

Called and Response

A guide to apportionments



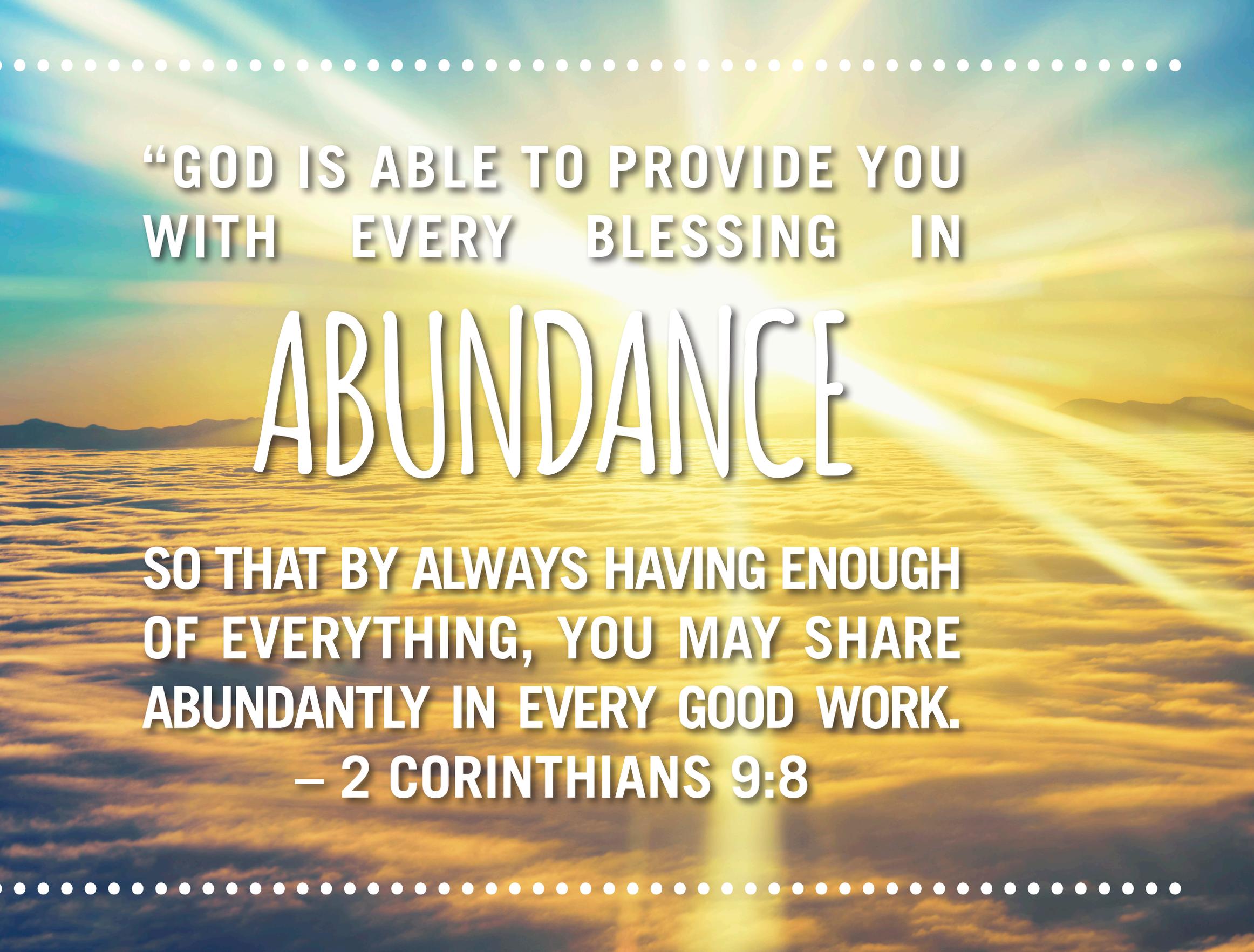
Baltimore-Washington Conference
The United Methodist Church

You have been called. What is your response?

Appportionments are a response to God's blessing. In thanks, in praise, as an act of prayer, we respond to all God has given us by giving back to God.

As United Methodists, we are connected by covenant and opportunity to be fully alive in Christ and make a difference in an ever-changing world.





**“GOD IS ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU
WITH EVERY BLESSING IN**

ABUNDANCE

**SO THAT BY ALWAYS HAVING ENOUGH
OF EVERYTHING, YOU MAY SHARE
ABUNDANTLY IN EVERY GOOD WORK.**

– 2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

WHERE DOES YOUR DOLLAR GO?



89 % STAYS WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

11 % GOES TOWARD APPORTIONMENTS

For every dollar put in a collection plate, 89 cents stays with your local church. The remaining 11 cents supports ministries beyond the local church. About 2.9 cents of that apportionment goes to support the General Church*, which is global in its membership, mission and ministry.

6.8 CENTS

Ministries and Resources. Of this 6.8 cents, 3.9 cents stays with the local conference, while 2.9 cents supports the General Church*.

2.6 CENTS

Operations and Finance

.8 CENTS

Administration and Communication

.8 CENTS

Debt Reduction

*Your 2.9 cents that supports the General Church goes toward the World Service Fund, Africa University Fund, Black College Fund, Episcopal Fund, General Administration Fund, Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, Ministerial Education Fund and Northeast Jurisdictional Apportionments.

THE MONEY YOU GIVE CREATES DISCIPLES

Because you give we have:

- a new Hispanic church in College Park
- a new Korean congregation in Ellicott City
- a church for people with disabilities in Lexington Park
- an Africa-American centered church in Shepherdstown, W.Va.
- a church that reaches out in unique ways to young adults in D.C.
- a church for the unchurched that meets in huddles in Baltimore
- a new online, church without walls at Faith Point UMC in Urbana
- a program to fund the salaries of associate pastors in black churches
- an innovative youth program at Asbury Arnold UMC
- a “first Fridays” ministry at Faith Community UMC in Baltimore
- a satellite worship service at Esperanza Middle School
- small group ministries at St. Matthews UMC in Baltimore
- new outreach to the Hispanic/Latino community

A FORMULA FOR MINISTRY

Apportionments fund ministry. Each year, annual conference members set the amount churches will contribute in apportionments using a formula. At the center of this formula is the *apportionment base*, which is determined by statistics on how much money a church spends on itself. Things like salaries, church programs, building maintenance and operating expenses are included. Money spent on missions, clergy benefits and capital improvements are not. Apportionments are calculated using the formula:

APPORTIONMENT BASE X BENEVOLENCE FACTOR = YOUR APPORTIONMENT

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“ALL SHALL *GIVE* AS THEY ARE ABLE,
ACCORDING TO THE *BLESSING*
THE LORD YOUR GOD HAS GIVEN
YOU.” – DEUTERONOMY 16:17

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GOD BLESS YOU

BELOW IS A LIST OF HOW YOUR APPORTIONMENTS COME BACK TO YOU

Operate a centralized Mission Center place in Fulton, Md. for staff and meeting space • Maintain historical church records and archives that tell the story of more than 232 years of Methodism • Train and certify lay servants to lead in your church and beyond • Assist your pastor with moving expenses when they change churches • Defend your church in court and provide sound legal advice as needed • Provide access to detailed and strategic demographic information about your area • Help churches build new facilities or update existing ones • Provide supervision and support so that your church can have a pastor • Appoint pastors to 632 churches • Offer training to hundreds of church leaders at four annual regional Leadership events • Keep you informed with the latest news and information through e-connection, a weekly electronic newsletter • Provide equitable compensation so churches can become self-sustaining • Deliver the UMConnection, an award-winning newspaper to the homes of local church leaders • Train leaders to reach new people with God's love and build vibrant communities • Start and nurture eight new worship communities • Create a new generation of spiritual leaders through CCYM and district Councils of Youth Ministries • Train Certified Lay Ministers to partner with clergy • Assess clergy giftedness and help pastors live out their specific call • Connect and engage United Methodists with a state of the art website and information system • Assist and support local churches during times of crisis in their congregations • Supports the United Methodist Foundation to advise your church on its investments • Administer your pastors' pension and medical benefit plans • Hold an annual meeting for 1,200 area United Methodists to plan the BWC's vision and ministry • Provide creative outlets for young adults to be in ministry • Protect children in your church through the Safe Sanctuary ministry • Investigate complaints about clergy • Recruit and educate future pastors • Give grants to local churches active in their communities • Preserve your history at Lovely Lane Museum and Strawbridge Shrine, birthplaces of Methodism • Support "Mission u," an annual school of Christian mission • Create and offer online liturgical resources for weekly worship • Enable retired pastors and their spouses to have excellent medical care • Maintain partnerships with interfaith and ecumenical groups • Employ seven regional missional consultants to help churches with strategic issues • Ensure sound financial management of all gifts made to churches • Offer three Christian settings for 12,260 guests to camp and attend retreats each year • Help fund background checks for volunteers in your church working with children • Support 66 bishops who provide spiritual leadership to the world • Gather as a global church every four years to craft policies and practices • Make a difference in an ever-changing world.

YOU BLESS OTHERS

BELOW IS A LIST OF HOW YOUR APPORTIONMENTS ARE USED TO BENEFIT OTHERS

Speak prophetically and act practically to bring Hope to the City • Train and commission people called to be missionaries • Address and fight systemic racism in places like Ferguson, Missouri, Baltimore and D.C. • Inspire more than 5,000 youth at a revival each year in Ocean City • Care for and inspire people living with HIV/AIDS at weekend Quality of Life retreats • Operate a prayer line • Care for orphans in Namibia and Zambia • Host Camp Joy participants who work repairing homes each summer in Alleghany County • Offer a college education to 1,200 students from across the continent at Africa University • Assist in operating facilities for abused and neglected children and their families • Provide American Sign Language interpreting services for Deaf people in worship and other settings • Offer healing communities to prisoners released from area jails • Support ministries and offer legal outreach to Spanish-speaking immigrants throughout the region • Prevent the deaths from malaria of thousands of children in Africa • Do prison ministry • Participate in long-term disaster relief around the world • Partner with the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico • Provide worship, fellowship and pastoral care for students at the University of Maryland, Howard, American and Frostburg universities • Advocate on behalf of healthcare for all • Put love into action with 125 Volunteer in Mission trips each year • Educate Zimbabwe's 425 clergy at a pastor's school • Provide camping experiences to more than 2,000 children at three camps • Remove physical and attitudinal barriers facing people with disabilities • Feed children in Appalachia, where the average income is less than \$20,000 • Create cross-cultural exchanges for young adults with our partners in the South Conference in South Korea • Support 10 historically black colleges nationwide • Proclaim a Christian witness in the West Virginia Council of Churches • Award college scholarship to United Methodist students • Enrich the lives of older adults with a day apart with learning and adventures • Deliver readiness training to disaster relief volunteers who provide urgent care in times of emergencies • Provide legal services to immigrants at Justice for Our Neighbors clinics • Bring together parish nurses to support local church health ministries • Live in covenant relationship with missionaries • Offer healing to victims of domestic violence • Translate the Word of God into many languages • Provide chaplain services to men and women in the armed services • Advocate on Capitol Hill for issues we support in our Social Principles • Promote awareness of Native American issues and ministries • Partner with churches and Camp Kristall in the Black Soil District of Russia • Engage in ministry with the poor throughout Maryland, D.C. and West Virginia • Enable 168,000 United Methodists to be fully alive in Christ

Stewards of Grace:

A Bible study on finance

By: Paul Eichelberger, Baltimore-Washington Conference Treasurer
Stewardship is the way we respond to the many ways God blesses our lives.
Stewardship is the act of living with gratitude and generosity.

Opening Prayer:

Lord, we come into your presence seeking your guidance as we look for new and innovative ways to strengthen the ministries in our church and community. Your hope, love and grace are gifts we want to share with the world. Open our hearts and our minds so that we can observe the things you want us to see. Reveal to us your plan of service, action, and stewardship. Help us, Lord. Guide our path. Amen.

Scripture:

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

– 1 Peter 4:10

1 Peter 4:7-11 (The Message): “Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer. Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to

the homeless—cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God’s words; if help, let it be God’s hearty help. That way, God’s bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he’ll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time.

Oh, yes!”

Connectional Ministry:

As children of God, we come together in our local churches, as United Methodists, to live out our faith. Together, we respond to God’s gospel-call. From the perspective of this Gospel, we know that finances are not just an administrative or support mechanism. Within the Church, finance is, first and foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. With our time, money, and energy -- what we value, we fund.

Reflect: In what ways does being connected with others and able to share your faith, in word or in deed, make your faith stronger? How does thinking about finance as ministry shape your ideas about giving? If your church was judged solely by its checkbook, what would people say it valued most?

Vision & Mission:

Vision and mission are at the center of our identity as God’s people. Without vision, we perish; without mission, we lose our way. Our vision and mission provide the framework

for our stewardship. Vision also gives us courage to speak when we might want to remain silent.

Reflect: What do you believe is God's vision for your community? For The United Methodist Church? What role do you believe money might play in bringing this vision and mission to life? How courageous are you when it comes to giving? How courageous are you at asking for money to fund God's vision? In what ways would you like to see your sense of vision, mission and courage grow?

Fundraising:

According to theologian Henri Nouwen, fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission. Fundraising is the opposite of begging. In fundraising we declare, "We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you – your energy, your prayers, and your money – in this work to which God has called us."

Nouwan also said that fundraising is a call to conversion. It draws us deeper into relationship with God. Whether we are asking for money or giving money we are drawn together by God, who works through our collaboration. Raising funds, and the giving of one's funds, are spiritual acts -- as sacred as preaching, prayer or caring for the poor.

Reflect: In what ways do your thoughts about fundraising and giving change when they are intertwined with vision and mission? If you fully possessed the freedom to ask without fear and embraced fundraising as a form of ministry, how might that change you? For you, how is giving a spiritual discipline? How could fundraising draw your congregation into a deeper relationship with Christ?

Focus on Prayer:

As with all ministry, stewardship must have its origin in prayer. Prayer connects us with the holy and invites us to be more fully aware of God in our midst. Prayer allows us to see ourselves and others as God sees us. Prayer transforms.

Reflect: How do you pray about your personal giving? What are your expectations for how prayer and conversion will impact the ministry and mission of your congregation?

Closing Prayer:

Lord, it has been said that the mystery of ministry is that we have been chosen to make our own limited and very conditional lives the gateway for your unlimited and unconditional love. Help us to use our giving and fundraising for spiritual renewal and revitalization as we commit to your vision for our church. Remove our fears. Give us courage. Let us always bathe our deliberations and each other in prayer as we seek to be stewards of your grace.

Amen.

**“UNLESS SOMEONE LIKE YOU CARES A WHOLE
AWFUL LOT, NOTHING IS GOING TO GET BETTER.
IT’S NOT.” – DR. SEUSS**

