



March 25, 2020

CT STATEMENT ON ALLOCATIONS IN LIGHT OF \$80.4 MILLION PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCTION

In response to the recent decision by the Commission on the General Conference to delay General Conference because of the coronavirus, the CT Executive Committee, following the recommendation of the CT Allocations Team, has affirmed postponing any decision about changing budget allocations based on GCFA's recent recommendation to reduce the budget by an additional \$80.4 million.

The Connectional Table allocates the budget for the World Service Fund, which funds our general boards and agencies, the Ministerial Education Fund, the Black College Fund, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, the World Service Contingency Fund and Africa University.

We have decided to postpone any final decision about the allocations to those funds so that our church can focus on the important work of ministry in light of the coronavirus. This is a time when our boards, agencies, commissions and funds are trying to help individuals, churches, communities and governments cope with the crisis. We believe that this is a time to make this work a priority. We advocate slowing down so that we can pay attention to our mission in the midst of a global health emergency.

However, we also recognize that we must continue our conversations about resources and structure. GCFA made the decision to reduce the budget an additional \$80.4 million in anticipation of lowered local church net expenditures. Given that action, the CT Budget Allocations Team was tasked with finding additional reductions of \$58.4 million from the funds which it allocates. The budget had already been reduced by nearly \$106 million. A combined ~\$186 million reduction would represent a near 35% reduction in funding. Such reductions would have severe impact and add urgency to conversations about how we do ministry on the general church level.

During this interim time, the CT will be in dialogue with boards, agencies, commissions and funds, and encourage collaborative conversations about ministry structure. We also will seek clarifying information from the Economic Advisory Committee, the Budget Advisory Team, and GCFA to better understand projections about net expenditures and payout rates. The CT will also continue to engage the agencies and funds about agency restructure that will be necessary in light of shrinking resources. Intrinsic to these conversations will be trying to better understand how the proposed Protocol and regionalization legislation, like the CT's U.S. as a Regional Conference petitions or the Christmas Covenant, if passed, might impact our understandings of how ministry happens and is funded on the general church level. Equally important for all of us will be conversations about how we continue to support the important mission and ministry of our church with our prayers, presence, gifts, witness and service.

As we continue in our work, we commit to prayer for those impacted by the coronavirus or on the front lines of the response, including our local churches and annual conferences, our boards and agencies, our relief workers and missionaries, health care providers and other first responders, government officials, individuals who are ill, and families who have lost loved ones or are caring for the sick. Our mission as The United Methodist Church is yet alive! And, it is more crucial than ever that we be about our mission.

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