

Report No. 1

WORLD SERVICE FUND

Introduction

When United Methodist congregations give their share of apportioned askings they participate in God's work around the world . . . and right in their own parish. The World Service Fund is the heart of our church's ministry together. Through this Fund each of us becomes a partner with the church's agencies to be in mission and ministry at home and around the world. The effects of World Service ministry are making a difference across the globe.

World Service is God's people reaching out in love and compassion in the name of Christ. It represents a call and a challenge to each United Methodist. As *The Book of Discipline 2004* states, the full payment of the World Service Fund is each congregation's "first benevolent responsibility" (§ 812).

General Observations

This quadrennium has been a challenge for local churches, annual conferences and the general agencies as each dealt with the effects of terrorism, war, the world economy, natural disasters, global health concerns and double digit increases in health care costs. The local churches and annual conferences have struggled to meet their fixed and missional needs while remaining faithful to their connectional covenant. The general agencies have faced those same challenges and have made tough decisions adjusting their budgets in light of those realities.

For the 2009–2012 quadrennium the program agencies have been inspired by the Council of Bishops' seven vision pathways to deeper collaborative efforts with each other and through the Connectional Table (CT). These efforts have resulted in four areas of programmatic emphasis reflected in this budget: (1) leadership development; (2) church growth; (3) ministry with the poor; and (4) global health.

The proposed budget of \$333,356,000 represents an increase of \$15,758,000 or 4.96% over the four years of the quadrennium.

World Service Fixed Charges

General Council on Finance and Administration. The Council is accountable to The United Methodist Church through the General Conference for receiving, disbursing, and reporting all general funds. This line item is an estimate of the World Service Fund's share of the Council's expenses for the quadrennium. The Council also receives income from an allocation in the General Administration Fund, and earnings on invested funds.

The Connectional Table. As part of the total mission of the Church, the CT facilitates the Church's program life as determined by the General Conference. Its task is to discern and articulate the vision for the church and the stewardship of the mission, ministries and resources of The United Methodist Church (*The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 904).

Interpretation Resources. Along with producing materials to interpret United Methodism's connectional funds, the Marketing Team of United Methodist Communications (UMCom) uses money from this section of the budget for "Promotion of Giving," a joint effort of United Methodist Communications, GCFA and the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD). The "Promotion of Giving" goal is to develop comprehensive financial stewardship tools, leading to improved financial support of ministry at all levels of the connection. "Promotion of Giving" resources are financed with promotional money set aside from the World Service Fund.

Program Agencies

The World Service Fund provides basic financial operating resources to four general program boards and four general commissions. Allocations were developed with the CT following the procedures described in ¶ 806.1b), *The Book of Discipline 2004*, and addressing four primary areas of ministry focus.

Through careful research and listening to the church, the general program boards and agencies have focused primary efforts within four program areas:

Leadership: enabling our clergy and laity to develop the skills necessary for ministry in the 21st century through leadership education and development with focus on the United States;

Church growth: extending the outreach of the church's ministry and grow the church by energetically starting new congregations;

Ministry with the poor: partnering with the poor to seek justice and address the causes of human suffering that result from poverty; and,

Global health: bringing healing, health and wholeness through a concerted effort to end preventable diseases of poverty such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

These areas of focus offer the church opportunity to bring together ministries that direct efforts toward spe-

cific outcomes. Each is deeply rooted in the Wesleyan Movement that values scripture, tradition, experience and reason; and each anticipates deep collaboration at every level of the church.

Other Ministries

Contingency Fund. The Contingency Fund for World Service provides funding for emerging needs in the World Service Fund that occur during a quadrennium. A portion of the contingency funds provides funds to allocate to program agencies for new programs to address unanticipated needs.

Salary and Pension Aid. These obligations previously funded through World Service have been funded by other sources or re-allocated to the General Administration Fund.

WORLD SERVICE FUND BUDGET

2008 Line Item	2008 Comparison			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Fixed Charges				
Interpretation Resources	\$ 231,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 344,000	\$ 325,000
The Connectional Table	346,000	577,000	577,000	577,000
General Council on Finance and Administration	2,231,000	1,986,000	1,987,000	1,988,000
Total Fixed Charges	\$ 2,808,000	\$ 2,913,000	\$ 2,908,000	\$ 2,890,000
On-Ratio:				
Program Agencies				
General Board of Church and Society	\$ 3,478,000	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 3,101,000	\$ 3,101,000
General Board of Discipleship	9,777,500	9,727,000	9,877,000	10,224,000
Strengthening the Black Church	540,000	607,000	557,000	557,000
General Board of Global Ministries	34,408,000	33,451,000	33,451,000	33,452,000
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	7,850,000	7,434,000	7,712,000	7,862,500
General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns	1,450,000	1,455,000	1,455,000	1,470,000
General Commission on Religion and Race	1,900,000	1,914,000	1,915,000	1,915,000
Minority Group Self Determination	862,500	829,000	830,000	830,000
General Commission on the Status and Role of Women	795,000	996,000	1,099,000	1,099,000
General Commission on United Methodist Men	430,000	412,000	413,000	413,000
United Methodist Communications	20,320,000	18,931,000	19,508,000	20,281,000
Total Program Agencies	\$ 81,811,000	\$ 79,573,000	\$ 80,691,000	\$ 82,240,000
Other Ministries				
Other (1)	457,000	-	-	-
Contingency Reserve	300,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
Total Other Ministries	\$ 757,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
Total On-Ratio	\$ 82,568,000	\$ 79,698,000	\$ 80,816,000	\$ 82,365,000
Grand Total	\$ 85,376,000	\$ 82,611,000	\$ 83,724,000	\$ 85,255,000

(1) For comparative purposes, two items that are not included in the 2009-2012 budget are included in this number (Project Equality, \$41,000 and Transition Team Contingency, \$416,000).