



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE TREASURY NOTES

APRIL 2011

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Why We Give

Recently I was sorting through some material in my files and I found a booklet published by UMC Communications entitled "Why We Give". After reviewing its contents I thought it was worth sharing some of the major ideas put forth in this publication. The booklet gave six reasons for giving.

We give because God first gave to us. The first part of John 3:16 states that "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...." God could not have given us a greater gift. God has given us this life and so much more. What are the truly good things you enjoy in life? Where did they come from?

We give because we love God. You give to the people to who are near and dear to you and that giving helps us to grow in a closer relationship. The same is true with God. The early church was based on the concept of sufficiency. They believed all the people together would have what they needed if they were willing to share. How do you express your love for God through your giving?

We give because it is what Christians do. In the Book of Acts we find many illustrations of the followers of Christ giving generously to one another. The apostle Paul took up a collection among the churches for the people of Judea who were suffering from famine. Part of the DNA of the Christian faith is that we give to help others who may be in need. How does being a Christian affect the way you give to those with a known need?

We give because it is what United Methodist do. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement and a primary influence in the founding of the United Brethren and Evangelical groups urged the practice of "Earn all you can, Save all you can, Give all you can." Wesley modeled this when his income increased; he continued his simple lifestyle and gave the surplus money to Methodist efforts. Do you continue this tradition of generous giving?

We give to make ministry and mission happen. Jesus said to Peter and every disciple after Peter, "Feed my Lambs." Our giving is about fulfilling Jesus' command. We want to do good because Jesus told us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. In this time and place little happens without money, we can give of our time and energy as well but that is never enough. Do we really want at least as much good for our neighbor as we want for ourselves?

We give because, together, we can do what no one individual or congregation can do separately. From the first Christmas Conference offering to help support “worn out clergy, widows and orphans” to our current system of apportionments, United Methodist has always found strength and greater possibilities in our connection. There are very few congregations or individuals that could totally support our numerous ministries. We do mission and ministry best when we do it together. *Why do you give?*

March Apportionment Receipts

	2010	4 Year Average	2011
General Church	552,119 21.20%	481,663 19.14%	582,669 21.73%
Conference Ministries	1,445,186 14.13%	1,412,522 13.86%	1,381,368 13.65%
Conference Missions	484,131 14.17%	425,021 13.23%	432,004 13.76%
Total Apportionments	2,481,436 15.27%	2,319,206 14.57%	2,396,042 15.03%

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving beyond the local congregation to the greater church in the world. Not only have you contributed to the current year apportionments but also you have given \$365,521 for prior years apportionments. Thus, our total apportionment receipts for 2011 are 16.99%, compared to 16.91% for 2010 a 0.08% increase. Our apportionments remind us that our membership vow was as a member of Christ’s universal church. We were then asked if we would be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and do all in our power to strengthen its ministries. This means wherever you see the Cross and Flame, you belong and your support within your local setting is being shared with every other United Methodist Church. Apportionments help us fulfill our vows to Christ’s entire church. Again, we thank you for faithfully fulfilling your vow of membership.

Journal Order Forms

In your 2011 Pre-Conference Manual you will find an order form for the 2011 Iowa Annual Conference Journal. If you would like a Journal please fill out the form and sent it with a check made out to the Iowa Annual Conference c/o Jill Stanton, 2301 Rittenhouse Street, Des Moines, IA 50321. The Journal is available in book or CD form. The cost for the book is \$20.00 and CDs are \$7.00. The deadline for ordering is the last day of annual conference.

Office Closing

The Conference offices will be closed on April 22 for Good Friday.