The Peninsula-Delaware Conference
The United Methodist Church

Connected Christians offering the hope of Jesus Christ to today's world

Our Mission: Cultivating Christ communities through our CALL - Connecting, Acting, Leading, and Loving.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

We invite you to see where your hope overflows through the power of the Holy Spirit as you share your offerings through apportionment giving...

Thank you for your gifts!
Where does my offering money go?

Roughly 87 cents out of every dollar stays with your local church for ministries. See the last page for a way to interpret your local budget.

Approximately 13 cents out of every dollar from the local church goes to pay apportionments—our fair share of connected ministries.

Of the 13 cents given to apportionments, 32.5% goes to General Church Apportionments, for World Service Fund, Black College Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, Africa University, and the Administrative and Episcopal Funds.

The remaining 67.5% stays with the Annual Conference in Conference Ministries (28.5%), Administrative Ministries (21.4%), and Clergy Support (17.6%).
Connecting Ministries

We serve a God of relationships. God longs so much to be in relationship with us that Jesus took on flesh and blood, experiencing life like ours, with all of its ups and downs, yet still proclaiming God’s love and presence through his healing and teaching and love. Through the crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus destroyed the curse of sin and death forever, reconciling us to God and each other. Jesus so strongly desires for us to connect with each other that he prayed fervently for our oneness in his farewell address in John’s Gospel. John 17:21 records this prayer: “I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me.” Connecting ourselves with each other and with our communities begins to answer Jesus’ prayer, and the Connecting Ministries of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference work to empower local churches to strengthen that connection.

Let’s Connect! The Methodist Student Association and the Fairy God Sisters of Delaware State University connected with Centennial United Methodist Church. Working together, they served hundreds of people at the Smyrna Community Thanksgiving dinner, which was sponsored by their sister church, Asbury United Methodist Church.
Ministries include:
* Board of Higher Education and Ministry
* Communications Ministry
* Commission on Archives and History
* Disaster Relief
* Affiliate Agencies
  - Methodist Action Program (Wilmington)
  - Neighborhood House (Wilmington)
  - Salisbury Urban Ministries

How you have impacted lives

You express God’s love to those you do not even know! From the Campus Ministry at Delaware State: “Many of the students come to campus broken and desiring to escape from their past. The Campus Ministry gives them spiritual nourishment and empowers them to discover their gifts for leadership. Two of these young adults attended Exploration, a UMC-sponsored event for young adults to explore a call to ministry. While there, they expressed that because the ‘Conference’ who does not even know them loved them enough to invest in their faith journey, they feel God’s call to give back by loving others, whom they may not know.”

You contribute to the on-going work of racial reconciliation! The Commission on Archives and History designated University of Maryland Eastern Shore as a recognized historical sight. UMES, formerly known as the Delaware Conference Academy, began in 1886 to provide higher education for pastors of the Delaware Conference, which was established as “the first Conference for Colored Preachers, under the rule of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church” in 1864. The Peninsula and Delaware Conferences merged in 1965.

You nurture underprivileged children through afterschool enrichment programs and you feed the hungry, physically and relationally! Salisbury Urban Ministries offers a Kid’s Café afterschool program to keep children safe and off the streets and to nurture their minds and souls. Your support has ministered to the homeless, through God’s Kitchen, which feeds over 200 meals each week to the homeless in Salisbury, and the Men’s Welcome Center, which provides a place for homeless men to shower, launder belongings, get haircuts, food, and clothing, and to experience relationships.

You develop youth in the city and supported families with emergency assistance! Neighborhood House in Wilmington provides afterschool homework help and summer enrichment programs for youth in the city. It also offers families assistance with food, heat, and electricity.

You keep covenant with Methodist Action Program as they refocus and redevelop their ministry! Methodist Action Program currently provides space for a homeless ministry. Yet, their heart aches for the violence in the city of Wilmington. They have begun a new partnership with VOICE: Violence Outreach Intervention and Community Engagement, as they seek to return to their roots in strengthening communities.
Acting Ministries

Jesus reminds us that whenever we put our love in action through feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and speaking up on behalf of the marginalized, we actually serve him. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus tells the story of the King thanking people for serving him: “Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’” By engaging our communities through mission, we act as the body of Christ in the world. The Acting Ministries of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference work to strengthen the witness of the local churches through mission.

Let’s Act! By drilling a well for clean water, you provided more successful eye surgery outcomes, restoring sight to the blind! Clean water prevented infections in follow-up care.
Ministries include:
* Advocacy Resource Team
* Hispanic/Latino Ministries
* Special Ministries
  - Disability Ministry
  - Deaf Ministries
* Missions
  - Higher Hope Ministry
  - Peter D. Weaver Congo Partnership
  - Volunteers in Mission

How you have impacted lives

You are welcoming the stranger! Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt with the baby Jesus to escape government oppression, and many people flee to the U.S. to escape dire circumstances, such as poverty, political oppression, and violence. The Hispanic Latino Ministry has begun a worship service for those immigrants who speak Spanish. Called “La Caminante,” the group meets at Wesley UMC in Dover and begins each week with a meal, followed by worship. They have ten to 12 participants on a regular basis and a much broader outreach to the Hispanic community. We anticipate beginning more of these smaller worshipping communities (like house churches) around our conference and creating a network for them to connect. This group also has partnered with Delaware State and the group of Dreamers there, for monthly community meals which they prepare together. Wesley UMC donates the use of their kitchen and fellowship hall for these events. You have helped create a safe place, a home away from home experience for these young people.

You are helping the deaf to hear in their own language! Through the Deaf Ministry, you help provide interpretive services for Annual Conference, for classes such as Sexual Ethics and Nurturing Wholeness in Community, and Certified Lay Ministry. Our own interpreter, Carol Stevens, adapted the Certified Lay Servant Basic Class to the language of the non-hearing, going beyond interpreting hearing concepts to present the material in the non-hearing context. Through these ministers, you open the world to a group of people easily forgotten.

You support mission work locally, nationally, and globally! The Missions Team, including the Congo Partnership and VIM, continues to connect churches with opportunities to serve neighbors near and far. You support the Hub which collects supplies and relief kits for UMCOR, with donations and volunteers. You send Volunteers in Mission to Native American reservations, to Costa Rica, to Nicaragua, and to places in need of hurricane recovery. Our Missions Team can help you connect in mission to just about anywhere in the world.

You provide clean water and empower the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo to serve their brothers and sisters in need! Your gifts to the Congo Partnership provide clean water systems, feeding programs, educational programs, and medical programs to people in remote villages there. Clean water highly impacts health and well-being. For example, in 2014, a mission for cataract surgery required 300 bottles of anti-viral eye drops to prevent infection. In 2015, the Congo Partnership drilled a well in the same village. When the Cataract Mission Team returned in 2017, they dispensed only three bottles of the anti-viral eye drops. Why? Because of the clean water. The patients were no longer suffering from diseases spread through the contaminated river water. In that same village, the director of the medical center told us that they have seen absolutely NO cases of severe dysentery that lead to mortality since the well was drilled. The partnership also equips and trains local leaders as teachers and nurses and doctors and engineers, to ensure the gift continues to future generations.
Leading Ministries

Jesus invited his first disciples to follow him and learn how to apply their skills to a different calling. In Mark 1:17, Jesus says: “Come, follow me,’ he said, ‘and I’ll show you how to fish for people.”’ Jesus spent his life on earth developing those closest to him to go and change the world, and he invites us to do the same. So, as we follow Jesus, we deepen our own leadership skills and we learn to invest in those around us, as we all continue to grow in sanctifying grace in our process of salvation. To accomplish this task, we offer ministries to discover spiritual gifts, to develop those gifts, to discern God’s calling, to deploy leaders by matching gifts with congregational and community needs, and to continue to grow in our leadership abilities. The Leading Ministries of the Conference recruit, develop, and deploy both clergy and lay leadership to build up the body of Christ.

Let’s Lead! Lay leaders from around the Conference gathered at the State of the Black Church event last spring to bring something to share with one another so we could learn from each other. It was a Family Reunion!
Ministries include:
* Board of Lay Ministries
* Board of Ordained Ministries
* Congregational Development Corporation
* Strengthening the Black Church Ministries

How you have impacted lives

You equip churches to learn their community through Mission Insite! The Conference sponsored training by Mission Insite expert, Tom Bandy. Tom explained how to use the demographic data available through Mission Insite to compare the make-up of the congregation to the make-up of the community surrounding the church. He described the various MOSAIC categories of people and preferences and demonstrated how to create ministries which will serve those outside of our church walls in our communities.

You help people discover and use their gifts! The Board of Lay Ministries works to train people to be Lay Servants and Certified Lay Ministers. Lay Servants serve local churches in various roles, from Lay Readers in worship to Visitation Ministry to Prison Ministry. Certified Lay Ministers assist their pastors with specific ministry areas and sometimes preach for churches without a pastor.

You equip and support pastors in their training! The Board of Ordained Ministry provides scholarship money to those in seminary as they prepare for ordination, and to Licensed Local Pastors in Course of Study and Licensing School. Without these funds, many of our pastors would incur unmanageable debt. Also, in partnership with Young People’s Ministry Network, you sent four young adults (two African American and two Caucasians) to Exploration, an event where young adults can nurture their call to ministry. BOOM continues to support new pastors through the Residency in Ministry program, run by Pecometh.

You reach new people through new ministries! Through the Congregational Development Corporation, you have supported the development of new worship services to reach younger people. You have provided freezers for a feeding program for the hungry. You have supported a church merger. And, you have assisted a church to hire a Young Adult Pastor.

You empower African American churches to grow! Through the Strengthening the Black Church Ministry, you have equipped churches to focus on the KBS strategy: Keep some ministries, Build on some ministries, Stop some ministries, in order to Start some new ministries. You have also empowered young adult leaders to continue to design and implement the Young Adult Summit, where young adults come together to strengthen their faith and their relationships with others.
Christian perfection in the Wesleyan tradition involves “perfect” love of God and “perfect” love of neighbor. In our process of salvation, God invites us to become more like Jesus day by day, as the Spirit transforms us into the likeness of Christ. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 3:18, explains that transformation like this: “All of us are looking with unveiled faces at the glory of the Lord as if we were looking in a mirror. We are being transformed into that same image from one degree of glory to the next degree of glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” We grow in this grace through spiritual disciplines, including prayer, Bible study, and small groups. As we become transformed, we begin to shine the light of Jesus more clearly in our world. The Loving Ministries of the Conference provide opportunities for such spiritual growth.

Let's Love! La Caminante share a meal together with Dreamers from Delaware State University. Table fellowship nurtures relationships and strengthens our connection with God, through holy conversation.
Ministries include:
* Spiritual Formation Team
* Young People’s Ministry Network
* Evangelism
* Health Ministries
* Pecometh Camping and Retreat Ministries

How you have impacted lives

**You help young disciples grow!** Our Young People’s Ministry Network includes both our Youth Rally Team and the Network arrangement with Pecometh to equip and empower youth leaders. Over three thousand youth attend the youth rally every year, where they can commit their lives to Jesus for the first time or they can grow in their faith journey. One youth leader shared an experience with a youth in Confirmation Class: “One youth started crying. When I asked her if she was okay, she replied: ‘I just experienced the love of Jesus through you! He is alive! All of the walls of doubt and fear just fell over and now I know that Jesus loves me.’”

**You help us continue to explore new ways of evangelism!** Evangelism can be a “bad” word in our churches today because we tend to think of pointing fingers and handing out tracts. But, evangelism can (and should) be part of everything we do. We reach out with God’s prevenient grace through our mission and outreach work. We help people accept God’s justifying grace through Confirmation Classes or new member classes. We continue to encourage people to grow in their faith through Bible study, prayer, and other means of grace, so that they can then reach out to invite others into the family.

**You provide opportunities for spiritual growth for young children, adults, and pastors!** Through our partnership with Pecometh Camping and Retreat Ministries, you support kids attending summer camp, a place where they deepen their faith in God through nature and through community. You provide retreat opportunities for adults. And, you provide a special gift of spiritual nurturing through “Voice of the Heart” retreat, where pastors can get away from the chaos of serving churches and spend some quiet time with Jesus, through spiritual direction and small group support. Many pastors consider this retreat a turning point in their ministries.
Understand your local church's budget in terms of disciple-making.

Ask your Stewardship/Finance Team or Council or Pastor to divide your church’s budget into the following aspects of disciple-making:

Prevenient Grace: This aspect of disciple-making involves the outreach and evangelism portion of your budget. For many churches, worship falls under outreach, as they attempt to create a welcoming “seeker-friendly” atmosphere. It also includes a portion of your staff compensation, based on how much time they spend in this endeavor, and a portion of facilities costs.  
My church’s Prevenient Grace Estimate: __________________

Justifying Grace: This aspect of disciple-making focuses on helping people come to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and decide to follow him. It would include items such as children’s and youth Sunday School, Confirmation Class, New Members Class, etc., as well as a portion of staff compensation, based on how much time they spend in this pursuit and a portion of facilities costs.
My church’s Justifying Grace Estimate: __________________

Sanctifying Grace: This aspect of disciple-making includes any opportunities for people to grow in grace to become more like Jesus. It includes Bible studies, prayer groups, small groups, accountability or covenant groups, and church-service teams, such as choirs, praise teams, etc., as long as they include a discipleship aspect. Also, often worship falls under this category, or you can divide worship up between these first three categories. Again, this category can include staff and facilities costs.
My church’s Sanctifying Grace Estimate: __________________

Sanctifying/Serving Grace: As people grow in Christ, their hearts long to serve others outside of the church. Many churches classify these opportunities as “missions.” Does your church feed the hungry through a food pantry or back-pack ministry? Do you offer shelter to the homeless through Code Purple or Family Promise? These ministries draw people closer to Christ as we serve “the least of these” Jesus speaks of in Matthew 25. This category can also include staff and facilities costs.
My church’s Sanctifying/Serving Grace Estimate: __________________

You could accomplish this process one of two ways: either calculate the estimates using only the program portion of your budget (which will be smaller) or you can subdivide your total budget, including the operating portion (adding facilities and staff) and estimate how much of those categories you use for each disciple-making aspect. If you keep your facilities and staff costs separate, be sure to help people understand how these costs impact your mission.