

PNW



Together We Serve

Connectional Giving Beyond the Local Church



Produced by the Pacific Northwest Conference
Office of Connectional Ministries.

Editorial Content Developers

Patrick Scriven, Rev. David Valera, Kathy Hogg,
Teri Tobey

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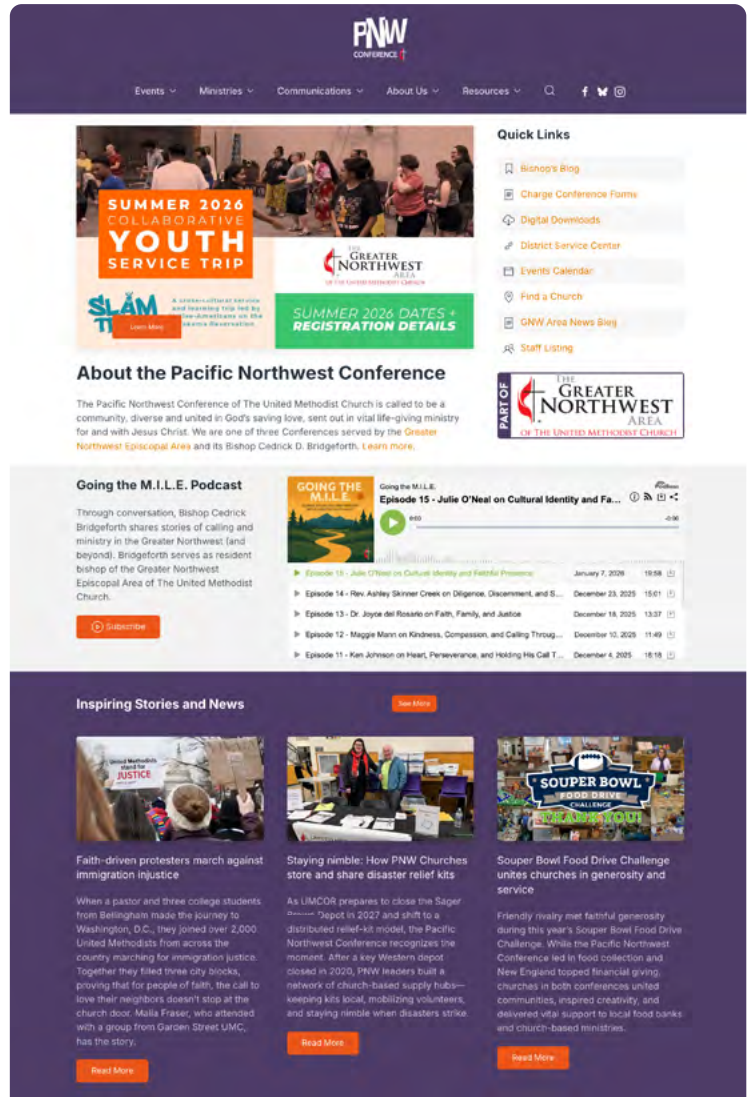
**The Offices of
The Pacific Northwest
Conference of
The United Methodist Church**

***The Office of the Episcopacy
The Office of Connectional Ministries
Shared Administrative Services (GNW)
The District Service Center***

Mail to:

P.O. Box 13650, Des Moines, WA 98198
(816 South 216th Street, Building 2)
800-755-7710, 206-870-6820

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Welcome

All of us in The Pacific Northwest Conference, work together to answer Christ’s call to minister with people in our neighborhoods, our conference, and around the world. Wherever the needs are great, United Methodists are there, lending a hand and making a difference with their gifts of time, energy and financial resources.

It is hoped, that with this booklet, we can better understand “the connectionalism” of The United Methodist Church as represented by apportionments and lived out through our many shared ministries together in the conference, across the Greater Northwest Area, and around the world.

About this booklet

This booklet isn’t just for pastors or those concerned about finances ...it’s for everyone in your congregation! You may want to use this book as a tool to educate yourself and others in your church about the financial commitments of our United Methodist Church and the work we do together.

- Copy excerpts and include in your congregation’s newsletter; or post on a bulletin board. (Feel free to copy any part of this book.)
- Use information in mission moments in your congregation. Or pick a part of this book and make a presentation on it to your church school, class or gathering.
- Refer to this booklet in membership and confirmation classes.
- Share the information in this booklet in annual finance campaigns.

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Our Vision, Task and Structure

The Pacific Northwest (PNW) Conference of The United Methodist Church is called to be a community, diverse and united in God's saving love, sent out in vital life-giving ministry for and with Jesus Christ.

The strategy of the PNW Annual Conference is to fulfill the purpose and move toward our vision, the Annual Conference will provide lay and clergy transformational leadership for vital ministry.

The primary task of the Conference is calling, credentialing, equipping, sending forth, and nurturing lay and clergy transformational leaders.

Additional important functions of the PNW Conference are; strategizing for new ministry development and congregational redevelopment, connecting for ministry beyond the local church, and providing support services.

Our Ministry Priorities

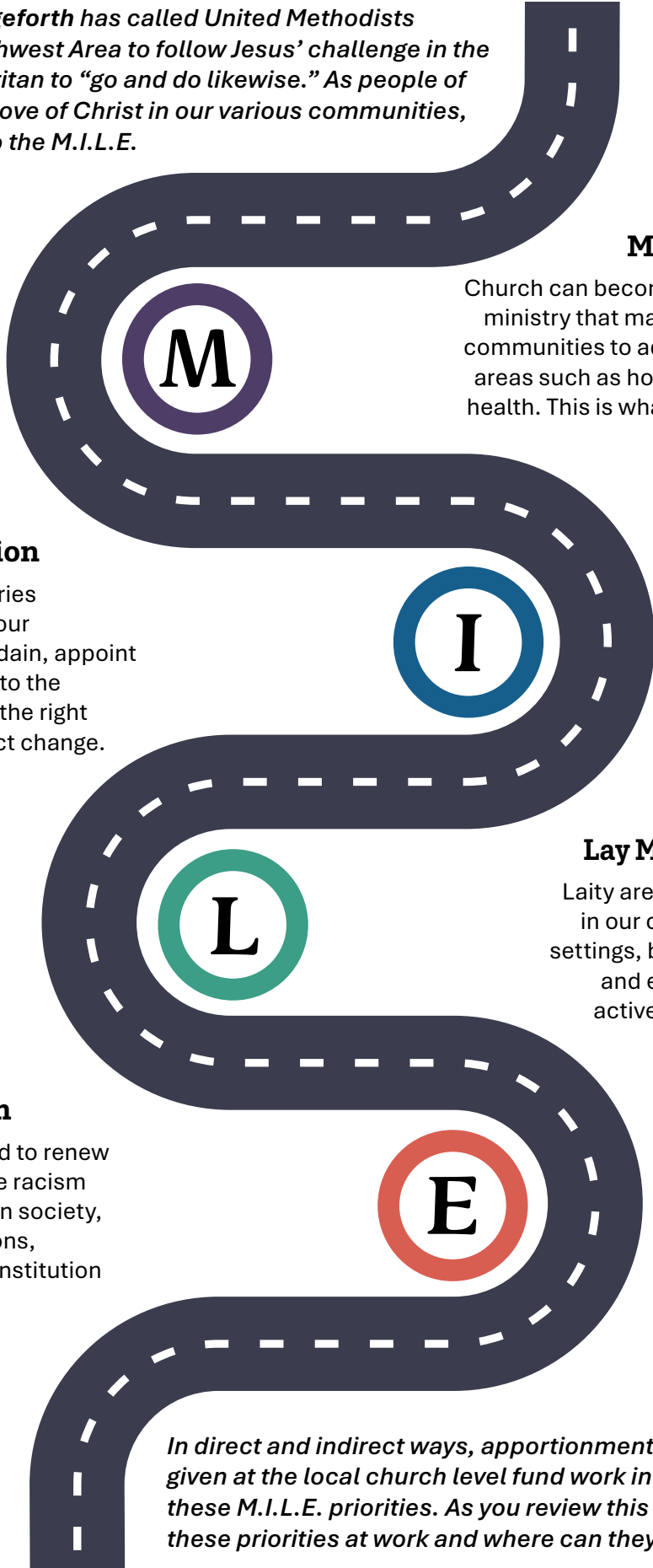
The three conferences that comprise the Greater Northwest Area have adopted shared Ministry Priorities, items they have committed to working collaboratively on. These include:

Lessening housing, hunger and health disparities
Developing young people's ministry
Providing training for lay leadership
Securing preferred and in-common vendors
Supporting information technology and tech for local ministry teams

The Pacific Northwest Conference has identified the following as ministry priorities:

Advocating for climate care and combatting climate change
Developing ministry with youth and young people
Addressing disparities in housing, hunger and health
Standing for equity, justice and against racism
Centering spiritual formation and discipleship.

Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth has called United Methodists across the Greater Northwest Area to follow Jesus' challenge in the story of the Good Samaritan to "go and do likewise." As people of faith, committed to the love of Christ in our various communities, we are encouraged to go the M.I.L.E.



Ministry that Matters

Church can become a verb by committing to ministry that matters — working within our communities to address underlying needs in areas such as housing, climate, hunger and health. This is what Bishop Cedrick calls our “window work.”

Itineration & Location

In order to lead our ministries to effectively work within our communities, we must ordain, appoint and assign clergy leaders to the right ministry setting with the right resources in place to effect change.



Lay Ministry Enhancement

Laity are already a critical resource in our congregations and ministry settings, but there is a need to equip and empower laity to be a more active voice in our churches and communities we serve.

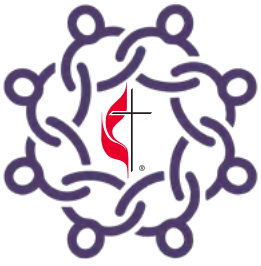


Eliminating Racism

As people of faith, we need to renew our efforts to eliminate the racism that is pervasive not only in society, but within our congregations, ministry settings and the institution of the church in general.



In direct and indirect ways, apportionment dollars and other gifts given at the local church level fund work intersecting with each of these M.I.L.E. priorities. As you review this document, where you see these priorities at work and where can they be developed further?



Conference Budgets

Each year the Annual Conference adopts its financial program, represented by each of five Conference budgets. These budgets are comprehensive, covering every aspect of finances - from pension and medical benefits to the support of Africa University. The following pages will give you valuable details about all these budgets.

Let's begin with the basics.

Three Steps to a Conference Budget

1. Overview & Initial Budget

All recipients of 2026 budget money were asked to submit their plans for 2026 in the fall of 2025. The World Service and Conference Benevolence budget requests were reviewed by the Connectional Table and a recommendation was forwarded to the Council on Finance and Administration.

Typically, the Council and representatives of the Connectional Table received requests for the Ministerial Support and Administration budget. At the conclusion of the process, the Council on Finance and Administration adopted the final budget to put before the Annual Conference Sessions.

2. Legislative Committee Review

During Annual Conference Sessions, the Legislative Focus Session on Property and Finance is responsible for reviewing the budget presented by the Council on Finance and Administration. After careful review, the Committee then refers the budget in its final form to the Annual Conference body for its action.

3. Annual Conference Vote

The Annual Conference body reviews and adopts budgets for the coming year. Once adopted, these budgets are distributed to each local church as apportionments for the coming year.

How high can the budget go?

Conference budgets are limited by a Conference Rule known as the "Budget Ceiling Rule." With this rule, budgets cannot exceed a certain percentage increase per year. A more thorough explanation of this rule is found in the Conference Journal {as Conference Rule VII, Sec. 3, (g)}.

You can access a copy of the Journal from your pastor, lay member, or church office. Or, visit www.pnwumc.org and click on "Annual Conference Journal" in the menu under "Resources."



What is Shared Ministry?

We share in ministry by paying “*a portion meant for others*” in order to extend the reach of the local church to global ministry. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism believed that when churches combine their resources, the hand of the Church reaches further. As a result, more people are introduced to and changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This shared ministry is the mechanism that enables us to extend our reach beyond our local communities and into the world. As each church gives their portion, it is combined with every other church’s portion, and together, United Methodists make a difference in the world.

How is this shared ministry calculated?

After Annual Conference adopts the budgets for the Conference, the budgets are divided among each local church in the Conference, using a specific formula designed by the Annual Conference. This formula is referred to as the “grade point”. A grade point is established in two steps.

- ***Establish grade point based on operating expenses of each church***

A grade point decimal number is established for each church, based on that church’s actual operating expenses, (excluding apportionment payments, capital improvements and benevolences), for the most current two years as reported and recorded in the Statistical Tables in the Journal. For example, 2026 figures are based on base data taken from 2023 and 2024. (Refer to the column on the next page for a detailed account of what goes into the grade point number.)

- ***Multiply grade point by each of five conference budgets***

Each church’s grade point is then multiplied by each of the five Conference budgets. This is each church’s share of the budget, for shared ministry. (Refer to the official notice your church received to see this in action. Notices are mailed each September).

What happens to the money we send?

Churches pay shared ministry in equal monthly installments and send them to the Conference Treasurer's Office. (Refer to the Conference Journal: Conference Rule VII, Sec. 5 (a) and (b) for details). The money received by the Conference Treasurer is then distributed monthly to each board and agency on a pro-rated share of that income. Other funds are transmitted regularly by the Conference Treasurer to the designated projects. All special offerings and benevolence gifts are also sent to the Conference Treasurer for disbursement. Once each year, the Treasurer’s books are audited by a regional CPA firm. The Treasurer also makes a full report to the Annual Conference which is printed in the Conference Journal.

Why your church’s giving matters

The United Methodist Church is not just one church, nor a Conference full of churches. The United Methodist Church is a global church.

The Church’s ministry reaches people who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our ministry helps feed people who are starving, rebuilds homes lost in disasters, and gives hope to children who have none. The ministry of The United Methodist Church is in action every day, changing lives in the world for the good and helping others know Christ.

This mechanism provides a way so that churches of all sizes can be active partners in mission around the world.

Payment in full of shared ministry is the first benevolent responsibility of the local church.

The United Methodist *Book of Discipline* states that each church setting is to pay its portion of the World Service Fund and conference benevolences (§ 247.14). This follows on the requirement to pay the “Pension and Benefit” and “Ministerial Support and Administration” portions to cover, among other things, bishop’s salary, district superintendent’s salary, camp insurance, and past pension for pastors (§ 622).

It is assumed that every United Methodist church will assume the financial support of the Church’s global ministry, and will, indeed, pay all shared ministry costs in full.

Percentages vary with each church, but the majority of your money does stay in your church, supporting your local ministry. Based on recent data, 0.85¢ of each dollar stays in local congregations. The remaining is distributed within The Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, the Western Jurisdiction, and the General Agencies of The United Methodist Church.

Spotlight: Calculating grade points

The grade point refers to the calculated number used to arrive at each local church's fair share portion of the financial resources needed to support connectional ministry in our conference, area, and around the world. Each year, a letter is mailed to every church with necessary login instructions for the church person doing the data entry as well as communicating the deadline of Feb. 20th of every year, Conference Rule IV, Sec. 2 (a).

The following lines on Table II are used in the calculation for shared ministry and the grade point decimal number for each church.

Local Church Expenditures

- **Deacons & Diaconal Ministers Compensation**
- **Other Staff Compensation**
- **Current Expenses for Program**
- **Other Current Operating Expenses**

Forward Step qualifying expenditures included in this category are excluded from Grade Point Base expenditures.

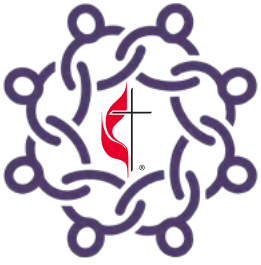
Clergy Support

- **Pastor (and Associate) Plan Compensation**
- **Utilities & Furnishing Allowance**
- **Housing Allowance**
- **Professional Expenses**
- **Other Cash Allowance**

The process is as follows. The above referenced lines for all local churches are added together to arrive at the total expense for all local churches in these areas. Then the expense in these areas for each local church is divided by the total for all churches and a decimal number is the result. All the decimal numbers of all the local churches equals 1.000. This process uses data that is always a two-year average of expenses for both the total of all churches and each individual church, and is always two years behind.

The 2026 shared ministry and grade points have been calculated using data from the 2023 and 2024 annual reports completed and submitted to the Treasurer's Office.





Information for Church Treasurers

As a local church treasurer, you have many responsibilities. Among them is the careful recording of money and proper disbursement of it. For your own protection, you should never approve a bill for payment but have the person responsible for the budget category approve all charges made to that budget item. The Finance Committee of the local church is the responsible group for overall administration of the financial program of the local church, and when in doubt, consult them.

Monthly Financial Report

You should prepare a printed and duplicated financial report monthly which should include the following as minimum:

- *Receipts by pledge category: month of, year to date, and annual budget.*
- *Expenditures by budget category for: month of, year to date, and annual budget.*
- *Cash on Hand - designated (restricted) and General Funds.*
- *Unpaid Bills - list all unpaid bills older than the current month.*

Keep the report simple but clear - one or two pages should be sufficient.

Apportionment Payments

All Conference apportionments are to be paid in twelve equal monthly installments. It is best if the apportionments are paid in the indicated monthly amounts for your church. Special gifts received should be forwarded to the proper recipient at least monthly so they may reach their intended purpose without delay.

The best way to have the most updated information is to use the Ministry Financials portal (<https://umcdata.net/MissionConnect/Public/RcvWeb/#/login?conf=FalconPnw>) where you can see your latest statements, make payments by ACH, or print a remittance form. If you have a support need to get access, please reach out to the Shared Administrative Services office for help.

Designated Special Gifts

Designated special gifts, including General Advance Specials (UMCOR, GBGM Mission projects) and Conference Advance Specials, must be forwarded to the Conference Treasurer's Office. Each gift should be listed individually with the proper code in the Ministry Financials portal or on the remittance form.

To receive credit in a given month, remittance forms must be received by the 25th. If using an online bill pay service, still send a remittance form so funds can be

credited correctly. (Consider using Ministry Financials, which eliminates the separate remittance step.)

The Conference Treasurer posts weekly updates in Ministry Financials recapping the previous month's payments, cumulative fund totals, and, for apportionments, the amount remaining and percentage paid. Local church treasurers should retain these reports and reconcile them monthly against church records. Contact the Conference Treasurer with any discrepancies.

Contributions to Non-United Methodist Programs



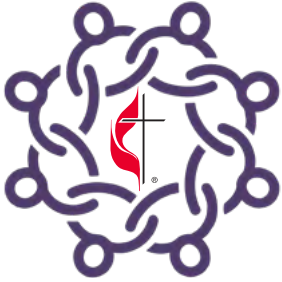
Contributions for non-United Methodist programs should not be sent to the Conference Treasurer but rather paid directly to the project by the local church.

Be sure to keep an accurate record of gifts to all non-United Methodist programs in order that they can be included in the Pastor's annual financial report under the column - "Miscellaneous Benevolence Paid Directly."

Fire & Liability

Fire & Liability premiums are due in full by September 30th of each year. These payments can be made in flexible amounts and times.

Statements are available on the web portal and ACH payments can be made there at the church's discretion or on a recurring basis.



A Closer Look at the Conference Budget

The following pages describe each category of the 2026 Pacific Northwest Conference budget in greater detail.

1. General Church Apportionments

Following is a detailed account of budget distributions to support the work of the denomination beyond the Greater Northwest.

2026 Budget

\$4,711,051

Passed in Special Session by members on October 29, 2025.

Africa University **\$13,316**

This item is an apportionment from the General Church to provide \$10,000,000 funding over the quadrennium to continue the support of a United Methodist related university in Zimbabwe. In addition to this apportionment, World Service Special (designated) gifts will be sought to fund the other half of the need - \$10 million for an endowment fund.

Black College Fund **\$59,498**

This, too, is an apportionment from the General Church to support our eleven United Methodist Black Colleges. Funds will be used for current budgets and capital improvements.

Episcopal Fund **\$212,561**

An apportionment from the General Conference, this fund is distributed to each Annual Conference based on 2.40% of the cash salaries paid to ministers and associates. It pays salaries, housing, office and travel expenses for active bishops, pensions for retired bishops and aid for widows and children of deceased bishops within the entire denomination.

General Administration Fund **\$72,881**

Our Conference share of the general administration of our entire Church includes costs of General Conference, General Council on Finance and Administration, Archives and History, and other administrative agencies.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund **\$6,173**

This, too, is an apportionment from the General Conference for our ecumenical support of the National and World Council of Churches and Consultation on Church Union. Includes funding for Pan Methodist Council, previously funded by General Administration Fund.

Jurisdictional Administration Fund **\$32,000**

This apportionment covers the costs of the Western Jurisdictional Conference. This Conference elects and assigns bishops, elects certain representatives to general boards and develops jurisdictional programs.

Ministerial Education Fund **\$149,162**

This is an apportionment from the General Church for supporting our United Methodist seminaries and ministerial education. One-fourth of the amount received is retained by our Conference for use by the Board of Ordained Ministry for scholarships to seminary students, continuing education support and other educational programs

1. General Church Apportionments

Continued

for clergy and deacons. The other three-fourths provides support for operating costs of the United Methodist theological schools and development of a program for ministerial enlistment.

World Service \$431,231

This portion represents our Conference share of the national and worldwide ministry of The United Methodist Church as received on apportionment from the General Church. The money is used according to the budget in the box below:

How World Service Dollars Go to Work in 2026

Receipts are allocated to General Church agencies:	
Fixed Charges (Paid in Full)	
Interpretation Resources	\$2,077
The Connectional Table	\$5,704
General Commission on Religion and Race	\$19,742
Core Action Plan Fund	\$6,782
General Commission on the Status and Role of Women	\$10,543
Native American Comprehensive Plan	\$2,925
Strengthening the Black Church	\$5,386
Asian American Language Ministry	\$3,811
Korean Ministry Plan	\$8,341
Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry	\$8,567
Pacific Island Ministry	\$1,472
General Council on Finance and Administration	\$10,096
TOTAL Fixed Charges	\$85,446
On Ratio (Paid on Ratio as Received)	
General Board of Church and Society	\$14,437
General Board of Discipleship	\$42,089
General Board of Global Ministries	\$145,164
General Board of Higher Education & Ministry	\$34,810
Central Conference Theological Education Fund	\$13,518
Young Clergy Initiative: Jurisdictional Conferences	\$0
General Commission on United Methodist Men	\$2,343
United Methodist Communications	\$92,798
Contingency Reserve	\$627
TOTAL on Ratio	\$345,786
GRAND TOTAL WORLD SERVICE:	
	\$431,231

TOTAL

Total General Church Apportionments:

\$976,122

2. GNW Area Shared Ministry: Personnel & Program

Following is a detailed account of budget distributions to support shared ministry, and administrative support, across the Greater Northwest Area.

GNW Episcopal Office **\$40,000**

This fund is administered by our Bishop for carrying on the work of the church in our Conference. It includes providing office support, in addition to that provided by the Episcopal Fund, as well as a limited amount for program. *An additional \$30,000 from reserves helps to support an Assistant to the Bishop position (.25 FTE shared).*

GNW Equity/Congregational Development **\$140,000**

This fund represents the PNW contribution to GNW Area shared ministry. It includes staffing (1.5 FTE) in equity efforts and to support congregational development, including salary, benefits, and other related expenses.

Circle of Indigenous Ministries **\$40,000**

Provides shared funding of Greater Northwest Area ministries, program and staffing relating to and with Native Americans.

Shared Administrative Services **\$442,000**

Covers all operational costs of the Shared Services Office, including salaries for employees (9.5 FTE, shared across GNW), equipment, office rent, supplies and expenses. The Shared Services Office work collaboratively across the GNW Area to serve conference boards and agencies, and other offices in the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences. *Total does not include contributions from PNW Board of Pensions.*

Episcopal Residence **\$8,000**

This represents our Conference's share of the cost of providing housing for our Bishop as required by the 2020/24 General Conference.

TOTAL

GNW Area Shared Ministry:

\$670,000

3. PNW Conf. Ministry: Personnel

Following is a detailed account of budget distributions to support the ministry staffing needs of the PNW Conference and its districts.

District Superintendency **\$630,000**

Covers the staffing costs associated with the superintendency of the five districts in the PNW Conference, including salaries (5.5 FTE), utilities, professional expenses, continuing education, and moving expenses. *A separate housing endowment (\$130,000) provides for that portion of superintendency costs.*

District Service Center **\$186,000**

These funds cover the staffing needs (2.5 FTE) of the District Service Center which supports the five districts and their superintendents. The DSC provides administrative support to the district, the district committee on ministry, and program support. *Interest from account holdings (\$10,000) supplements this budget fund.*

Office of Connectional Ministries **\$670,000**

These funds cover the staffing needs (4.65 FTE) of the Office of Connectional Ministries (OCM) as it supports the ministerial and programmatic aims of the annual conference. The staff of the Office of Connectional Ministries works to "bridge the gap" between the various levels of church structure; moving the church from a traditional hierarchical structure to one that is more collaborative, while equipping and supporting local churches in their mission. More detail on the OCM is provided elsewhere in this handbook.

3. PNW Conf. Ministry: Personnel

Ethnic Ministries **\$143,000**

These funds cover the staffing costs (1 FTE) of the conference's ethnic ministries including salary, benefits, professional expenses, and other related costs.

TOTAL

Total PNW Conf. Ministry: Personnel **\$1,629,122**

4. PNW Conf. Ministry: Property & Office Costs

Following is a detailed account of budget distributions to support the property and office costs of the PNW Conference and its districts.

District Parsonages **\$5,000**

Covers costs associated with the remaining district parsonages.

Office Expenses - Office of Connectional Ministries **\$75,500**

Building use fees including equipment, repair and maintenance, and informational technology-related costs charged to the OCM.

Office Expenses - District Service Center **\$31,000**

Building use fees including equipment, repair and maintenance, and related costs charged to the DSC. *An additional \$20,000 from reserves is used to support this line item.*

Office Expenses - Treasurer's Office **\$32,000**

Funds allocated to provide for the annual costs associated with an audit of the conference, plus fees relating to insurance and bonding.

TOTAL

Total PNW Conf.: Property/Office Costs **\$143,500**

5. PNW Conf. Ministry: Program

Following is a detailed account of budget distributions to support the program costs of the PNW Conference, its boards, agencies, and benevolences.

Annual Conference Session **\$103,500**

Provides for the expenses of the Annual Conference Sessions, including resource persons, worship expenses, Journal production and online communications, facilities, equipment rentals, pages, child care, technology support, and travel expenses. *Some reserves are used to supplement journal production.*

Office of Connectional Ministries Program Funds **\$15,000**

This fund provides resources for program expenses and for meetings, travel and training for boards and agencies of the conference without distinct funding.

Conference Boards & Agencies

Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry **\$64,740**

This budget provides funding for Campus Ministries, Local Church Student Ministries, and Wesley Foundations at four-year universities. In addition, campus minister development and student leadership programs are funded.

Board of Ordained Ministry **\$30,000**

Covers costs for meetings, testing and other administrative expenses for guiding candidates into the ministry, as well as Counseling and Career Assessment. The board's budget is supplemented with \$55,000 from endowment earnings.

Board of Trustees **\$10,000**

Legal fees, and Directors and Officers' Liability Insurance for Conference Trustees and Superintendents, meeting expenses, and utility expenses for the Conference Center.

5. PNW Conf. Ministry: Program

Continued

Camping Support **\$70,000**

This covers maintenance expenses and fire and liability insurance premiums at four Conference-related camp sites: Lazy F, Indianola, Ocean Park and Twinlow.

Congregational Development **\$110,500**

Funds are used to resource new church starts and redevelopment opportunities. These resources may also be used for pastoral support, start-up expenses, and/or capital development.

Council on Finance and Administration **\$50**

Covers the costs of all Council meetings.

Board of Global Ministries **\$20,000**

Provides for mission education and cultivation. Also provides funds for health and welfare, hunger concerns, immigration, disaster relief, Cooperative School of Mission, Volunteers in Mission scholarships and mission saturation events.

Ethnic Ministries **\$25,000**

This item provides support for local church outreach to ethnic communities, development of ethnic fellowships and congregations, leadership development for ethnic lay and clergy, and training to support the goal of becoming an inclusive church.

Hispanic Ministries **\$15,000**

To provide funds for Ministry within the Hispanic population of the PNW Conference.

Funds to Support Local Ministries

Cabinet Special Needs Fund **\$3,000**

Provides funds for Cabinet discretionary use and legal expenses incurred for clergy-related personnel matters. *This fund has access to reserves as needed.*

Equitable Compensation Fund **\$35,000**

This assures that each full-time minister receives the minimum compensation as set by the Annual Conference (\$52,807 in 2026). It includes the applicable Clergy Retirement Security Plan pension costs. Budget reduction reflects a transferring of some of this budget to Mission Aid salary in order to move toward more strategic use of salary assistance for congregational development and missional purposes. *Reserves are available.*

Mission Aid Salary Support **\$90,000**

This provides for salary support for pastors of new churches and mission churches in our Conference. The fund is administered by the Conference Board of Congregational Development, cooperatively with the Cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation. This salary aid helps provide "Mission" churches a full-time pastor. It is the policy of the Board of Congregational Development to attempt to continually decrease this support to the churches as they become self-supporting. *Reserves are available.*

Moving Expense Assistance **\$35,000**

This portion provides a moving subsidy for each local church (charge) receiving a new pastor, for up to \$2,400 to cover or assist with costs of each intra-conference

5. PNW Conf. Ministry: Program

Continued

move (Rule XI, Sec. 2(a)). Also, is used to assist seminary students coming here for appointment, based on one-way mileage from seminary to appointment, up to \$5,000. Ministers transferring in are reimbursed up to the seminary students' limit with provision for the Cabinet to authorize up to 150% of the limit (Rule XI, Sec. 2 (c)). Also, provides up to \$2,400 for those retiring, or on Medical Leave, or surviving spouses of active ministers per Conference Rule XI, Sec. 2(b). Also covers the moving costs for ethnic clergy recruited to serve in our conference. *Reserves are available.*

Recruitment of Clergy Leadership **\$5,000**

Provides for District Superintendent travel, interpretative materials and expenses incurred to bring in potential clergy for appointment.

District Service Center **\$25,000**

This funds programming organized on the district level including trainings, gatherings for pastoral leaders, and costs associated with youth and young adult equalization members at annual conference.

Leadership Development within Districts **\$5,000**

This line item is a discretionary line for the Cabinet for specific leadership development training or programs that would not fall within the guidelines for MEF funds available to the clergy. *Reserves available.*

Ministry Opportunity Fund **\$100,000**

A new micro-grant program established in 2026 that encourages innovation, collaboration, and risk-taking ministry. Three granting cycles are offered annually to with two categories - under \$5,000 and up to \$20,000.

Conference Benevolences

Faith Action Network **\$13,000**

Faith Action Network is a multi-faith, non-profit organization through which thousands of people and over 170 faith communities across Washington State partner for the common good. It is one channel through which the conference joins other interfaith and ecumenical voices in advocating for a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

Student Scholarship **\$17,000**

Organized by the Office of Connectional Ministries, scholarships (up to \$1,500) are offered to students who are members of a United Methodist ministry setting (church or campus ministry) in the Pacific Northwest Conference.

TOTAL

Total PNW Conf. Ministry: Program

\$781,790

6. PNW Conf. Ministry: Other

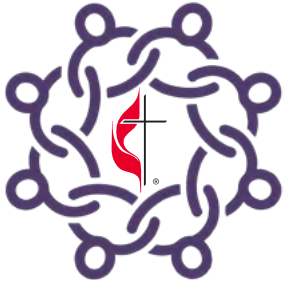
Ministerial Support Fund (unpaid apportionments) **\$410,000**

This fund provides for the deficit created by churches unable or unwilling to fully pay their shared ministry portions. The average annual apportionment payment rate hovers around 90%, necessitating this fund. On the following page, we list all of the churches that fully paid apportionments. If every church did so, this fund would be unnecessary.

TOTAL

Total PNW Conf. Ministry: Other

\$410,000



Thank You!

Apportionments Paid in Full

The churches listed below paid their 2025 Shared Ministry Apportionments, fully honoring what the Discipline defines as "the first benevolent responsibility" of the local church.

Crest to Coast

Battle Ground
 Camas
 Central Park
 Centralia
 Eatonville
 Elma
 Fern Prairie
 Grays River
 Hoquiam
 Kalama
 Kelso
 Lacey: St Andrews
 Little Rock
 Longview
 Montesano
 Morton: Community
 Oakville
 Ocean Park
 Ocean Shores
 Olympia: First
 Orting
 Puyallup
 Puyallup: Light Of The Hill
 Randle
 Ridgefield
 Rochester
 Satsop
 Shelton
 Stevenson
 Sumner
 Tumwater
 Vader: Grace
 Vancouver: First
 Vancouver: Mill Plain
 Vancouver: Orchards
 Vancouver: Salmon Creek
 Vancouver: Vancouver Heights
 Washougal
 White Salmon
 Willapa
 Yelm: Community

Inland

Asotin
 Bonners Ferry
 Cheney
 Coeur D'alene: Community
 Davenport Edwall
 Deer Park
 Elmore (ID)
 Grangeville
 Green Bluff: Community
 Lewiston: First
 Moscow: First
 New Connections
 Pomeroy
 Pullman: Simpson
 Ritzville: Trinity
 Rockford
 Spokane Valley
 Spokane: Audubon Park
 Spokane: Covenant
 Spokane: Fowler
 Spokane: Highland Park
 Spokane: Moran
 Spokane: St Pauls

Puget Sound

Allen
 Anacortes
 Arlington United
 Bellingham: Garden St
 Brownsville
 Burnaby, BC: First Canada
 Colby
 Coupeville
 Custer
 Edmonds
 Fall City
 Gig Harbor
 Kingston: Redeemer
 Kirkland: Lake Washington
 Langley
 Marysville
 Mill Creek: Cedar Cross
 Mount Vernon: First

Oak Harbor

Port Angeles: First Port
 Orchard
 Port Townsend: Trinity
 Redmond
 Sammamish: Faith
 Sedro Woolley: Central
 Sequim: Trinity
 Stanwood
 Tracyton
 Vashon Island
 Woodinville: Bear Creek
 Port Hadlock Community

SeaTac

Auburn: First
 Bellevue: Aldersgate
 Burien: Highline
 Des Moines
 Federal Way
 Kent
 Mercer Island
 Renton: Fairwood
 Renton
 Seattle: Blaine Memorial
 Seattle: Bryn Mawr
 Seattle: First
 Seattle: First Tongan
 Seattle: Grace
 Seattle: Green Lake
 Seattle: Haller Lake
 Seattle: Magnolia
 Seattle: Queen Anne
 Seattle: Tibbetts
 Seattle: Trinity
 Seattle: University
 Seattle: Wallingford
 Seattle: Woodland Park
 Shoreline
 Shoreline: Ronald
 Tacoma: Browns Point
 Tacoma: First Korean
 Tacoma: Mason
 Tacoma: The Bridge
 Tukwila: Riverton Park

Seven Rivers

Benton City
 Chelan: Lake Chelan
 Conconully
 Ellensburg
 Ephrata
 Goldendale
 Hartline
 Kennewick: First
 Manson
 Methow Valley
 Omak
 Pasco: Riverview
 Selah
 Walla Walla: Pioneer
 Wenatchee: First
 Yakima: Wesley
 Royal City

% Paid By District

1. Puget Sound - 95.72%
2. Inland - 95.61%
3. Crest to Coast - 94.38%
4. SeaTac - 87.61%
5. Seven Rivers - 84.27%

Understanding Pensions & Benefits

Historically, the pensions and benefit apportionment had two components: Pensions (funding for the Pre-82 unfunded pension liability) and Health Insurance. Health Insurance included active participants, with ½ paid by the participant and ½ through apportionments. The other component was funding retiree health.

Changes over the years

- In 1998, the first retiree health actuarial valuation was received. The liability was a staggering \$7 million.
- In 1980, the total apportionment was \$991,000.
- In 1982, a new pension plan, the Ministerial Pension Plan, came into effect and lasted until 2006. Under MPP, the salary paying unit (local churches and conference budgets) was directly billed for the cost. What remained in the apportionments was the Comprehensive Protection Plan cost (disability and death benefits for pastors), funding for Pre-82 pension liability and health insurance (active and retirees).
- In 2001, the pension and benefit apportionment was \$1,501,000. In 2003, CPP and active health insurance were directly billed to salary-paying units. Also, the Pre-82 pension liability had been fully funded, leaving only retiree health funding. The pension and benefits apportionment in 2003 was \$800,000.
- At the annual conference in 2003, legislation was approved that the retiree health subsidy would continue for those who qualified as either already retired or future retirees who, in 2004, had at least 30 years of service. The last pastor who qualified under these rules retired in 2011.
- In 2014, the retiree health plan moved from a self-insured pharmacy plan to Medicare supplement coverage underwritten by insurance carriers through exchanges. With the decline in the number of retirees eligible for retiree health subsidy and the change in the retiree health delivery mechanism, the 2014 pension and benefit apportionment was reduced to \$425,000.
- Over the years, the Conference Board of Pensions has raised permanent endowments and pension reserves through capital funds campaigns, legacy gifts, support from Wespeth (health insurance, good experience dividends, and CPP holidays), and the overfunding of Pre-82 Pension plans. In 2000, the board of pensions' assets totaled \$3.9 million.
- In 2007, a new retirement plan, the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP), began. It ended in 2025. CRSP had a defined benefit component. With the defined benefit component, the board was able to pay this cost through the surplus Pre-82 pension funding. The salary paying unit continued paying the retirement costs, which were added to the pension endowments/reserves.
- In 2006, the board of pensions' endowments totaled \$6.2 million. With the addition of Pre-82 excess funding and excellent financial returns, the board's assets grew to \$27.6 million in 2020. With the growth of assets and resulting increase in earnings and the declining cost for retiree health, the request for pension and benefit apportionment was reduced to zero! The board of pensions' assets at the end of 2025 are approximately \$37 million.
- Since 2007, the conference board of pensions' budget has supported the salary paying units with the cost of health insurance, retirement plans, and wellness incentives. The total amount returned to the salary-paying units from 2007 – 2025 is \$6.8 million.



Looking Ahead

The total 2026 budget for the PNW Conference Board of Pensions is \$1,228,000. It includes the following:

- \$660,700 health insurance support to salary paying units, retiree support and those on disability.
- \$170,000 retirement benefit cost support to salary-paying units for the new Compass retirement plan.
- \$90,000 wellness incentives to salary-paying units for those pastors who have completed wellness incentives (\$1,000 per full-time pastor).
- \$307,000 for board expenses, including staffing and grants.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Galvin, PNW Conference Benefits Officer.



Six Other Ways to Be in Mission

In addition to our shared ministry, there are five additional ways that individuals, groups and congregations can be involved in mission beyond the local church. These include (1) Special Offerings, (2) Covenant Relationships with Missionaries, (3) Conference and (4) General Church Advance Specials, (5) Volunteers in Mission, and (6) Cooperative Mission u.

1. Special Offerings

The 2020/24 General Conference designated six special church-wide Sundays with offerings to be observed in each United Methodist church (Book of Discipline, ¶1263). Our annual conference has designated additional Conference Designated Offerings.

Learn more and download resources to celebrate these Special Offerings on the ResourceUMC website.

<https://resourceumc.org/en/umc-resources/umcgiving/special-sundays>

Human Relations Day

Sunday, January 17, 2027

The Human Relations Day offering supports social justice and outreach ministries that empower all God's children to realize their full potential as human beings in relationship with one another. Administered by Global Ministries in collaboration with the General Board of Church and Society, this fund encourages that potential through multiethnic ministries and countless other projects across the United Methodist connection.

UMCOR Sunday

Sunday, March 7, 2027

The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need, ensuring we can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

Native American Min. Sunday

Sunday, April 11, 2027

The Native American Ministries offering bolsters the work of ministries in annual conferences throughout the United States. These ministries exist in rural and urban settings, including reservation and other community settings. This offering also provides scholarships for Native Americans studying at United Methodist schools of theology and empowers congregations to find culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities through Christ's love.

Special Church-Wide Sundays



United Methodist Student Day

Any Sunday in May

United Methodist Student Day calls the Church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The offering supports UM scholarships and the UM Student Loan Fund.

Peace with Justice Sunday

Sunday, May 31, 2026 (May 23, 2027)

United Methodists celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday on the First Sunday after Pentecost. Peace with Justice Sunday enables The UMC to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs. The special offering benefits peace with justice ministries in the annual conference and through the General Board of Church and Society.

World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 4, 2026 (October 3, 2027)

The World Communion Sunday offering provides scholarships and leadership development opportunities for international students and U.S. racial-ethnic students who are pursuing advanced degrees. Gifts not only make an impact in the lives of individual students, but also the religious, social and civic communities in which they lead and serve.

2. Covenant Relationships with Missionaries

Photos courtesy of the GBGM website.
For more info, visit umcmmission.org

The covenant relationship between the Pacific Northwest and our Global Ministries missionaries is a sacred partnership grounded in prayer, presence, and mutual commitment to God's mission. This partnership is more than financial support; it is a shared journey of faith, discipleship, and service. Through prayer, encouragement, and engagement with their ministries, we walk alongside missionaries, celebrate their successes, and support them in their challenges.

Over 186 active Global Ministries missionaries are serving in more than 97 countries that are available for support through a Covenant Relationship. Individuals and churches can partner with a missionary and provide financial, spiritual, and emotional support. Individuals may support a missionary with **\$500 per year**, while churches may contribute **\$1,200 or \$2,000 per year**. Every gift and prayer strengthens the connection, enables transformative ministry, and affirms our shared commitment to God's work around the world.



The local church and the supported missionary agree to communicate regularly (at least three times per year), to uphold each other in prayer, and to meet face to face during the missionary's visits to the Pacific Northwest. The missionary keeps the congregation informed about ongoing ministries, needs, progress, and interesting stories from their place of assignment.

Youth and young adult groups are invited to covenant with a Global Mission Fellow for \$5 per member per year. This will allow youth and young adults to understand the value and importance of young adults in mission and have them visit their group.

Contact Marilyn Sanchez-Reid to find out more. Be sure to send your contribution through the Conference Treasurer for Advance Credit, noting the missionary's name and advance number, ideally by the end of October each year. Using the Covenant Relationship Form, mail the original to GBGM and a copy to Marilyn Reid, 15026 40th Ave. W Bldg. 14-203, Lynnwood, WA 98087 or email at marilynsreid21@gmail.com or call at 206-369-3221.

Other Ways You Can Get Involved

1. Identify projects and/or missionaries to support.
2. Donate time, say a prayer, or create a non-financial way to support the missionary or project to supplement your financial gift.
3. Include banners and other promotion on your website and newsletters.
4. Insert a flier into your church bulletin and integrate stories of Advance projects and missionaries into meetings or sermons leading up to #GivingTuesday.
5. Take time for a mission moment during worship.
6. Give children boxes to collect money and get them excited about the project/missionary they support.
7. Raise awareness about UMC #GivingTuesday through your annual conference social media networks.
8. Take a "selfless selfie" holding a sign with a UMC #GivingTuesday graphic that says, "On UMC #GivingTuesday, I'm giving light, giving love, and giving life. Please join me by supporting [insert project/missionary name] at umcmmission.org/give" Post these selfless selfies on social media.
9. Post a graphic from the resource page and encourage people to upload a selfless selfie using one of the graphics.
10. Ask friends and family to make an early Christmas gift in your honor to your favorite Advance project or missionary project on #GivingTuesday. Or make a gift in honor of those on your Christmas list.
11. Send an e-mail to your community network asking for support for The Advance on #GivingTuesday.

Missionaries with Covenant Relationships with the PNW

Joy Eva Bohol

Country: Switzerland
Advance #3021829
email: jbohol@umcmision.org

Joy Eva A. Bohol serves as Region Migration Specialist. She is a former mission intern, and was commissioned to her present work in October 2015.

Joy Eva was a mission advocate for the Young Adult Mission Service of the agency. Mission advocates promote and interpret missionary service as a vocational choice for young adults, including the Global Mission Fellows program that places persons between the ages of 20 and 30 for two-year terms of service in justice ministries. Global Mission Fellows is part of Generation Transformation, a comprehensive approach to young adult mission service.

Joy Eva also encouraged congregations, districts, and annual conferences to join in covenant support for young adult missionaries. She was based for one year in the New York City and for a second year in Seoul, where she promoted and recruited for Generation Transformation.

Joy Eva was a mission intern—the intern program was a forerunner to Global Mission Fellows—with the Centro Popular para América Latina de Comunicación (CEPALC) in Bogotá, Colombia. CEPALC was set up in 1978 to help the desperately poor of Colombia use communications resources to support human rights and justice claims.



Joy Eva—her name is short for “Joyful Evangelist”—is from Cebu City in the Philippines, where she is a member of the Labangon First United Methodist Church. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication, major in Journalism, from the University of the Philippines. Her mother is clergy. Joy Eva has worked for an online newspaper, served as national president of The UM Youth

Fellowship in the Philippines, been a team member for Discipleship Resources in the Philippines, and worked as an Emmaus Walk community coordinator. She has taken part in mission trips within and outside the Philippines.

Luke 4:17–20, the passage about Jesus engaging with the people in the synagogue, exerted a strong influence upon her as a young person, “When Jesus read Isaiah’s scroll, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,’ it resonated with me that

God’s calling to serve God’s people in fighting for social justice, struggling with those in the margins, and being in solidarity with the oppressed, is for everyone—wherever you are in the world. God’s mission is for everyone from everywhere to everywhere. Jesus knew exactly what his purpose was. We should, too, and live out Jesus’ Mission Statement as found in Luke 4.”

She has known for years that she would enter mission as a vocation, and she hopes that the United Methodist Church in the Philippines will soon launch a “domestic mission program for passionate young people.”

Helen de Leon Camarce

Country: Cambodia
Advance #13953Z
email: hcamarce@umcmision.org

Helen de Leon Camarce is a United Methodist missionary currently serving as treasurer of the General Board of Global Ministries’ Cambodia and Southeast Asia Missions.

The Cambodia Mission, which is inter-Methodist, and the United Methodist Southeast Asia Mission are fast growing. As of August 2011, there were more than 400 congregations in the four countries. Each involves missionaries and expanding church development, including outreach and building projects. The growth is projected to continue



well into the future, necessitating a regional treasurer to provide leadership in fund management and to equip local Methodists to assume financial responsibilities.

Helen provides support services for the missionary communities, local church partners, episcopal leaders, an expanding number of clergy, and denominational interests.

Prior to her current assignment, Helen was Global Ministries’ regional mission auditor for Asia, and earlier served for 10 years as the agency’s area financial executive based in the Philippines.

A native of Malate, Manila in the Philippines, Helen earned

a bachelor of science degree in commerce from the Technological Institute of the Philippines, also in Manila. She worked in exporting and in the travel industry before going to work for the church.

Believing in good stewardship and good management of church resources, Helen says, “A good Christian must learn to manage God’s blessings by being transparent, honest, and always with a thankful heart. I know that monies coming from our sisters and brothers are hard earned, and I want to make our programs and agencies aware of such.”

Helen serves with various agencies within the Philippine

Central Conference, including those concerned with finance and administration, education and communications, indigenous peoples, social services, and mission. She was treasurer of the Women’s Society of Christian Service and ex-officio member of the Philippine Conference Coordinating Council, which is the decision-making body.

Helen is a member of the Parañaque Central UMC in Parañaque City, Philippines. She is married to Benjamin N. Camarce, and they have three children and one adopted nephew. Helen’s mother is a member of the Freeport UMC.

Katherine Parker

Country: Nepal

Advance #15187Z

email: kparker@umcmision.org

Katherine Parker is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries, working in community development in Nepal. She serves as a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Advisor with the United Mission to Nepal (UMN). The ecumenical ministry of UMN has a vision of “fullness of life for all in a transformed Nepali society.” United Methodists have been part of UMN since it was founded in 1954.

Katherine’s work in Nepal involves the development of frameworks for reflection in an action-reflection process of community transformation. The UMN work in community transformation is in five areas: education, health, peacebuilding, good governance and sustainable livelihoods. Katherine has found joy in:

- Adolescent empowerment, including sexual reproductive health and rights, mental health, and menstrual hygiene;
- Dignity for migrant workers; and
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

Katherine was previously based in one of UMN’s field offices in western Nepal and now works in participatory research across the organization from a base in Kathmandu, where she is also a part of the UMN leadership team.

Katherine is passionate about the process of linking values to action. She believes in telling the stories of our lives and exploring the stories of our faith. These enable us to articulate our shared values and engage in collective



action across cultural and other divisive barriers. Together we can progress towards a world where every person can live to his or her fullest potential.

In Nepal since 2013, Katherine formerly served in Cambodia with the Community Health and Agricultural Development program of the Methodist Mission there. She has been a missionary since 2007. Out of college in 2000, she became a mission intern for three years with the Asian Rural Institute in Japan and Practical Farmers of Iowa.

Native to California, Katherine comes from a family with deep roots in United Methodism on the U.S. West Coast.

From a young age, Katherine saw the church as a community of faith where we are spiritually fed so that we can serve in the world. She is the fifth generation in her family to serve through the United Methodist connection.

Katherine attended Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, CA, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. Her M.S. degree, also in biology, was from California State University in Sacramento. Her graduate thesis was on

bacterial contamination of drinking water in rural Ghana.

Katherine’s home church is Mt. Tamalpais UMC in Mill Valley, CA. She has been involved in the life of the church in many capacities, including as part of the California-Nevada Annual Conference delegation to General Conference, the Conference Board of Church and Society, and a District Council on Ministries. She has been a part of United Methodist Women and an organizer of mission trips. In high school, she served as director of a church bell choir.

Joy Prim

Country: Hong Kong
Advance #3021344
email: jprim@umcmmission.org

Deaconess Joy Prim is a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries serving as a welfare case officer for migrant domestic workers. She is based at the Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW) at St. John's Cathedral in Hong Kong, SAR (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China). Joy gained valuable experience for her current task as a mission intern with MFMW.

Founded in 1981, MFMW remains committed to supporting migrant workers in crisis, empowering them to regain dignity and encouraging recognition of them as an integral part of multicultural and inclusive Hong Kong, SAR, society. In many families, both parents must work to afford the high cost of living. Migrant workers are in great demand to provide child care and manage households as well as to care for older adults.

In Hong Kong, SAR, migrant workers remain one of the most vulnerable groups, left out of many social protections. The Mission for Migrant Workers has seen an increase in migrant workers seeking their services.

As a charitable institution, MFMW depends on volunteers to implement many programs. As a missionary, Joy provides stability and continuity to the mission's social justice work.

"My faith journey," she said, "has been influenced and led by the United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) purpose, growing up with a mother and grandmother who were both members and my choice to become a UWF member at 12 years old. I could recite the purpose before I could read chapter books. The foundation they laid for caring for issues of women, youth and children in our local communities and around the world sparked my yearning for mission work."

In college, Joy was selected to be part of the College/University Consultative Board of the former Women's Division, where she gained greater knowledge and appreciation of United Methodist global mission work through its "from everywhere to everywhere" practices, she said.

Joy was inspired to apply for the Mission Intern Program, a forerunner to Global Mission Fellows. "When I let myself learn about the migrant communities and share my own reflections," she said, "the more I was feeling at home and realizing that I was called to do this as my vocation."



For her domestic placement, Joy served with the Filipino Migrant Center in Long Beach, California. She helped to empower many through education and handling cases on labor issues, immigration and human trafficking.

After her mission internship, she provided direct services and advocacy to address human rights issues in California and beyond. She assisted Filipino migrant workers and volunteered with the California-Pacific Annual Conference Justice and Compassion EMT, as well as the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines.

Born in Statesville, North Carolina, Joy grew up in western North Carolina. She most recently lived in Los Angeles. She is a member of West LA UMC, part of the Cal-Pac Conference. She was welcomed into the order of Deaconess and Home Missioner in 2020 and consecrated as a deaconess in May 2022.

Joy cherishes "God moments," she said, "where I feel connected to my understandings of the early church that

weren't so much about liturgies and formalities but about building community, finding ways to support each other and living our faith in action."

Alma Jumuad Navarro

Country: Taiwan
Advance #3022029
email: anavarro@umcmmission.org

The Rev. Alma Jumuad Navarro is a Global Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries, serving as minister for administration and Christian education for the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) ministry in Taipei. She was commissioned in late 2014.

The OFW ministry is linked to the Methodist Church in the Republic of China and is conducted in collaboration with the Davao Episcopal Area in the Philippines. There are an estimated 100,000 Filipinos in Taiwan (POC) at any given time, a majority of whom are temporary migrant workers. Some 3,000 Filipinos leave their country every day in search of a livelihood abroad.

The OFW ministry in Taipei was started by volunteers and enhanced by pastors sent by Davao with space and stipend assistance from the Methodist Church. Global Ministries was invited to become a partner in the outreach. The plan of ministry includes not only worship and social services but also follow-through as workers return to the Philippines, providing spiritual care and pastoral

counseling and linking them to congregations at home.

Alma and her husband, the Rev. Richard B. Navarro, also a missionary, are from the Philippines. She is an elder of the East Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference. She has served as resident minister at Jesus Lover of Souls UMC, minister of Christian education at Good Shepherd UMC, and youth minister at 4th Bulacan UMC, all in the Bulacan, Philippines, Annual Conference. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in medical technology from Southwestern University in Cebu City and a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite, south of Manila.

Alma has a special affinity for overseas workers, as she herself was once a factory worker there, an experience cut short by a vehicle accident that sent her back home and prompted her to reevaluate her life's plan. She had been born into the church, had given her life to Christ at age 12, and had been a leader in a congregation. Back home, she entered seminary and served in several ministries in



the Bulacan Conference.

Alma was strongly influenced toward missionary work by the passage in John 21 where Jesus tells his fisherfolk disciples to cast their nets on the “right side of the ship.” For her, what would be the right side? She would find out by responding in time to an invitation to return with her husband and family to minister among overseas workers. Alma found the answer to a question that had come to her when she was first in Taiwan (POC). The question was, “What else, Lord?” She explains: “In God’s perfect time, He brought me back to Taiwan (POC) to reach out to Filipino migrant workers.

Somehow, I do understand the life of being an OFW. My stay in Taiwan (POC) as a factory worker was the chance for me to know the needs and struggles of OFWs. And so, my husband and I are dealing with these things among the migrant workers with whom we minister.”

Alma and Richard have two children, Charis and Chadash.

Richard Navarro

Country: Taiwan

Advance #3022030

email: rnavarro@umcmision.org

The Rev. Richard B. Navarro is a Global Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries serving as minister for congregational development and pastoral care of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) ministry in Taipei. He was commissioned in late 2014.

The OFW ministry is linked to the Methodist Church and is conducted in collaboration with the Davao Episcopal Area in the Philippines. Some 3,000 Filipinos leave their country every day seeking livelihoods abroad. The OFW ministry in Taipei was started by volunteers and enhanced by pastors sent by Davao with space and stipend assistance from the Methodist Church in Southeast Asia. Global Ministries was invited to become a partner in the outreach.

The plan of ministry includes not only worship and social services but follow through as workers return to the Philippines, providing spiritual care and pastoral counseling and linking them to congregations at home.

Richard is an elder of the East Mindanao Philippines



Annual Conference and over a 16-year period served a series of small and large pastoral appointments, primarily in the Bulacan Annual Conference. His churches included Bulacan Central, Good Shepherd, and 4th Bulacan United Methodist Churches. He and his wife Alma Navarro, also a missionary, shared these ministries. Richard holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Philippine Christian University in Manila and a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in Dasmariñas City in Cavite Province.

A strong sense of covenant with God through Jesus Christ sustains him in good times and bad. “I found real joy inside of me,” he says, “when God brought me and my family to be missionaries in Taiwan, despite challenges I face in the ministry. I found something valuable that cannot be exchanged for the most expensive treasures in the world. My faith has totally increased and is getting stronger....My faith tells me that Jesus Christ is enough for me.”

The ministry is called Ang TANANAN ng NAGDADA-MAYANG PINOY SA TAIWAN, (“A Home for Filipinos Who Care for One Another in Taiwan.”) Richard believes that in time the ministry will spread to all parts of Southeast Asia where Filipino migrants are located.

Douglas Williams

Country: Argentina

Advance #3022122

email: dwilliams@umcmmission.org

The Rev. Douglas E. Williams is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries, serving as pastor and Volunteer-In-Mission promoter of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina, based in Buenos Aires. He was commissioned in 2015.

The Argentine church has 100 congregations spread across the country. Doug is the pastor of the Mendoza and San Juan churches, the chaplain at the Alberto Schweitzer School, and assists with hosting VIM teams, mostly from the United States.

Doug, who was born in Virginia, is an elder of the Iowa Annual Conference and, immediately before his missionary service, was the lead pastor of Coralville United Methodist Church and an adjunct professor at Kirkwood Community College in Iowa City, Iowa. Earlier, he pastored churches in the Iowa and Tennessee Annual Conferences. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri; a Master of Divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa.

Doug recalls attending enough to be baptized at age

16 in a Baptist congregation. He experienced a call to ministry while on a mission trip to Haiti during his college years, and he enrolled in seminary after graduating. He transitioned to The United Methodist Church and served as a pastor for 21 years. He says the faith communities he has served have been concerned with innovative ministries, including a coffeehouse, an ecumenical food pantry, and a preschool.



Mission trips—both as a participant and an organizer—have played major roles in his ministry, including service in Mexico, Guatemala, Haiti, Native American reservations, and in tornado and hurricane cleanup in the United States. A major rebuilding project at the Coralville church prevented him from taking part in mission trips for several years. God implanted in him a call to mission during that period.

“In that absence,” he says, “I recognized that God was growing a deep longing to serve outside of the country....God seemed to be saying, ‘Now is the time.’”

On the challenge of mission, he states: “Our world is becoming a global community, and God wells up in me the desire to be part of seeing God’s peace expand and renewal take place. There are so many challenges that face us, and time and time again God reveals in every challenge an opportunity for growth and healing.” “I grew up loving Jesus but not going to church much.”

Doug has two adult children, Samantha and Jonathan.

2. Cont. - Global Mission Fellows

The Global Mission Fellows program takes young adults ages 20-30 out of their home environments and places them in new contexts for mission experience and service. The program has a strong emphasis on faith and justice. Global Mission Fellows become active parts of their new local communities. They connect the church in mission across cultural and geographical boundaries. They grow in personal and social holiness and become strong young leaders, working to build just communities in a peaceful world. Global Mission Fellows in the U.S. work through geographic or organizational affiliates.

Miriam K. Safford

United States: Northwest Immigrants Rights Project
Missionary Code: 3022802
email: msafford@umcmission.org

Miriam K. Safford is a US-2 Global Mission Fellow with the General Board of Global Ministries. Fellows serving on the US-2 track address the deep-rooted systems of injustice in the United States, working in a variety of areas, including food insecurity, migration/immigration, education and poverty.

The Global Mission Fellows program takes young adults ages 20-30 out of their home environments and places them in new contexts for mission experience and service. The program has a strong emphasis on faith and justice. Global Mission Fellows become active parts of their new local communities. They connect the church in mission across cultural and geographical boundaries. They grow in personal and social holiness and become strong young leaders working to build just communities in a peaceful world.

With a Bachelor of Science degree in anthropology and religious studies from North Central College, Naperville, Illinois, Miriam is a member of First United Methodist Church of Crystal Lake, Illinois, related to the Northern Illinois Annual Conference.

"I am a youth volunteer, so I help out with Sunday school, youth group and youth outings such as retreats," Miriam said. "I often lead small-group discussions among the youth and help with confirmation classes."

A "preacher's kid," Miriam grew up in the Christian faith.

"My mother is a United Methodist pastor," Miriam said. "I have always felt a strong sense of faith in the teachings of Jesus and a love of God and all of God's creation. My faith journey has waxed and waned over the course of my life, but even in my moments of doubt, anger and hopelessness, I have felt myself carried by a presence other than my own."



When Miriam's father died suddenly, their faith was fundamentally changed.

"In the shock of his loss," Miriam said, "I felt untethered and terrified of the vastness and power of the universe. I felt alone and isolated from God, and I didn't know how to approach my relationship with God anymore. It took a class on Christology in the spring semester of my sophomore year for me to feel more comfortable reapproaching God. The class both reminded me of who Jesus is and expanded my beliefs about God. I was comforted by the idea that Jesus was grieving with me."

Miriam continued, "My relationship with God is a living practice, both private and public. In order to serve God in public, I must first serve him in private, giving God my heart so that I may do what he asks of me in the world. I believe in John Wesley's teaching of social holiness. In order truly to live for God, I must give of myself for others.

"Jesus calls his disciples to love one another, to feed the poor, clothe the naked and heal the sick. Not only is he the Savior; he also taught us how to live by example. He lived in solidarity with those he served as one of them and was an active member of his community as a spiritual leader and healer."

Miriam said they have always felt a deep calling toward service and justice work and find great joy in being in community with others. "I believe that God desires for us to have positive and healthy relationships with each other," Miriam said, "and to be able to rely on our communities.

"Living in solidarity with and in service of others fulfills our souls and brings healing to a broken world. My personal spiritual growth is deeply interconnected with service work. I believe that by being a part of the US-2 program, I will learn how to experience the power of God through others and will continue to align my personal spiritual practice with my public life."



The Advance Covenant Relationship Form

Type of Covenant Relationship: (check one)

Church (\$2,500 or \$5/member) Individual (\$500) Other (\$5/member, e.g., Youth Group, Campus Ministry)

Total Commitment Amount Per Year: \$ _____ (required)

Length of Covenant Relationship commitment: 3 years 1 year Indefinite

Beginning: _____ Ending: _____
Month / Year Month / Year

NOTE: It is only necessary to renew your acceptance form at the end of your commitment.

Missionary: _____ Advance #: _____

Please indicate missionary previously supported (if different): _____

Please note that while your covenant is with the missionary above, your gift will support the entire missionary community.

Contact Information:

Name of Church/Individual/Group/Organization (to receive credit):

Address: _____
Street City State Postal Code

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Church Information: (if applicable)

Name: _____

Pastor: _____ Annual Conference: _____ District: _____

Contact Person: (if applicable)

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Postal Code

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

• Send form to: The Advance, General Board of Global Ministries, 458 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30308

Tel: 404-460-7945, Fax: 404-942-4241, Email: covenant@umcmmission.org

• For church credit, send financial support to your conference treasurer or to the Advance GCFA. For individual/group/organization credit, send gifts directly to Advance GCFA. Please clearly designate the missionary's Advance number. Mail gifts to:

Send a copy of this form to your Conference Secretary of Global Ministries:
Marilyn Reid
15026 40th Ave. W Bldg. 14-203
Lynnwood, WA 98087
marilysreid21@gmail.com

Advance GCFA
PO Box 9068
New York, NY 10087-9068
www.umcmmission.org/covenantrelationships



3. Conference Advance Specials

Conference Advance Specials are Conference-approved ministries that invite churches and individuals into covenant partnership in mission. Reviewed annually by Conference Global Ministries, these projects reflect our shared commitment to love, justice, and service across the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Gifts may be designated to “Conference Advance Special (project name and number)” and sent to the Conference Treasurer.

For more information, contact Marilyn Reid, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, at marilynsreid21@gmail.com.



Atlantic Street Center

Conference Advance #301

Atlantic Street Center (ASC) is one of the National Mission Institutions of The United Women in Faith and the United Methodist Church. Founded in 1910 by Methodist Deaconesses to serve immigrant families, ASC has been a trusted ministry in Seattle for over a century.

Today, Atlantic Street Center serves more than **3,000 children, youth, and low-income families** each year, primarily in Seattle’s Central and Southeast neighborhoods. Through education, youth development, and family support, ASC helps children thrive, and communities grow stronger.

Gifts through Advance go directly to this vital ministry, supporting life-changing programs that reflect the Pacific Northwest Conference’s commitment to justice, compassion, and care for our neighbors.



Alaska Conference Support

Conference Advance #336

The Pacific Northwest Conference has a special relationship with our sibling conference to the north which is reflected in this Conference Advance.

Gifts to this Conference Advance help to support the **connectional ministries of The United Methodist Church in Alaska** and our awareness of the unique challenges of being in ministry in the largest, geographically speaking, conference in the United State.

Grounded in Scripture’s call to “encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11), this Advance reminds us that God’s work is **best done together, in partnership and mutual support**. By giving to Advance #336, we join our brothers and sisters in Alaska in mission, helping leaders and congregations serve their communities with hope, love, and faithful witness.



Tacoma Community House

Conference Advance #302

Tacoma Community House is another National Mission Institution of the United Women in Faith and The United Methodist Church, and a Pacific Northwest Conference Advance Special. Founded in 1910 by Methodist Deaconesses, TCH has long been a gateway of hope for immigrants, refugees, and low-wage earners in the Puget Sound region.

Each year, Tacoma Community House serves more than **3,600 adults and youth from over 90 countries**, helping individuals and families build stable futures. Through its core ministries of **Education, Employment, Immigration, and Advocacy**, TCH offers comprehensive support—including **U.S. citizenship classes and preparation**, helping immigrants navigate the path to citizenship with dignity during a critical time.

Grounded in Scripture’s call to “**welcome the stranger**” (Matthew 25:35) and “**love your neighbor as yourself**” (Mark 12:31), this ministry embodies the United Methodist commitment to hospitality, justice, and compassion.

Gifts through the Advance go directly to this life-giving work. When Pacific Northwest United Methodists give to Advance #302, we participate together in God’s work of inclusion, advocacy, and hope for our neighbors.



(Left) Elementary-aged children at play during summer camp. (Right) Manastash Lodge at Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center has allowed the camp to serve more people since its opening in 2019.

PNW Camp & Retreat Ministries

- Camp Indianola: Conference Advance #341
- Twinlow Camp: Conference Advance #343
- Lazy F Camp: Conference Advance #344
- Ocean Park Camp: Conference Advance #345

Our Pacific Northwest Camp and Retreat Ministries provide safe, beautiful, and transformative spaces for United Methodist youth, families, and the wider community. These camps are more than places apart—they are tools that local churches can use to enhance mission, outreach, and congregational life.

From summer camps and year-round programs to retreats, leadership development opportunities, volunteer experiences, and summer internships, our camps nurture spiritual growth, community, and discipleship.

The Camping Board of Stewards ensures a high-quality experience for all, working to maintain the health of our programs for generations to come.

Grounded in Scripture’s reminder that “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them” (Mark 10:14), these ministries invite youth and families to encounter God, grow in community, and develop lifelong discipleship skills.

Conference Advance gifts are vital to support camp programs, improve facilities, and continue providing these life-changing experiences. By giving to these Advances, we help young people and families encounter God in meaningful and lasting ways.

Central Washington Justice for Our Neighbors

Conference Advance #339

Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) advocates for immigration laws that are just, humane, and righteous. Through compassionate, trustworthy, and high-quality legal services, JFON creates a welcoming space for immigrants and refugees, connecting them with staff, volunteers, and the broader community.

JFON welcomes all clients and volunteers, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, ideology, gender, or sexual orientation, and works to improve our nation’s immigration policies and strengthen relationships between communities and immigrant neighbors.



Through its network model, JFON serves more immigrants in need by sharing resources, learning from each other, and leveraging collective strengths.

Grounded in Scripture’s call to “welcome the stranger, for in doing so you welcome me” (Matthew 25:35), this Advance embodies the United Methodist commitment to hospitality, justice, and advocacy. Gifts to Advance #339 support this vital ministry, helping immigrants and refugees navigate legal systems with dignity and hope.

PNW Conf. Disaster Relief/Early Response

Conference Advance #352
 PO Box 13650 • Des Moines, WA 98198

The mission of Pacific Northwest Conference Disaster Response is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of disasters. The Conference Disaster Response Coordinator (C-DRC) oversees this ministry, serving on the Conference Board of Global Missions and representing the conference to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

UMCOR-trained Early Response Team members respond to natural disasters within the PNW Conference and beyond, offering practical relief, comfort, and hope to survivors. The C-DRC ensures that all Advance #352 donations reach those impacted by disaster, with accountability and transparency through the PNW Conference Treasurer.



Grounded in Scripture’s call to “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31), this ministry reflects the United Methodist commitment to compassion, service, and hope in times of crisis. Gifts to Advance #352 make it possible for trained teams to respond quickly and provide relief to families and communities when they need it most.

UMCOR's Role in UMC Disaster Response

On the road of disaster response, how does UMCOR work within the UMC connection?

Swipe to explore:

1. PREPAREDNESS

UMCOR empowers annual conferences and episcopal areas to prepare for disasters through:

- Grants to support preparedness efforts
- Continuity of operations planning
- Educating decision-makers & leaders
- Early response volunteer training

2. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

UMCOR supports annual conferences and episcopal areas during the early stages of disaster through:

- Coordination support for early response teams
- Grants for immediate needs and larger-scale humanitarian concerns
- Relief supply network mobilization in the U.S.
- Communications and technical support

3. RECOVERY

UMCOR assists annual conferences and episcopal areas during the long-term recovery stage of disaster through:

- Trainings designed to benefit survivors and raise community standards
- Long-term recovery grants
- Coordination with partner recovery organizations
- On-site technical assistance, as requested

4. MITIGATION/RISK REDUCTION

UMCOR partners with annual conferences and episcopal areas to reduce the risk or impact of a disaster through:

- Technical assistance for disaster response planning
- Trainings to identify risks, hazards, assets and strategies
- Participation in disaster relief forums
- Grants for disaster mitigation efforts

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- Register for your annual conference's next Early Response Team training
- Visit umcmmission.org/umcor to learn more about UMCOR and view this full resource
- Donate to UMCOR at <https://umcmmission.org/give/>
- Follow UMCOR on social media

4. Support the Advance

What is The Advance?

The Advance is an accountable, designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church. The Advance invites contributors to designate support for projects related to the General Board of Global Ministries. Individuals, local churches, organizations, districts and conference may donate to The Advance. One hundred percent of every gift to The Advance goes to the project selected by the giver.

Fast Facts About The Advance

- Administrative costs are paid for by the apportionments of United Methodist churches. One great Hour of Sharing covers UMCOR's administrative costs.
- All Advance projects are related to annual conferences, central conferences, partner churches or interfaith organizations. They are screened by the General Board of Global Ministries and authorized by The Advance Committee.
- The Advance tracks each gift and ensures that gifts reach their intended recipients.
- You may track gifts online at <https://umcmmission.org/get-involved/advance>.
- Support appeals for emergency relief responding to disasters through The Advance. These are designated "UMCOR Advance," followed by the project number.

Contact The Advance (advance@umcmmission.org) office for information and promotional ideas or to share experiences.



Ways to Give Through The Advance

- **Through the Offering Plate:** Writing a check or giving cash designated for an Advance project remains a popular way to contribute. Make checks payable to your local church, but put the name and number The Advance project in the memo line. Local church treasurers forward Advance money to the annual conference, which passes it on to the General Council on Finance and Administration, the denominational finance office. This process guarantees that congregations receive credit for the gifts.
- **Giving Online:** Using your credit card, make gifts online through the website – <https://advance.umcmmission.org/>. You can note your local church for credit purposes.
- **By Phone:** Call 888-252-6174.
- **By Mail:** Make checks payable to Advance GCFA. Write the name of the ministry and The Advance project number on the check. Send to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068.
- **Planned Gifts:** Planned and estate gifts can be coordinated with the planned giving officer. Call 888-252-6174.

How can I participate in The Advance?

Visit the General Board of Global Ministries website – <https://advance.umcmmission.org/> – to browse projects and donate online.

How can I obtain The Advance promotional resources?

United Methodist clergy and lay persons can download free resources and videos on the Resource UMC website – <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/umcgiving>.



5. Volunteers in Mission

UMVIM is connection: *It's about people, not projects!*



Volunteers in Mission: Christian Love in Action

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission is a part of the Mission Volunteers program area of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

The understanding that 'we are called' and 'we are sent' is the foundation of our faith.....We are called, wherever we are in the world, to love all of God's creation and to demonstrate that love with action. Through Volunteers in Mission every person in the church has the opportunity to

serve. Using what God has given us in service of others, we have 'life-transforming' experiences.

What UMVIM offers is the CONNECTION. It is the connection with other UMVIM teams and individuals who have answered the call to mission. It is the connection with people and places through out the world, who have asked for help. UMVIM also offers a structure and training for teams to go to beyond their neighborhood and serve God.

PNW Conference VIM Coordinator:

Tracy Faulkner - tracycastle@gmail.com

What does the Volunteer in Mission Program do?

The UMVIM Program in the PNW Conference serves as a networking center coordinating those who are interested in serving the Lord by being a part of a Volunteer in Mission or Disaster Response Team. The VIM program:

- Trains volunteers for mission teams; trains local churches as Sending or Hosting Teams, trains leadership
- Connects members of the church with people of the world to develop relationships for service in God
- Coordinates UMVIM teams serving outside, coming into, and working within the Conference
- Provides resources on missions efforts within the conference and to mission teams going out

Where can I go and what can I do?

UMVIM offers mission experiences within the Conference, throughout the United States, and around the world. Projects are listed on the UMVIM Western Jurisdiction website at: www.umvimwj.com.

UMVIM Projects include:

- Construction
- Medical and dental service
- Disaster Teams: Early Response and Long Term Recovery
- Teaching and tutoring
- Outreach ministries to people who are homeless, poor, disadvantaged or orphans
- Assisting with programs for children and youth
- Providing support to new churches or ministries

Who can participate?

People of all ages are welcome as Volunteers in Mission with all types of skills. Volunteers can serve for a day, a week, a month or even years.

How can I be a part of the UMVIM experience?

- Contact the coordinator; 1) When you are planning a mission journey 2) If you are looking for guidance on when and where to take your team. 3) Early stages and would like to learn more about leading a team
- Become a VIM Team Leader or receive training to be a serving, sending, or a hosting Team Leader.
- Get Team Insurance. It provides the coverage you need to be safe and secure on any trip.
- Send us your photos & stories. Let the church celebrate with you and encourage others to volunteer.
- Contribute to the Conference Advance for Disaster Response Teams and equipment

VIM Focus for 2025 & beyond:

Rebuilding of homes and lives after recent natural disasters (wildfires/flooding) in the PNW continues to be a focus for the VIM Teams, as will rebuilding following natural disasters across the country. Teams with various types of skills are needed. Contact the UMVIM Coordinator for more information.

6. Attending Mission u

Each year, United Women in Faith members and other United Methodist clergy and laypersons prepare for faithful living and action by engaging in transformative educational experiences at Mission u events. These events offer a transformative educational program that encompasses both Bible-based curricula and events. **All are welcome to engage with either or both components of Mission u.**

Interested in deepening your faith in community? Gaining experience interpreting Scripture? Working toward healing for yourself, your community, and all of creation? Mission u is for you!

For Mission u, United Women in Faith develops three justice-focused Biblical curricula for adults, youth, and children, all on a common theme. **In 2026, our theme is Experiencing Emmanuel.** Our focus on developing three curricula around one common theme means that Mission u offers a unique opportunity for faith communities to create powerful intergenerational learning experiences.



Mission u is an annual mission education opportunity for the Pacific Northwest Conference. To review this year's curriculum, visit the Mission u page on the National United Women in Faith website— <https://uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/>—or refer to the event page on the PNW United Women in Faith website.

In 2026, Mission u will be hosted at Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center in Ellensburg, WA, for three days of learning and fellowship. Lazy F Camp is the location of choice because of its size, its hospitality, and that its central

location for participants arriving from northern Idaho and all of Washington State.

Save the dates of July 10-12, 2026 and keep an eye on the PNW United Women in Faith website for more information - <https://www.pnwumc.org/uwfaith/>.

Lay Servant Ministries

Growing in your faith through learning and service

Laities have always served in significant leadership roles in the Methodist Church. John Wesley relied on laity to lead classes and preach the Word in England. In the American colonies, most Methodist leaders were laity. Today, we recognize the essential role of laity in leading The United Methodist Church into the future.

Lay Servant Ministries is one of the significant lay leadership development programs available within the United Methodist connection. Through this system of equipping and empowering, lay servants can grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples. Lay Servant ministries can be a significant component of any discipleship system, providing training in Hospitality, Offering Christ, Purpose, and Engagement.

Training opportunities for laity

All laity are invited and encouraged to participate in Lay Servant Ministry courses. We recommend the “Basic

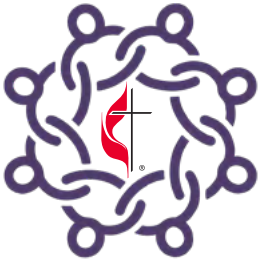
Course in Lay Servant Ministry” as a great place to start. This course is also required as a first step for anyone seeking certification as a lay servant, lay speaker, or lay minister. The Basic Course is offered at various times during the year: watch for announcements about upcoming classes on our PNW website (pnwumc.org) or in the PNW News Digest.



Certifications for laity through Lay Servant Ministries

Laities interested in formalized training and certification for their ministry roles may consider certification through Lay Servant Ministries. There are four different certifications available. A person may seek to become a Certified Lay Servant, a Certified Lay Speaker, a Certified Lay Minister, or a Hispanic Lay Missioner.

For more information on our certified lay ministry programs, please visit our website at pnwumc.org/ministries/lsm.



Other Ministries & Resources

The following pages contain additional ways we are serving together – through our Office of Connectional Ministries, the work of Conference Boards and Agencies, resourcing and scholarships. All of these efforts are offered to support local churches as they work to call and equip disciples of all ages.

Office of Connectional Ministries

Mission & Purpose

The Office of Connectional Ministries coordinates and aligns ministries that connect local churches, leaders, and partners across the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. Through collaboration, leadership development, faithful stewardship, and clear communication, we strengthen the church's capacity to live out the gospel with justice, humility and hope in diverse communities.

“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.”

— 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12

Our work is guided by the Conference Ministry Priorities and Bishop Bridgeforth's M.I.L.E., with a focus on deepening discipleship, developing leaders across generations, dismantling racism, honoring cultural and contextual realities, and strengthening sustainable connectional systems that support faithful ministry in every setting.

What we have been doing

The Office of Connectional Ministries coordinates, supports, and aligns a broad range of ministries that serve congregations and individuals across the Conference, including:

- Youth, Young Adult, and Emerging Leader Ministries, such as Christmas Institute, SLAM trips, and other leadership formation pathways.
- Leadership development and onboarding for clergy and superintendents.
- Native American Ministries, supporting relationships with Native communities, honoring Indigenous leadership and spiritual wisdom, and engaging the church in truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.
- Ethnic Ministries, including Pacific Islander, Korean, Hispanic/Latinx, and other immigrant communities, are strengthening culturally responsive leadership, discipleship, and pastoral care.

- Disaster Response, working with our Disaster Response Coordinators, the OCM helps in equipping congregations to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters through training, coordination, and connectional support.

“When our community was impacted by disaster, the connectional support we received reminded us that we were not alone and gave us the capacity to respond with compassion and hope.”

- Creation care and community witness initiatives and training events.
- Certified Lay Ministry, focused on lay leadership formation and discipleship.
- Annual Conference Session and other connectional gatherings.



Rev. David Valera explains our connectional system during the PNW Leadership Summit held at Wesley UMC in Yakima, WA.

- Communications, providing a trusted hub for information, storytelling, and technology—using current and emerging tools to help congregations live out their ministries, share their stories, and stay connected across distance and difference.
- Ecumenical and United Methodist partnerships that advance justice, reconciliation, and shared mission. Sending and receiving opportunities and resources

to serve and thrive beyond the UMC connection and structure.



OCM Executive Assistant and Office Manager Kathy Hogg hard at work during the 2025 Annual Conference held at Bothell UMC.

Partnering with local churches

Through connectional support, local churches gain access to resources, relationships, training, and communication tools that no single congregation could provide on its own. Our work helps congregations respond faithfully to their communities by addressing issues such as disaster recovery, poverty, housing insecurity, racism, and environmental stewardship, while honoring cultural context and strengthening shared identity across the Conference.

Connectional ministry shapes the faith of individuals across the Pacific Northwest. Youth and young adults find spaces of belonging and discernment. Lay members are equipped for leadership and service. Clergy and leaders from Native American, ethnic, and immigrant communities are supported in ways that honor their identities, contexts, and callings. Through shared platforms and storytelling, individuals remain connected to the wider church and inspired by the witness unfolding across the Conference.

Why the Office of Connectional Ministries is staff-focused

The Office of Connectional Ministries' primary investment is in people. Much of the funding that supports OCM is dedicated to program and ministry staff who walk alongside congregations, leaders, and communities across the Pacific Northwest.

These staff serve as connectors, coaches, and companions in ministry. They provide guidance to local churches, support leadership formation, helping coordinate and communicate disaster response,

strengthen ethnic and Native American ministries, equip ministries with, for and by youth and young adults, steward creation care initiatives, and ensure that Annual Conference Session and connectional gatherings are meaningful and accessible. They also maintain communication systems and technology that help the church stay informed, connected, and able to tell its story.

Because connectional ministry is relational by nature, it cannot be fully outsourced or automated. Investing in staff allows the Conference to respond quickly in times of crisis, build trust across cultures and communities, and sustain ministries over time rather than relying solely on short-term programs or volunteers.

In this way, funding the Office of Connectional Ministries is an investment in capacity, the capacity of local churches and individual disciples to live out their calling, supported by skilled leaders who help translate shared vision into faithful action.



Regional Media Center Manager Ian McKnight prepares for annual conference alongside sound technician Leah Morgan.

Looking ahead

In the coming year, we will continue investing in leadership formation across generations, deepening our commitment to anti-racism, equity, reconciliation, disaster preparedness, and strengthening our communications capacity so that connectional ministry is not only lived but clearly seen, shared, and sustained, together serving with courage, creativity, and hope.

If you have questions or would like to connect with the work of the Office of Connectional Ministries, contact Rev. David Valera, Executive Director of Connectional Ministries – dvalera@pnwumc.org.

Board of Church and Society

The Pacific Northwest Conference Board of Church and Society (CBCS) shares the General Board's mission to live faith, seek justice, and pursue peace by translating Christian social concerns into action. We serve as a conduit between the General Board and Districts and Local Churches, providing education, resources, and advocacy opportunities grounded in the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.

Our 2025 priorities align with the Conference's focus on Climate Care, Hunger and Health, and Standing for Equity and Justice Against Racism. We pursue these through grants and awards, action alerts to Local Church Social Justice Advocates, Annual Conference Petitions, and collaborative work with United Women in Faith and the Commission on Environmental Stewardship and EarthKeepers.

Reflecting the M.I.L.E., our Board includes representation from all Districts, keeping us informed of local social justice concerns and relaying Action Alerts from the General Board and Faith Action Network to Local Church Social Justice Advocates. Our membership reflects diversity in lay and clergy, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and age.

What we have been doing

Highlights of our year include:

- Participation in the Annual Conference Ministry Fair with a display of resources for local churches, an opportunity to sign up to be a Local Church Social Justice Advocate, and board member presence to field questions
- Having a member of the General Board of Church and Society on our Board
- Addition of the role of Commission on Environmental Stewardship to our Board
- Annual Conference support of two petitions we co-sponsored with the Commission of Environmental Stewardship: "Encouraging Fossil Fuel Divestment for Denominational Funds" and "Affirming General Conference Decisions About Creation Care."
- Awarding two Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards for their exceptional work reflecting the principles of Dr. King:
 - **Amy Gates** was recognized for her work developing the Racial Justice Prayer Group at Gig Harbor UMC.
 - **Karina O'Malley** was recognized for her leadership as Safe Parking Coordinator at Lake Washington UMC's Safe Parking program.
- Awarding two Peace with Justice grants to:
 - **Boundary County Victim Services**, to support staff attending advanced training to better support survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

- **The Abundant Grace Free Market**, in partnership with Federal Way UMC, which helps distribute new and gently used clothing, sharing and redistributing the community's abundance.

Partnering with local churches

The Board has been committed to our outreach to local churches. Members are available to provide resources and to learn about the social concerns they are experiencing in their communities. We encourage applications for Peace with Justice Grants to help establish a needed program for justice work relevant to their community or to enhance the work of an ongoing program. Local Church Social Justice Advocates are important partners with our Board in achieving our Mission, as we resource them with timely opportunities for legislative action aligned with our Social Principles.

Looking ahead

This year, we hope to send two young clergy to the 2026 Young Adult Clergy Forum in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the General Board of Church and Society. This event immerses the participants in social justice advocacy right on Capitol Hill, equipping them for a lifetime of ministry that incorporates John Wesley's "social holiness." A second goal is to continue and strengthen our collaboration with the Environmental Stewardship Commission and United Women in Faith to provide education and resources for our local churches, knowing that together we will be stronger and more effective in our mission.

If you have questions or would like to connect with the work of CBCS, contact chairperson Judy Dirks – judydirks37@gmail.com.



Peace with Justice Grants

Grant and Award Applications are accepted in the Spring of each year

Peace with Justice Sunday

Peace with Justice Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the efforts made by United Methodists to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, and love their neighbor. What we say matters, and sharing the gospel with our voices helps us share the witness of our faith. Yet words alone cannot build a peaceable kingdom. Christ said, 'Feed the hungry,' not 'Talk to the hungry about food!'

Peace with Justice is about doing the things we talk about. To live our faith through acts of mercy, kindness, and mission globally and here at home, we ask United Methodists around the world to help. Your financial contribution helps us meet the need for justice. Your gift helps us purchase the tools and equip people for ministry. Your help means we can train up leaders to uplift our world.

Peace with Justice Sunday is May 31, 2026. Learn more about the impact you can have by lending your support and making a gift to this important effort on the ResourceUMC website:

(<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/umc-resources/umcgiving/special-sundays/peace-with-justice-sunday-pastor-and-leader-kit>)



Peace with Justice Sunday Grant

These awards are granted through funds given through Peace with Justice Sunday, usually held the Sunday after Pentecost each year throughout our denomination. The award is coordinated by our Conference Board of Church and Society, which works with the Peace with Justice program to advance the work of Church & Society in our area and in the world.

Both Methodist-related organizations/projects as well as organizations and projects that have some connection to or consistent with UMC commitments to social justice, inclusion, and liberation are welcome to apply.

The standard award is for \$1,000, but there may be occasional opportunities for more to be provided.

Applications for this award are due annually during the Spring. For additional information, contact dwright@pugetsound.edu.



The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award

The MLK Award is a chance to honor an individual – who is a member of or regular participant in a UM Congregation in the PNW Annual Conference, or a clergy member of the PNW Conference – whose work embodies the legacy and commitment of Dr. King to the long arc of social justice.

Funding for this award is from donations on Peace with Justice Sunday, traditionally held on the Sunday after Pentecost across the United Methodist Church, and coordinated through the PNW Conference Board of Church and Society. The recipient will be able to designate a non-profit that will receive a modest grant in the recipient's honor.

Applications for this award are due annually during the Spring. For additional information, contact dwright@pugetsound.edu.

Board of Ordained Ministry

The mission and purpose of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) is to nurture, discern, and faithfully recommend clergy for ministry within the local church and in the world. We believe that true formation happens within the grace of community and the faithfulness of accountability, and our work lives at the sacred intersection where both are held together in trust and care.

Our work weaves together with the **Bishop's M.I.L.E.** through our shared stewardship of continuing education, including quadrennial formation in healthy boundaries, anti-racism, and cultural competency. Grounded in the belief that “ministry that matters” emerges in many settings and communities, we seek to nurture leaders who are equipped with the tools for equity, adaptability, and growth as they meet the opportunities before them.



BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The BOM's work advances the connection and strengthens local ministry settings because flourishing clergy can lead communities that flourish.

What we have been doing

Here are some highlights of the Board of Ordained Ministry's work this year:

- **Investing in Clergy Formation:** This year, we awarded \$2,500 in seminary scholarships and \$11,000 in continuing education grants. Every PNW clergy member or person serving under appointment or assignment in the PNW is eligible for \$3,500 this quadrennium (2025-2028) to support continuing education, required training, spiritual direction, coaching, or other formation opportunities. Instructions for accessing these funds can be found on our PNW BOM website under “[Resources for Clergy Members](#).”
- **Ministry Milestones:** This year, we honored 9 clergy retirees who together represented more than 200 years of service. We also had the joy of welcoming one provisional deacon, two provisional elders, and two ordained elders into our connection.
- **Introducing Thresholds:** Thresholds is a ministry program of the PNWUMC—a sacred space of transformation for newly commissioned clergy. It is a supportive and grace-filled journey for provisional clergy who stand at the threshold between what has been and what is yet to come. More than a program to be rushed through or checked off.



Thresholds is an intentional invitation into formation and discernment. In this renewed expression of residence in ministry, provisional members are welcomed into a rhythm of learning sessions,

listening circles, and retreats designed to nurture deep roots, encourage courageous boundaries, and help participants claim their calling as bearers of new life in our Wesleyan tradition.



Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry's Provisional and Full Membership Interview Teams.

Looking ahead

As much as our work involves evaluating clergy effectiveness, we also evaluate our own processes for equity. We are looking forward to a season of self-reflection to test the alignment of our stated values with the structure and programs we use to operate within them.

From the first stirring of a calling to the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant,” the BOM walks alongside clergy leaders—shaping, supporting, and strengthening them through every M.I.L.E. of the ministries entrusted to their care.

PNW Conference Student Scholarships

A Pacific Northwest Conference scholarship offered to students who are members of a United Methodist ministry setting (church or campus ministry) in the Pacific Northwest Conference. We will be offering a limited number of scholarships up to \$1,500.

Scholarship Requirements

- Applicants must be active, full members of a United Methodist Ministry Setting in the Pacific Northwest or Alaska Conference for at least ONE year. Membership is determined by the date the applicant was confirmed and took membership vows with a United Methodist setting (Members of other Methodist denominations are not eligible). Membership will be verified.
- Applicants must be pursuing a degree through an accredited program, college or university (which can be outside the state).
- High school students may apply IF they will be college students in the fall term.
- Applicants must submit a new application each year they would like to be considered for a scholarship.
- Scholarship may be granted a maximum of 4 times to the same applicant.
- Please include two recent letters of reference. The first one must be from someone of a pastoral role. The second one should be from a teacher, work supervisor, club sponsor or other. Reference letters should address why the applicant would make good use of the scholarship and what characteristics make the applicant a good choice for this scholarship. References must not be related to the applicant and reference letters must be from the current academic year.

Scholarship Timeline for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

- Application Opens: Near or on January 1
- Application Deadline: March 31
- Grant Recipients Notified: May 15
- Grant Checks Issued: August 1
- Grant Checks are typically mailed directly to the school listed on the acceptance form.

Please gather all the information you need before starting the application including your reference letters. You cannot save and return to the application later.



Other Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarships from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) works to advocate for the United Methodist Church in providing financial support for students. They have an annual scholarship application, released in early January, open for all undergraduate and graduate students to apply for.



Scholarships from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF) was founded in 1965 with a vision to support education in relation to the church. Today, they offer a variety of financial support for undergraduate, graduate and seminary, and international students. They also have a scholarship search, where one can put in their level of education, and other information, to determine which scholarships to apply for. A popular program they offer is the UM Dollars for Scholars Program. If your church contributes \$1000, UMHEF, your UM school, and participating conferences can match that for a potential total of \$4000.



Commission on Ethnic Ministries

The Commission on Ethnic Ministries (COEM) is called to advocate for, support, and empower ethnic clergy across the Greater Northwest Area. We strive to ensure that the diverse voices of our connection are not only heard but are deeply integrated into the life and leadership of the Annual Conference.

Our work directly advances the Bishop's M.I.L.E. by focusing on Leading with Integrity and Engaging in Ministry that honors our diverse cultural landscapes. By providing specialized resources for ethnic clergy and youth, we align with the PNW Conference's priorities to dismantle systemic barriers and promote a truly inclusive connectional church.

What we have been doing

This year has been a season of deep connection and tangible support for our ethnic leaders. We have focused on moving from isolation to community through several key initiatives:

- **Investing in Clergy Leadership:** We funded attendance for African American clergy to participate in Lead-Well—a vital Western Jurisdiction partnership with Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. Additionally, we supported the Lead-Well Retreat, which promoted essential peer connections and wellness across the jurisdiction.
- **National & Cultural Representation:** We empowered clergy to represent our area at the National Association of Filipino American United Methodists and sent a delegation to the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) national meeting in Los Angeles.
- **Educational & Civic Partnerships:** We partnered with Hispanic Ministries to provide financial support for a local leader's seminary education and collaborated with the League of Women Voters to support an ethnic clergy person's civic engagement in their local county.
- **Empowering the Next Generation:** Through our camp ministry grants, we have expanded opportunities for ethnic youth to lead and grow. This year, our funding facilitated transformative camp experiences and supported a local camp in hiring an ethnic student staff member, ensuring diverse representation in leadership roles. Our support of S.L.A.M. (Students Learning About Mission) youth on the Yakama Nation provided an immersive, faith-based service experience centered on cultural learning and spiritual growth. Furthermore, we extended our reach by supporting the Christmas Institute (CI-PNW) and its new Canadian chapter, helping Filipino and Filipino American/Canadian youth and young adults link their unique cultural identities with faith in action while building a stronger, cross-border connectional fellowship.

Partnering with local churches

The COEM serves as a bridge, ensuring that clergy in cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments do not feel isolated but are instead resourced and encouraged. By investing in seminary education, S.L.A.M. youth leadership, and professional retreats like Lead-Well, we help local congregations benefit from healthy, well-equipped, and spiritually renewed leaders. Our work extends the reach of the local church by fostering a sense of belonging among immigrant families and ensuring that our youth see themselves as current and future leaders of the United Methodist connection.



Participants in the 2026 Ethnic Summit held in Portland, OR.

Looking ahead

Moving forward, we are excited to build on the success the Ethnic Summit held in April in partnership with the Western Jurisdiction Inter-Ethnic Coordinating Committee. With the theme *Rest. Resist. Rise.*, this inaugural gathering focused on mental health, unity as resistance, and spiritual renewal for ethnic clergy across the jurisdiction.

We continue to lean into the wisdom of Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track." - *The Message*

If you have questions or would like to connect with the work of COEM, contact chairperson Rev. Dr. Troy Lynn Carr – coem@pnwumc.org.

Hispanic/Latinx Ministry

Hispanic/Latinx Ministries exists to equip, connect, and empower Hispanic/Latinx leaders, churches, and communities across the Pacific Northwest Area. Rooted in love and justice, our work fosters culturally relevant ministry, spiritual formation, and faithful presence in the public square.

Our ministry directly supports the Bishop's M.I.L.E. initiative through Ministries that Matter, Lay Ministry Enhancement, and Eliminating Racism. We prioritize leadership development, church vitality, and advocacy for immigrant and marginalized communities.

What we have been doing

- **Leadership Development:** Facilitated participation of two Hispanic/Latinx candidates in the new Spanish-language Master of Divinity cohort at Perkins School of Theology.
- **Mission & Justice Engagement:** Led or participated in initiatives such as the Guatemala mission trip, immigration advocacy at the Northwest Detention Center, Latino Health Summit, and Faith Land Initiative.
- **Events & Formation:** Organized the “Firmes y Adelante” pastors and leaders’ event, anti-racism book studies, and the “Retreat, Relax & Renew” Ethnic Clergy Retreat.
- **Support for Local Churches:** Led workshops on engaging Hispanic neighbors in Stanwood and Sammamish; celebrated pastoral installations and held a large-scale back-to-school event in Mount Vernon serving over 70 families.
- **Public Witness & Visibility:** Authored an article for the GNW newsletter, launched a YouTube channel for Hispanic/Latinx ministry content, and received the “Difference Maker” award from Mercer Island UMC.



Partnering with local churches

Our work strengthens the connection between Hispanic/Latinx communities and local United Methodist churches through culturally rooted leadership training, advocacy, and ministry development. By accompanying congregations in discernment and community engagement, we help churches expand their mission fields, grow in intercultural competence, and live more fully into the Gospel's call to welcome the stranger and care for the marginalized.

Looking Ahead

In 2026, we will continue to focus on developing young leaders, expanding new church starts, and deepening ecumenical partnerships in underserved areas. We are also working to enhance Latinx representation at the conference level and strengthen criteria and pathways for recruiting Latinx clergy leadership.

For more information, contact Rev. Cruz Edwin Santos, Director of H/L Ministry – cesantos@pnwumc.org.



- **Grant Funding Received:** Secured three strategic grants supporting food insecurity relief, immigration-related ministries, and the launch of a mentorship program for emerging leaders.



Faith Foundation Northwest exists to help faith communities achieve long-term financial health. The assets it manages, grows, and disburses fund the ministry priorities of its account holders. Unlike a traditional bank or brokerage, its accounts are designed for multiple authorized individuals, both itinerant clergy and lay leadership, who rotate regularly.

In support of the Bishop's M.I.L.E., the Foundation has made grants and loans for projects in housing, climate, hunger, and health. In 2025, the Foundation board and staff completed 10 hours of Anti-Bias training, and staff volunteered more than 80 additional hours with the Truth Telling Project of the Circle of Indigenous Ministries.

What we have been doing

- In 2025, our Fossil Free Moderate Portfolio returned 16.61%, and our Diversified Moderate Portfolio returned 14.20%.
- As part of Washington State's Climate Commitment Act, the Foundation applied for, won, and distributed half a million dollars from the Department of Commerce for heat pumps and high-efficiency electric appliances in parsonages.
- We awarded five mini-grants, made three loans, and processed more than \$1 million in stock gifts for the benefit of local congregations.

Partnering with local churches

We promote planned giving because that's how most long-term funds are created. Think of us like your satellite planned giving staff.

We manage long-term assets, helping churches grow their endowments, investments, and rainy-day funds through socially responsible investing.

We provide loans for capital improvements at below-market rates.

Looking Ahead

Some of the exciting things we're working on for 2026 include financial education for clergy, video-on-demand Will Writing Workshops, and all-ACH processing.

For more information, visit the Faith Foundation Northwest website – <https://www.faith.foundation>.



Faith Foundation Northwest Executive Director Julia Frisbie preaching at Edmonds United Methodist Church.

- We taught 19 planned giving workshops and published how-to videos for churches to share on stock gifts and qualified charitable distributions from IRAs.
- Our "Foundation family" grew, as we welcomed three new board members and two new staff members!

Commission on Environmental Stewardship

Creation Care in the Pacific Northwest Conference means tending to the health of all places where we live, work, play, and pray. Established at the 2024 Annual Conference session, the Commission on Environmental Stewardship works toward the goals set for 2040, addressing the intersectional relationship between faith, race, and the environment.

The Commission meets monthly by Zoom, and all are welcome. Weaving together racial, environmental, health, and housing justice, it seeks to align local churches, conference staff, boards, agencies, and the Annual Conference with goals adopted in 2023, 2024, and 2025, as well as the conference's adopted ministry priorities and Ministries that Matter.

This work directly supports the conference priority of "Advocating for climate care and combating climate change" by equipping and resourcing congregations and conference ministries. It also connects to Lay Ministry Enhancement under the Bishop's M.I.L.E. initiative — many lay members serve on the Commission, and the Commission encourages laity across the conference to pursue net-zero goals and educate their congregations on climate, community, and creation justice.



Though the Commission operates without a dedicated budget beyond staff support, a grant from the New Ministry Fund supported an initial planning retreat last February, facilitated with the help of Rev. David Valera, Director of Connectional Ministries. At that retreat, the Commission developed its goals and established focus-area working groups.

What we have been doing

Events hosted: Commission members submitted legislation to Annual Conference, delivered a report, and gave presentations at the Gathering of the Orders and the Roots and Wings District Training.

Programs supported: At the 2025 Annual Conference ministry fair, the Commission offered congregations information and resources on addressing climate change and meeting facility goals. In October 2025, the General Board of Global Ministries held its fall EarthKeepers training in the PNW Conference, supported by Commission members and the Office of Connectional Ministries. The training included a site visit to Vashon UMC, highlighting how congregations can become community resiliency hubs.

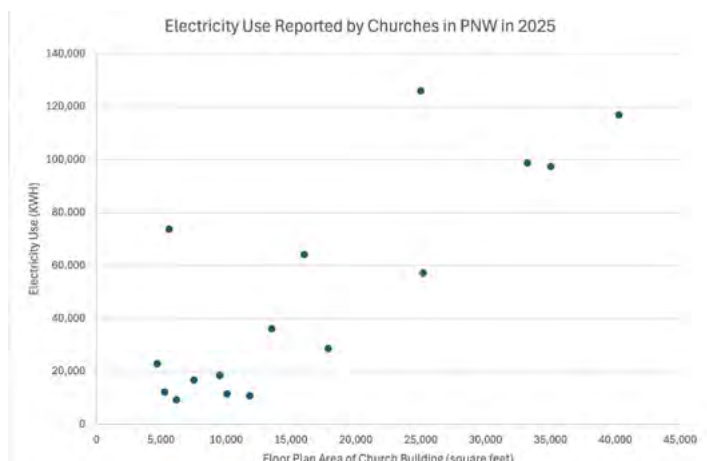
Grants awarded: The Commission encourages local churches to pursue clean energy grants from multiple funding sources.

- In 2025, Faith Foundation Northwest distributed \$289,180.99 in rebates funded by Washington's Climate Commitment Act for heat pumps and high-efficiency electric equipment in parsonages and camp residences — putting nearly half a million dollars of state funding to work for faith

communities across 2024–25.

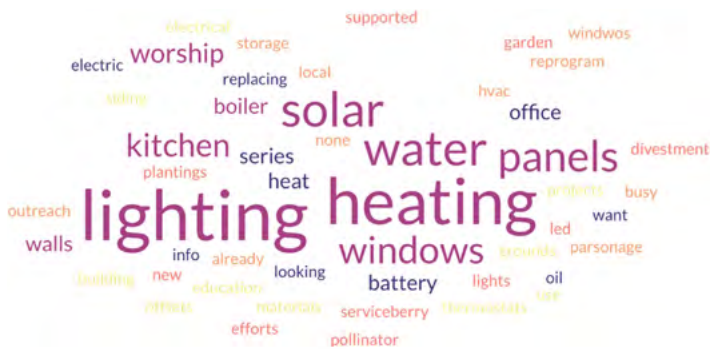
- Over the past two to three years, 11 PNW churches applied for 15 grants totaling \$4,373,925 for solar panel and battery storage systems. Eleven were awarded, totaling \$3,989,018 — 91% of dollars requested — through WA Commerce Clean Energy Grants (85%), WSU Community Solar (13%), and Puget Sound Energy (3%).

Using Charge Conference season to identify opportunities: In 2025, 98 congregations—roughly half the Annual



Conference—submitted greenhouse gas audits and environmental justice checklists for the first time. These responses establish a baseline on building efficiency, current practices, and capacity for deeper stewardship work.

Churches reported using primarily electricity and natural gas for heat and lighting, with energy use scaling predictably with building size. Congregations using solar panels showed notably lower energy consumption. This data will help the Commission target support where efficiency measures and alternative energy could make the greatest difference.



Congregations also reported existing efficiency measures, most commonly LED lighting and improved heating systems. When asked what they want to learn more about, EV chargers topped the list.

Commission activities in coming months will be shaped by these survey responses. Watch the conference website for resources on grants, worship materials, audit tools, and more: pnwumc.org/creation-care.

Looking Ahead

In its first full year, the Commission on Environmental Stewardship partnered with Faith Foundation NW to help local congregations replace aging furnaces, water heaters, and clothes dryers in parsonages through grants. Commission members also led workshops at district and conference events, connecting congregations with available grants and ready-to-use worship and educational resources. Legislation advanced by the Commission moved the conference closer to net-zero goals and built connections across geography among those who share a common vision for all Creation.

The churches and camps listed below recently applied for grants, many successfully. The Commission looks forward to equipping many more congregations in the year ahead.

Churches and camps receiving grants in 2025 from Faith

Foundation Northwest for heat pumps and high-efficiency electric equipment:

- Prosser UMC
- Coupeville UMC
- Edmonds UMC
- United in Grace Lutheran/UMC (Monroe)
- Pioneer UMC (Walla Walla)
- Highline UMC (Burien)
- Shoreline UMC (Seattle)
- Bethlehem Baptist (Tacoma)
- Alder Street Baptist (Centralia)
- Haller Lake UMC (Seattle)
- Queen Anne UMC (Seattle)
- Morton UMC
- Brownsville UMC (Bremerton)
- Camp Indianola
- Ocean Park Camp

Churches that applied for solar panel and battery storage grants through the last 24-26 months (most of which were awarded):

- Federal Way UMC
- Methow Valley UMC
- Edmonds UMC
- Vashon UMC
- Kent UMC
- Langley UMC
- Blaine Memorial UMC
- Vancouver 1st UMC
- Snohomish UMC
- Seattle 1st UMC
- Marysville UMC

If your church has installed solar panels or battery storage and is not listed above, please let us know.

The Commission publishes a quarterly PNW Grant Seekers Update Newsletter with the latest news on green energy grants. With 90 subscribers and growing, it's open to anyone interested. To subscribe, contact newsletter editor Eric Walker at egwalker72@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead

The Commission is committed to becoming more accessible and effective at the local level. A key priority going forward is deepening partnerships with communities most affected by climate change — amplifying their witness and centering justice for those on the margins.

Disability Ministries Committee

The Greater Northwest Area Disability Ministries Committee (DMC) advocates for the full inclusion of disabled lay and ordained people in the Pacific Northwest, Oregon-Idaho, and Alaska conferences. We serve as a resource for local churches and the Annual Conferences to improve architectural, attitudinal, practical, and behavioral accessibility across the region by reviewing annual accessibility audits, providing consultations, offering anti-ableism trainings, creating improved access at Annual Conference gatherings, and organizing events centered on disability justice and theology.

What we have been doing

This year, the PNW Annual Conference passed legislation to enable us to do our work more effectively as a Greater Northwest Area Committee. Through connectional partnerships with clergy and lay people in the Alaska and Oregon-Idaho Conferences who previously did not have their own Disability Ministries Committees, we have been able to extend our reach to the 373 churches in our Episcopal Area, standing for equity and disability justice and confronting disparities both in local churches and in the ordination process.

We celebrated the progress made by numerous congregations, including awarding four new gold badges this year in recognition of churches that have gone beyond the ADA by striving to provide accessible space and appropriate accommodations for disabled people through intentional measures and ministries.



Some of the Empowered by Grace conference participants at a workshop on Anti-Ableism and Disability Theology.

Our committee joyfully hosted the *Empowered by Grace: Disability Justice and Theology 35 Years After the ADA Conference* at Bothell UMC on July 25-26, 2025. Through workshops, worship, a keynote lecture, and a screening of the PBS documentary “Change Not Charity,” we marked the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act by bringing together people from four states and Canada. In community, we marked this landmark anniversary, repented of the church’s successful fight for exemption from this pivotal civil rights legislation, and committed to working across the connection to dismantle ableism both in the UMC and in society at large.

Additionally, this year, we collaborated with the PNW Board of Ordained Ministry to support their work with disabled and neurodivergent candidates. We also partnered with the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement to provide a webinar on disability and climate change.

Looking Ahead

The GNW Disability Ministries Committee is excited to continue journeying alongside local churches in our region. We have received an increased number of requests for consultations, and we are grateful for the higher number of Annual Accessibility Audits submitted in Alaska and the PNW this year. We are working to schedule site reviews with churches that have gone above and beyond in prioritizing accessibility at their 2025 charge conferences and are thus eligible for Gold Badge reviews.

Moving forward, the GNW DMC remains committed to improving this critical work across the connection. As such, we are coordinating with other Disability Ministry Committees across the Western Jurisdiction to offer a Jurisdiction-wide event this July in recognition of the 36th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Recognizing how one in four people in the United States is disabled and lamenting how civil rights for disabled and otherwise multiply-marginalized folx are currently under assault, we invite you to consider joining us for a time of learning, worship, and community rooted in disability justice and joy.

If your congregation would like a consultation, a staff or leadership team training, a guest preacher, or resources to help you think through how to combat ableism, please reach out to GNW DMC Chair Angela Molloy at pnwdmcchair@gmail.com.

Disaster Response Ministries

The mission of the PNW Disaster Response is to engage church congregations with their communities through volunteer opportunities, UMCOR training, disaster preparedness, relief support during active disasters and long-term recovery engagement. These efforts support the Bishop's M.I.L.E. through Missions that Matter, Lay Ministry Engagement and Eliminating Racism by facilitating volunteer efforts that assist the most vulnerable populations.

What we have been doing

- **LA Wildfire Response:** We teamed with the Cal-Pac Conference and the Cal-Nevada Conference in late January to staff the Eaton Fire Wildfire Resource Hub in Pasadena, benefiting the fire survivors. Twenty volunteers, including two from the PNW Conference, contributed about 1,000 hours over two weeks to serve 872 survivor households.
- **Early Response Team (ERT) Basic Training in March:** Twenty-seven volunteers were qualified for UMCOR's Early Response Team badges during a March ERT Basic Training held at Bothell UMC. This was one of the largest training sessions since 2019.



PNW ERT sorting debris near Lyle, WA, after the July Burdoin Fire. Photo by Dana Bryson.

- **Community Support, ERT Mission for the July Burdoin Fire:** At the request of Washington State, we responded to the Burdoin Fire (Columbia Gorge area) by attending public comment meetings, distributing relief supplies and offering clean-up support to survivors. A team of seven ERT members deployed for several days cleaning up ashes, hauling debris and being caring listeners for the two survivor families.
- **UMCOR's Connecting Neighbors Preparedness Workshop:** Seven new Connecting Neighbors disaster preparedness Ambassadors were qualified at an October workshop held at Edmonds United

Methodist Church. The Ambassadors were among 36 community participants and seven United Methodist churches.



PNW ERT in Sumas, preparing to spray and fog homes for mold control after the December 2025 floods. Photo by Dana Bryson.

- **UMCOR and the PNWUMC Conference Awarded \$300K to the Spokane Region Long Term Recovery Group:** A \$275K UMCOR Grant, combined with a matching \$25,000 commitment of PNWUMC Advance #352 recovery funds, is supporting Disaster Case Management and serving the unmet needs of the survivors. We worked with UMCOR to provide four days of Disaster Case Management training for three Disaster Case Managers.
- **LA Wildfire Hazardous Material Awareness Workshop Presentation:** Dana was tapped by the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) as a nationally recognized subject-matter expert to lead the "Hazardous Materials Awareness" two-hour virtual workshop on May 1 for the Los Angeles Region Community Recovery Organization, benefiting survivors of the Alta Dena and Pacific Palisades wildfires.
- **ERT 200 Wildfire Presentation to the Northeast Jurisdiction:** Dana and Kathy presented the UMCOR 200-level ERT Wildfire training course in December to participants from the NE Jurisdiction. This is part

of a UMCOR initiative to build capacity within the Conferences.

- **December 2025 Washington State Floods:** In early December, Washington State was struck by a series of atmospheric rivers that severely impacted 16 counties and their communities, public infrastructure and businesses. The PNW Disaster Response mission and volunteers immediately responded by:
 - ◊ Facilitating a UMCOR \$10,000 Solidarity Grant at the request of the bishop.
 - ◊ Interfacing with the Washington Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (WaVOAD) and the Washington State Emergency Management Department to share needs and resources on evacuee housing, RV parking, personal care kits, etc., at community and assistance centers. Coordinated with multiple UMC churches to meet these needs.
 - ◊ Deploying ERT assessors for three days in Whatcom County, assisting with survivor assessment and intake.
 - ◊ Coordinating volunteers to staff seven county-led Disaster Assistance Centers providing gift/gas cards, personal care kits, and flood recovery guides to survivors.
 - ◊ Recertifying ERT volunteers to be ready for anticipated missions.
 - ◊ Purchasing and arranging distribution of \$1,000 in gas/gift cards for affected families through the UMC in Burnaby, BC.

Looking Ahead

We'll continue to engage church congregations with mission opportunities such as relief supply storage, building relief kits, staffing disaster assistance centers, hosting ERTs, serving as cooling/warming/clean air centers, preparedness training, and engagement in long-term disaster recovery.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy and Dana Bryson, PNW Conference Disaster Response Coordinators.



PNW ERT member Keith Skore is preparing to fog underneath a home in Sumas after the December 2025 floods. Photo by Dana Bryson.



Volunteers from Whatcom County transporting UMCOR clean up kits from the Mount Vernon UMC regional storage center to the Sumas area after the December 2025 floods. Photo by Rev. Christopher Gudger-Raines.

Board of Trustees

Guided by faith, we steward our fiduciary and legal responsibilities, ensuring that every property, trust, and resource is faithfully leveraged for mission and ministry. Our stewardship will embody transparency, justice, and accountability, ensuring that the gifts entrusted to the Board of Trustees strengthen the UMC's witness through sustainable ministry.

The following priorities guide our discernment:

- **Persistence** - Being stewards with a long view, considering: How enduring is this choice? Who will be affected by it today, and who will inherit its impact tomorrow?
- **Contingency** - Having clarity of our responsibility to act where we are uniquely charged to do so. We ask ourselves: Is this our responsibility to carry? How do we discern our role with integrity?
- **Significance** - Centering mission and justice not only in financial or legal terms, but in discipleship. We consider: Does this action improve the Church's ability to serve? Does it redistribute resources so the marginalized are supported and their voices included?
- **Early Discernment, Later Commitment** - A commitment to robust discussion and creative possibilities that lead to faithful decision in unity of action. We ask: How can we foster open dialogue early, and then move with clarity and resolve once a decision is reached?



Our work aligns with the PNW Conference's Ministry Priorities and the Bishop's M.I.L.E., particularly in providing safe spaces for Ministry that Matters and Eliminating Racism. As UMC properties transition under the Board of Trustees, we strive to find partners and stewards who provide communities with resources and programs that serve neighbors through ministries that matter to them. The Board of Trustees discerns local proposals, legal agreements, and financial feasibility for church properties to continue serving as ministries aligned with the Spirit's direction and local leaders.

With each property the board oversees, we aim to learn about, heal, and strengthen relationships with indigenous communities. When the board recommends the sale of a church property, it must consider local tribes for reclaiming ownership for their missions. At minimum, ten percent of property sales are earmarked for the GNW Circle of Indigenous Ministries. Church properties with historical roots among financially struggling minority populations may be accepted as missional properties under the Board of Trustees' care to sustain safe spaces for their cultural communities.

What we have been doing

- We implemented Bishop Bridgforth's request, calling the Conference to pause the sale of church properties. Rather than defaulting to selling, we shifted toward asking deeper missional questions and a process of discernment. We inquired about how properties could be used for ministries that matter (present and future) and the responsibilities we would assume as long-term stewards of properties in our care.
- We strengthened our property management capacity by eagerly welcoming a Director of Property Asset Management, Katrishca Barker, onto the GNW staff. Barker provides consistent oversight, real estate expertise, and best practices that support church property compliance and maintenance, as well as the Trustee Board Members in our missional work.
- In partnership with the Circle of Indigenous Ministries and the leadership of Rev. Dr. Allen Buck, we participated in the successful land return of Lapwai UMC to the Nez Perce Tribe. We pray that these steps will strengthen tribal members and brighten the path towards healing for the entire area.

Looking Ahead

Our role is to care for church properties without active congregations. In the coming year, we will develop clear, consistent, and transparent policies for these properties and establish best practices that support our mission. We maintain discernment in collaboration with local leaders and the conference, with an eye toward a sustainable, geographically wide presence in the GNW states. With persistence, significance, and contingency, we move forward together in hope and shared ministry.

Board of Congregational Development

The Board of Congregational Development (BOCD) offers financial support to innovative ministry projects throughout the Pacific Northwest Conference, both within existing congregations and for new church starts.

What we have been doing

Currently, the Board of Congregational Development supports the following projects:

- **First UMC Canada**, Multiplication Project, led by Pastor Norman Feliciano
- **Federal Way UMC**, Community Engagement Project, led by Pastor Caleb Encinas Cortés
- **Fowler UMC/New Day Ministries**, led by Pastor René Devantier
- **Mount Vernon UMC**, Latinx Ministry, led by Pastor Zulma Tifre
- **Tacoma Multicultural Hub**, led by Pastor Shalom Agtarap
- **Vashon UMC**, Vitality Project, led by Pastor Pat Longstroth

Many of these projects are aimed at lessening housing, hunger and health disparities, as well as standing for equity and justice and against racism. Some projects are also working ecumenically, with support coming from The United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a model for which we are deeply grateful.

In describing the work they do with BOCD support, one innovator writes:

“I was able to plan and put on an Adventure Camp with a community organization and other local churches to provide an inclusive summer day camp experience for children who are currently transitioning out of homelessness, recruiting an expert facilitator to train volunteers to use more trauma-informed approaches with vulnerable children.”

The conference staff person supporting our team is ministry consultant Teri Watanabe. With her support and the cabinet's support, we were able to send several innovators to Viva La Church, a Western Jurisdiction Conference focused on revitalization, innovation, property redevelopment, Latinx ministry, and fresh expressions of church in a post-Christendom context. Teri's support has been invaluable in helping the team create agreements with our innovators, as well as in beginning to develop a streamlined grant process that we can use for emerging projects across the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area.

Each and every day, our innovators and the leaders they work with are making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In such a time as this, they continue to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. We are grateful to be a small part of their work.



Looking Ahead

As a board, we continue to explore ways to equip our leaders better to do the work they have been called to do in the world. In 2026-2027, we hope to visit more sites in person, to establish equitable processes for accessing funding, and to continue developing transparent processes for accountability and reflection.

Ministry Opportunity Fund Grant

The Pacific Northwest Annual Conference voted at October's special session to form a team to create, award, and oversee a grant program that encourages innovation and risk-taking ministry. There are great ideas out there, with passion and energy ready to go, and sometimes our churches are strapped for cash, which makes it challenging to fund a new project or initiative.

This fund is meant for ministry dreaming, and the application itself will help a team work out the details of a plan that can be put into action. Our elected Ministry Opportunity Fund Team (six lay people and three clergy) invites people to submit applications in advance of three annual cycles. **The Team awards grants in two categories: Under \$5000 and up to \$20,000.**

Details on the next funding cycle along with the current application can be found on the PNW Conference website: <https://www.pnwumc.org/ministry-opportunity-fund-grant/>

Purpose

Applications are invited for initiatives or projects that are new, innovative and/or scaling up whose intent is to provide direct impact on the community. We are seeking projects that:

- Have a direct impact on our siblings;
- Build alliances with community entities that serve the community; and
- Integrate the UMC Core Social values, and PNWUMC priorities, and MILE directives.



Funding Criteria

Projects should address one or more of the following:

Ministry Priorities - PNW Conference ministry priorities are:

- Climate care and combating climate change
- Developing ministries with youth and young people
- Addressing disparities in housing, hunger, and health
- Standing for equity, justice, and against racism
- Centering spiritual formation and discipleship

M.I.L.E. Framework

- **Ministry that Matters** - Church can become a verb by committing to ministry that matters — working within our communities to address underlying needs in areas such as housing, climate, hunger, and health. This is what Bishop Cedrick calls our “window work.”
- **Itineration & Location** - In order to lead our ministries to effectively work within our communities, we must ordain, appoint, and assign clergy leaders to the right ministry setting with the right resources in place to effect change.
- **Lay Ministry Enhancement** - Laity are already a critical resource in our congregations and ministry settings, but there is a need to equip and empower laity to be a more active voice in our churches and communities we serve.
- **Eliminating Racism** - As people of faith, we need to renew our efforts to eliminate the racism that is pervasive not only in society, but within our congregations, ministry settings, and the institution of the church in general.

Eligibility

Projects must be part of PNW Conference-sponsored ministries and be supported by a Superintendent or Pastor. The responsible party must include a fiscal agent to handle monies.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

Our Vision

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Our Mission

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

Our Local Purpose

To be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

We believe love in action can change the world.

- ✿ We have opportunities for membership within our local churches and individual membership "all access" to help women connect with other women around areas of justice, soul care, and spiritual growth.
- ✿ Through our partnership with Faith Action Network, Legislative Advocacy events, our ongoing work addressing our Charter for Racial Justice, and our focus on justice issues such as breaking the school-to-prison pipeline, maternal health, food insecurity, climate care, and more, we continue to be challenged to ask the "hard questions" and take action individually, locally and globally.
- ✿ We support our ministry with women and children through pledged "Mission Giving" throughout the year. Additionally, we promote "Legacy Giving" as an endowment that will assure that leadership development within this organization, which has been vital to the entire church for over 154 years, will continue to make a difference in the future.
- ✿ Leadership Development and Education for the Transformation of our world at the local, district, conference, and national level is ongoing through an ever-increasing array of opportunities such as Annual Gatherings, Spiritual Growth Retreats, participation in the Reading Program, Faith Talk Webinars, Response Magazine, Daily Prayer Guide, Mighty Networks, Assembly and Jurisdiction Gatherings every four years.
- ✿ Our role in supporting our annual "Mission u" cooperatively with our Conference Board of Global Ministries provides a transformative educational opportunity for all adults, children, and youth.
- ✿ We have members actively participating on the boards of our National Mission Institutions within our conference...Atlantic Street Center and Tacoma Community House. In this way, we are kept up to date on the services and needs of these organizations "close to home."

We encourage you to explore United Women in Faith and the many opportunities for making a difference through the following sites:

uwfaith.org • pnwumc.org/uwfaith



The Office of Connectional Ministries Communications Team supports and guides the communications efforts of the Pacific Northwest Conference and the Greater Northwest Area (GNW Area) of The United Methodist Church. We regularly publish stories on our news blog featuring original content and timely news items across the United Methodist connection.

Additionally, our communications team designs and supports the web ministry of the groups mentioned above, including their official websites and social media. We produce a weekly News Digest (bi-weekly in the summer) to help share information and support the different projects of our annual conference ministry areas. Submissions for this newsletter are due on Tuesday by noon to communications@pnwumc.org and are subject to approval.

subscribe →

To sign up for our PNW Conference newsletter, visit <https://gnw-email.brtaapp.com/subscribe> and select "PNW News Digest."

Our work in supporting the communications needs of our annual conference also extends to supporting the local church's work. Through training and consultation, we assist local churches looking to expand or perfect their capacity to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are partners with United Methodist Communications – <https://umcom.org> – in supporting the local church.

Finally, the conference supports local churches during times of crisis, providing communications support when situations emerge that require additional care and coordination. In this work, we coordinate with superintendents, local church leadership, and other involved persons to ensure that our response is faithful and helpful.

Communication Policy

The Pacific Northwest Conference Office of Connectional Ministries works collaboratively and creatively to serve the missional needs of United Methodist ministries in Washington State, Northern Idaho, and Southwest British Columbia. We welcome the submission of news and requests (job openings, ministry materials) that benefit the local church and serve the mission of our larger connection. Space limitations and other considerations may prevent your material from being printed or posted.

Any fundraising events or requests should be for official United Methodist projects, most typically denoted with a conference or general church Advance Number. Publication of causes, events, or job postings by partnered agencies, outside groups, and unofficial organizations within shall be at the discretion of the Director of Communications as guided by denominational policy and practice.

While we occasionally share information about ministry materials (books, curricula, etc.) and training opportunities that may benefit leaders in our local churches, we reserve the right to use our sole discretion in making such decisions.

- To submit a story or press release, use the following form – <https://gnw-reg.brtaapp.com/PNWStory>
- To submit other items for the News Digest, Greater NW News Blog, or PNW Website, contact Patrick Scriven, pscriven@pnwumc.org
- To submit items for distribution in your District, contact your District Service Center staff.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. If submitting photos or artwork, please ensure that it is high-resolution and that you have attained any copyright and permissions that may apply.

For more information about conference communications, contact PNW Director of Communications Patrick Scriven at pscriven@pnwumc.org or (206) 870-6808.



**The Offices of
The Pacific Northwest Conference
of The United Methodist Church**

PO Box 13650 | 816 South 216th Street, Building 2
Des Moines, WA 98198 | 206-870-6820 | 800-755-7710
The Offices of the PNWUMC provide services and support to 200 churches
across Washington State, British Columbia, and Northern Idaho.
Web: pnwumc.org | Facebook: [fb.com/pnwumc](https://www.facebook.com/pnwumc) | Twitter: [@pnwumc](https://twitter.com/pnwumc)

Office of the Episcopacy

Resident Bishop, Greater Northwest Area
Cedrick D. Bridgeforth bishop@greaternw.org

Administrative Assistant to Bishop Bridgeforth
Rhondalei Gabuat rgabuat@greaternw.org

Office of Connectional Ministries

Executive Director of Connectional Ministries
Rev. David V. Valera dvalera@pnwumc.org

Director of Communications
Patrick Scriven pscriven@pnwumc.org

Director of Hispanic/Latino Ministries
Rev. Cruz Edwin Santos cesantos@pnwumc.org

Executive Assistant and Office Manager
Kathy Hogg khogg@pnwumc.org

Program Associate
Teri Tobey teri@pnwumc.org

Executive Director, Camping and Retreat Ministries
Alan Rogstad arogstad@pnwumc.org

Manager, Regional Media Center
Ian Patrick Mcknight imcknight@pnwumc.org

Media Assistant and Print Room Manager
Tyron Olds tolds@pnwumc.org

Shared Administrative Services - GNW Area

Executive Director of Finance and Administration / Treasurer
Brant Henshaw bhenshaw@pnwumc.org

Director of Finance / Assistant Treasurer
Sara Goetze sarag@umoi.org

Conference Benefits Officer
Bruce Galvin bruce.galvin@pnwumc.org

Conference Benefits Officer
Kristi Durham kdurham@greaternw.org

Director of Property Asset Management
Katrishca Barker kbarker@greaternw.org

Payroll and Benefits Administrator
Madeline Stafford madeline@umoi.org

Accountants
Brittany Eisenhut lgough@pnwumc.org
Steffanie Taylor staylor@pnwumc.org

District Offices

Crest to Coast Missional District
Rev. Kathleen Weber c2cds@pnwumc.org

Inland Missional District
Rev. Daniel Miranda dmiranda@pnwumc.org

Puget Sound Missional District
Rev. J. Mark Galang psds@pnwumc.org

SeaTac Missional District Superintendency Team
Rev. Shalom Agtarap sagtarap@pnwumc.org
Rev. Ferdie Llenado fllenado@pnwumc.org
Rev. Elizabeth Schindler eschindler@pnwumc.org

Seven Rivers Missional District
Rev. Daniel Miranda dmiranda@pnwumc.org

District Administrator, Lead - Crest to Coast, Inland, Seven Rivers
Laura Velonza lvelonza@pnwumc.org

District Administrator - Puget Sound, SeaTac
Erin Tombaugh etombaugh@pnwumc.org

Assistant for Connectional Ministries Inland & Seven Rivers
Sheila Miranda smiranda@pnwumc.org

Board of Ordained Ministry Administrator
Stephanie Franklin sfranklin@pnwumc.org

Faith Foundation Northwest

PO Box 656 | Cashmere, WA 98815 | 800-488-4179

Executive Director
Julia Frisbie julia@faith.foundation

Additional Resources

Greater Northwest New Blog – <https://greaternw.org/news>
This website hosts stories of vital mission and ministry from the three conference – Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, Pacific Northwest – that comprise the Greater Northwest Area of The United Methodist Church.

ResourceUMC – <https://resourceumc.org>
The online destination for leaders throughout The United Methodist Church. Visit often to find ideas and information to inspire United Methodist leaders throughout the connection.

United Methodist News – <https://umnews.org>
UM News is the official newsgathering agency of the 13 million-member United Methodist Church. A unit of United Methodist Communications, it is staffed by professionally trained journalists committed to the work and mission of The UMC.