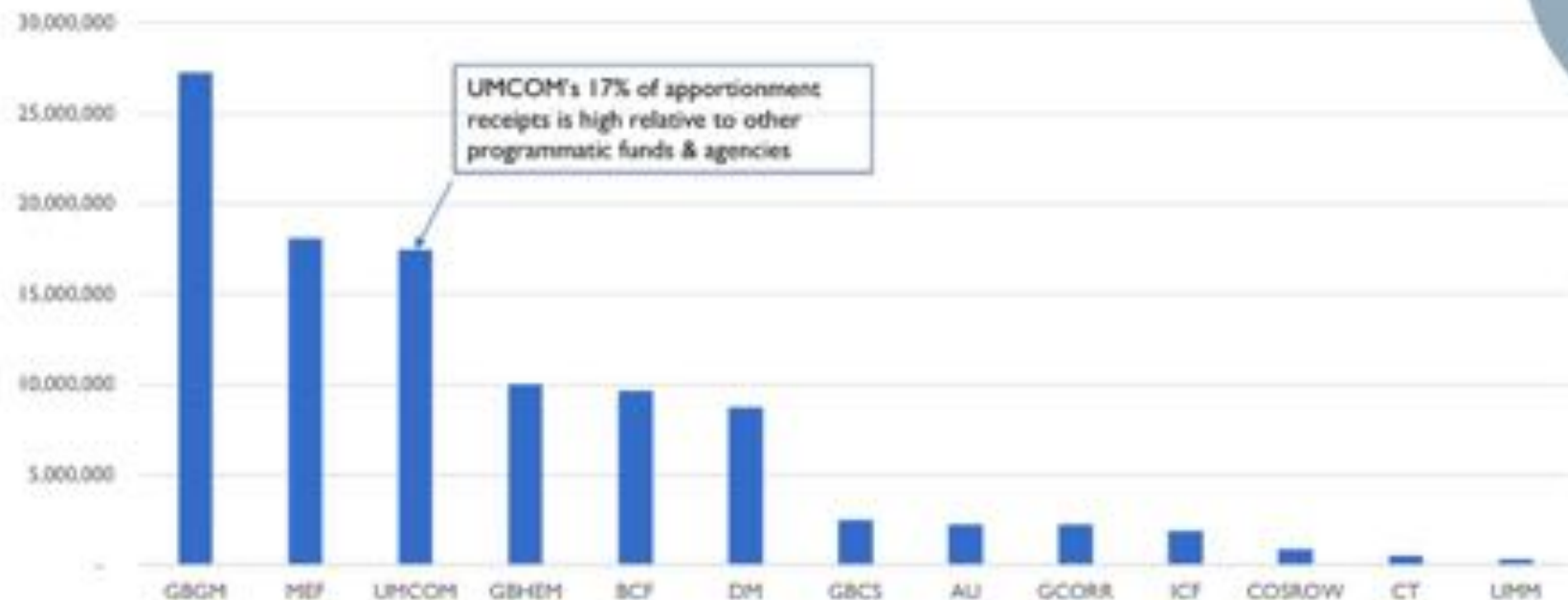
RESERVES

Exhibit B

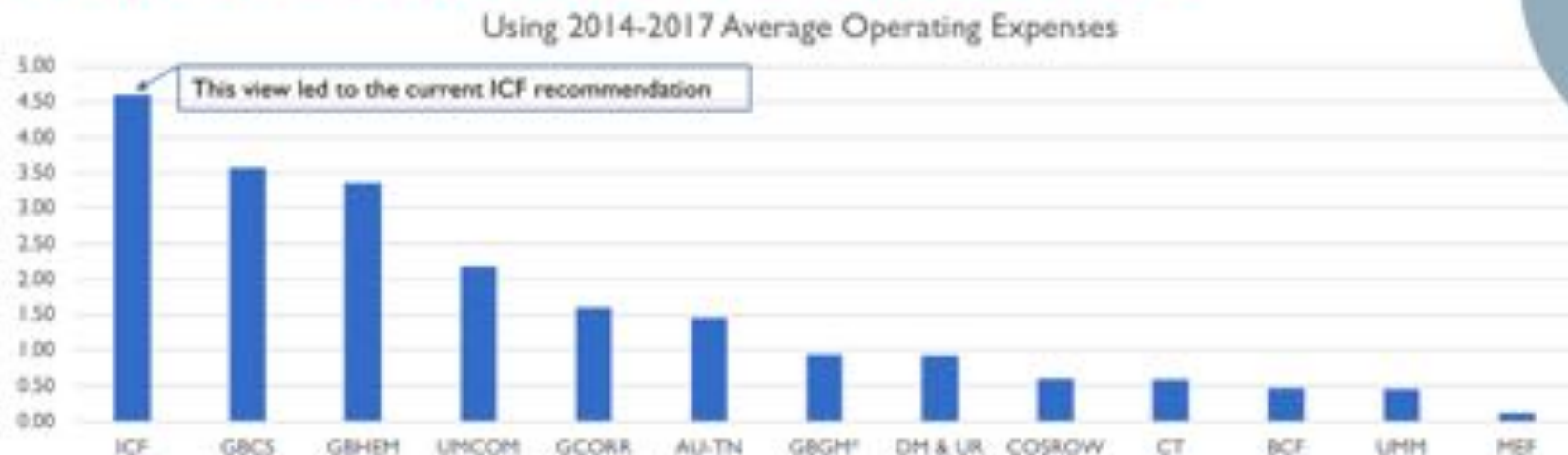
- The CT Allocations Team followed GCFA's definition of reserves; which is as follows:
 - Available Reserves Definition:
 - Unrestricted Net Assets (including Board Designated Assets) reduced by the Net Book Value of Fixed Assets as of 12/31/2018.
 - Where a budget line item is for a "Restricted" purpose within one of the General Agencies, the amount used was the "Restricted" balance for that particular purpose (i.e. Core Action Fund within GCORR and CCTEF within GBHEM)



APPORTIONMENT RECEIPTS: 2017 (FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)



4-YEAR AVERAGE OPERATING EXPENSE TO 12/31/17 UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS



- GBGM's data adjusted for missionary pension plan liability
- The higher the number the more accumulated unrestricted net assets available to meet typical annual expenses

PROGRAM AGENCIES



Agency's
Core Mission

• GBHEM: -20.4%



UMC Mission

• GBCS: -20.6%



Emerging Missional
Priorities

• GBGM: -20.4%



Stewardship

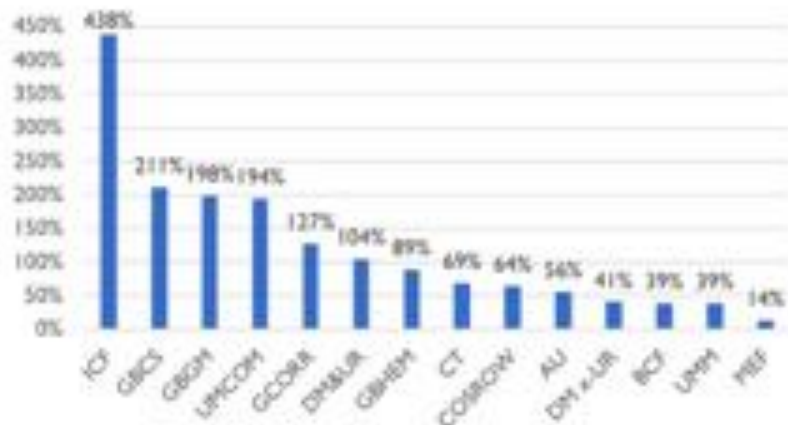
• Discipleship Ministries: -15.5%



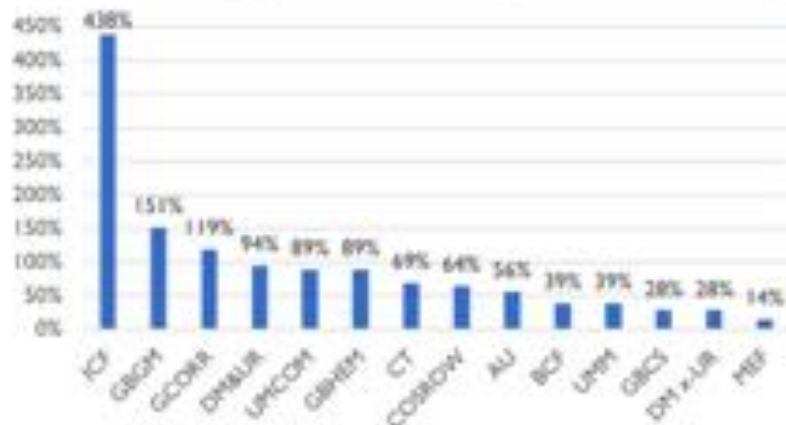
Fairness & Justice

FUNDS AVAILABLE WITHIN ONE YEAR TO MEET EXPENSES

Funds available within 1 year, including Board-designated : Total Expense



Funds available within 1 year-excluding board-designated : Total Expense



Indicates for how long an organization can pay its bills relative to prior year expenses; excludes things like real estate that would take more than a year to liquidate/access. Note: GBGM's data is not adjusted for missionary pension plan liability.

ALLOCATIONS ACCORDING TO PROGRAM TYPE

- Smaller Commissions, CT, ICF, Natl. Plans, WSCF: 7%
- Education Funds: 37.1%
- Program Agencies & UMCOM: 54.2%

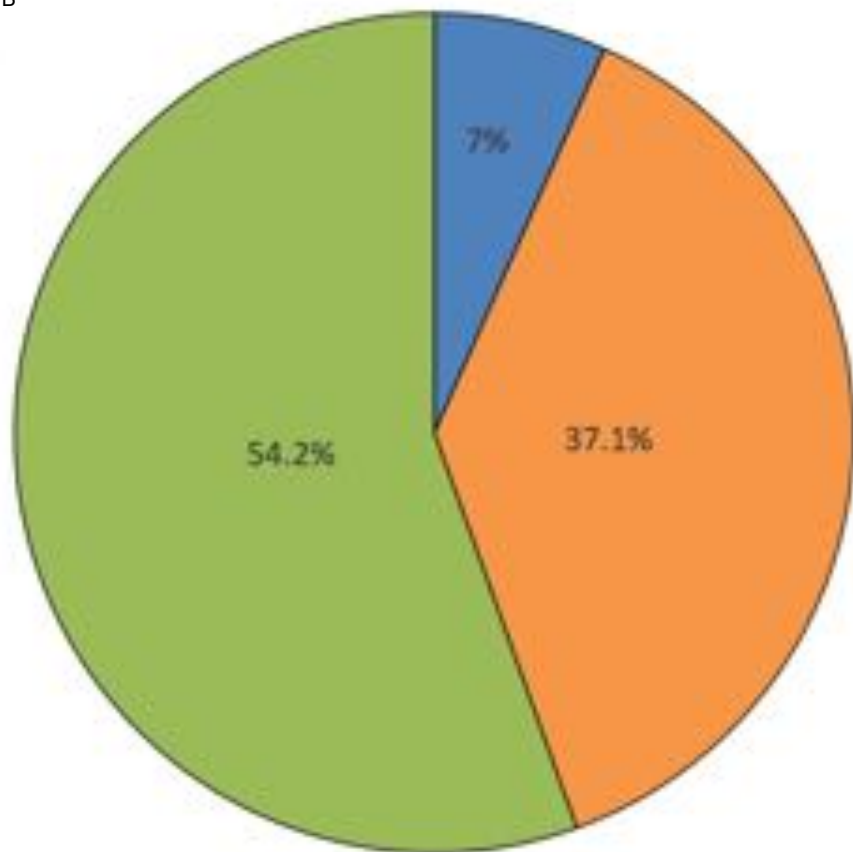


Exhibit B

ALLOCATIONS ACCORDING TO PROGRAM TYPE

Smaller Commissions

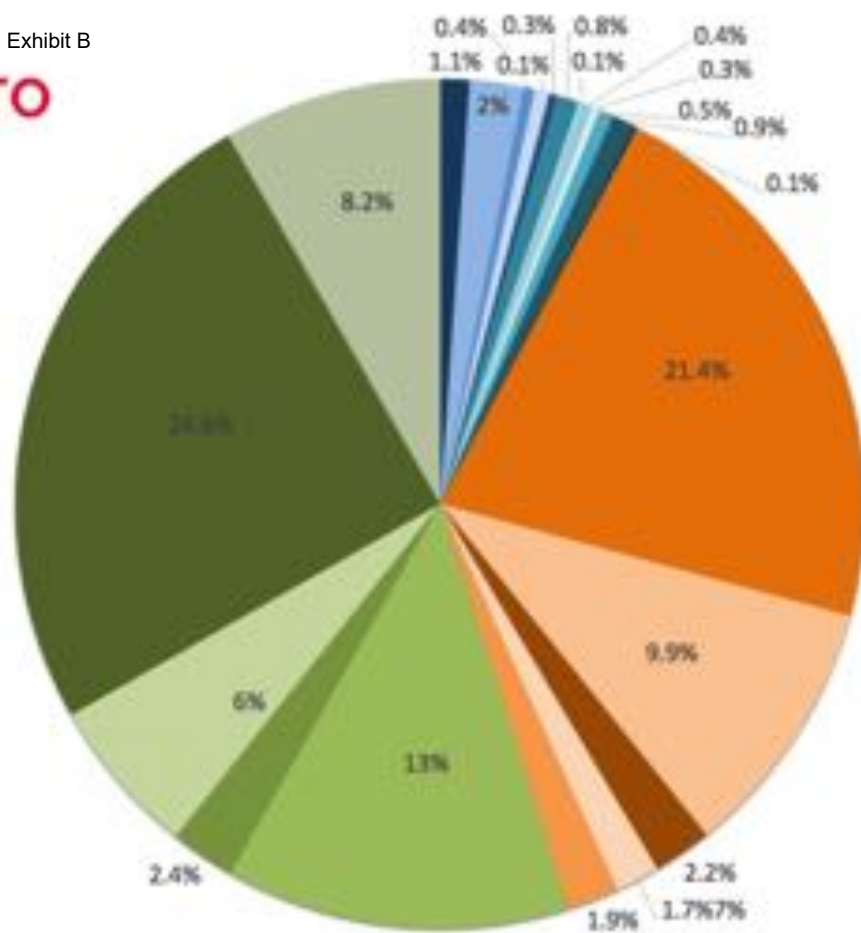
- GCSRW: 1.1%
- GCORR: 2%
- UMM: 0.4%
- CT: 0.1%
- ICF: 0.3%
- KPM: 0.8%
- CPPIUM: 0.1%
- AALM: 0.4%
- NACP: 0.3%
- SBC21: 0.5%
- NPHLM: 0.9%
- WSCF: 0.1%

Education Funds

- MEF: 21.4%
- BCF: 9.9%
- AU: 2.2%
- YCI: 1.7%
- CCTEF: 1.9%

Program Agencies & UMCOM

- UMCOM: 13%
- GBCS: 2.4%
- GBHEM: 6%
- GBGM: 24.6%
- DM: 8.2%



Questions?

The slide features a dark blue background with a large white rectangular area in the center. The word "Questions?" is written in a bold, dark grey font within this white area. On the right side, there is a large red circle partially overlapping a light grey circle, with two thin black lines extending from the red circle towards the center. On the bottom left, there is another large red circle partially overlapping a light grey circle, also with two thin black lines extending from the red circle towards the center.