



THE 2019 SOUTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE BUDGET FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

*Helping churches do more in mission together
than any one congregation could do alone!*

Working on behalf of the churches of the South Georgia Conference, the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) continues to recommend very lean budgets. The Conference delegate and pastor from each local church receive, debate, and approve this budget at Annual Conference. Churches have asked that the annual conference budget be reduced. This year's budget is \$600,000 lower than the 2018 budget (almost 6%). The 2019 budget total for the annual conference is \$10,062,826.

The CF&A organizes the budget into two types of budget items, to help churches and pastors understand the nature of our expenses: Type A items are paid based on approved expenses or vouchers which have been incurred while Type B items are paid each month based on the receipts collected for that item during the month. We appreciate the faithful payment of apportionments by the churches of the South Georgia Conference.

TYPE A: ITEMS PAID BASED ON APPROVED EXPENSES

I. CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES (ITEMS 1 - 4)	\$ 1,049,603	10.43%
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1- OFFICE OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES		\$ 627,049
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The Office of Connectional Ministries assists local churches to fulfill our Christ-mandated mission of making disciples by offering leadership training and consultation services; by coordinating a wide variety of programming opportunities intended to help local churches faithfully and creatively produce well-rounded disciples; and by connecting the local church to the larger church through communications and networking.

2- ARTHUR J. MOORE MUSEUM		\$ 114,576
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This fund provides the operational expenses of the museum at Epworth by the Sea where the conference archives and historical records are preserved. The annual conference is responsible for the operational costs of the museum. Epworth by the Sea provides and maintains the building in which the museum is located.

3- BOARD OF LAITY		\$ 8,113
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The Board of Laity includes the conference and district lay leaders as well as representatives from United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women. This reimburses the committee for travel to meetings as well as travel for the lay leader to conference and district events and for attendance at boards and committees meetings.

4- HISPANIC MINISTRIES **\$ 299,865**

Funds for Hispanic Ministries are used to support a part-time conference coordinator of Hispanic Ministries who works closely with the Director of Congregational Development. Funds are also budgeted for quarterly retreats for the Hispanic ministers and program resources and support for Hispanic congregations. There are presently nine Hispanic ministry congregations throughout our conference.

II. CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ITEM 5) **\$ 326,459** **3.24%**

5- OFFICE OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT **\$ 326,459**

The mission of Congregational Development (CD) is to create new congregations as well as help revitalize and relocate congregations with the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. The budget helps with providing funds for training experiences of ministers or church leaders, helping start new programs and ministries, expand facilities, etc. We are in the midst of launching our newest congregation in Valdosta, and working on plans for other church starts in areas of population growth. The almost fifty churches this office has worked with account for many of the new converts and increased worship attendance in our annual conference.

III. CLERGY SUPPORT (ITEMS 6 – 15) **\$ 3,808,341** **37.85%**

6- DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS' EXPENSE **\$ 1,063,110**

This fund provides for salaries, benefits, travel, and related expenses of our six District Superintendents.

7- BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY **\$ 64,450**

This fund supports testing, credentialing, counseling, career assessment, supervising pastors, meetings, and other administrative expenses of the Board, related to the Divisions of Deacons and of Elders, and for a part time staff position to assist the Board. Recruitment efforts include the Young Clergy Academy internship, an expanded licensing school for persons entering the ministry, and a “residents in ministry” program for probationary members of the conference.

8- PRE - 1982 PENSIONS AND BENEFITS **\$ 652,600**

This fund is used to pay clergy pensions for years of service prior to January 1, 1982, at the rate of \$674 per service year. Widows/widowers of participants receive \$472 per service year.

9- COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN **\$ 700,000**

This fund underwrites the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) for clergy which provides disability benefits, death benefits, and educational benefits for children of deceased clergy.

10- HEALTH FLEX - CLERGY ON DISABILITY LEAVE **\$ 165,000**

This fund underwrites the cost of providing health insurance to ministers who are receiving disability benefits.

11- POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL **\$ 520,000**

This fund underwrites the Conference’s cost of the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) which is provided to retirees in order to help cover the cost of their health insurance. The HRA funding a retiree receives from the Conference is based on the retirees’ years of service as a minister. Retired ministers and their spouses or surviving spouses are provided with the resources of One Exchange, a company that specializes in helping Medicare eligible retirees, to help them choose their own Medicare supplement plan and prescription drug plan.

12- CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS **\$ 58,500**

This provides meeting expenses for the Conference Board of Pensions; funding for required actuarial studies, and funding for a “gift” for our retiring clergy.

13- BENEFITS UNDERPAYMENT **\$ 90,000**

This is a contingency fund to ensure that funds are available to pay 100% of the cost of required insurance and pension benefits for our active ministers. These costs must be paid at 100%, even if the askings are not received at that level.

14- EQUITABLE COMPENSATION **\$ 289,800**

This fund provides salary and benefit support for those pastors serving churches not able to meet the minimum salary standards as set by the Annual Conference. Included in these funds is some salary support for the ministers serving “new church starts” being established by the Office of Congregational Development.

15- PASTORAL COUNSELING SERVICE **\$ 204,881**

Our pastoral counselor conducts sexual ethics workshops, helps with safe sanctuaries training, gives guidance to ministers regarding counseling situations, and assists members of ministers’ families with professional counseling to mention just a portion of the duties.

IV. ADMINISTRATION (ITEMS 16 – 34) **\$ 1,257,354** **12.50%**

16- ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION EXPENSE

This fund covers the cost of renting the facility where Annual Conference is held, as well as program related expenses including the Book of Recommendations, worship bulletins, honoraria, and accommodations of guest speakers. It is divided into the costs incurred by the local committee and the cost of preparation of materials for the business session and worship services during the Conference session. Registration fees estimated at \$ 20,000 will help underwrite the cost of these budget items.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE **\$ 70,300**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE **\$ 30,400**

17- ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXPENSE RETIRED MINISTERS **\$ 16,000**

This fund provides a per diem of \$65.00 per day (by voucher) which assists retired ministers and ministers receiving disability benefits with the cost of attending Annual Conference.

18- AT-LARGE LAY MEMBERS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE **\$ 22,000**

The Discipline of The United Methodist Church provides that an equal number of clergy and laity compose the membership of the Annual Conference sessions. When lay membership is less than clergy membership, the number is equalized by the Annual Conference. These monies will provide for the expenses of these at-large lay members at the same per diem as that provided for the retired clergy when a voucher is submitted.

19- COMMITTEE ON MEMOIRS **\$ 1,000**

This fund provides support for the Committee to produce materials regarding clergy and spouses who have died during the year, and to provide funds for the preparation of the Memorial Service which is held during Annual Conference.

20- CONFERENCE SECRETARY/JOURNAL EXPENSE **\$ 8,000**

This fund provides honoraria for services and expenses for secretarial staff to fulfill Annual Conference responsibilities and to keep the conference records, according to *The Discipline*. It also assists with the expenses of publishing and distributing *The Journal of the South Georgia Conference*.

21- COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION **\$ 3,950**

This fund covers the costs of the meetings of the Conference Finance and Administration Committee and sub-committees.

22- ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICE **\$ 735,044**

This fund covers the cost of operating the Administrative Services Office (conference treasurer/ benefits office). This office prepares monthly bills, records payments and answers questions for the pension and health insurance plans of the conference, prepares monthly remittance statements, records payments and answers questions about the conference budget, and advance special projects. The office collects and prepares the statistical reports for the Journal, and prepares financial reports for various conference offices and committees. Staff members also maintain the Conference database and online software.

23- CONFERENCE TRUSTEES **\$ 6,500**

This fund provides for meeting costs of the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference.

24- LEADERSHIP FORUM **\$ 5,000**

The Leadership Forum provides an opportunity for designated conference leaders to meet together for prayer, dialogue and discernment of God's vision for the present and future ministry of the South Georgia Annual Conference. The Bishop and the Conference Lay Leader serve as co-chairs of the forum.

25- STRATEGIC INITIATIVES TEAM **\$ 6,000**

The Strategic Initiatives Team meets to work on overall issues of structure, relationships, and direction of the annual conference. This team is assisting our new Bishop to learn our conference history, consider our present circumstances, and chart possibilities for the future.

26- PERSONNEL COMMITTEE **\$ 2,700**

This fund provides for meeting costs of the Committee on Personnel of the Annual Conference.

27- COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE **\$ 182,060**

This fund supports the work of the Communication Office of our Annual Conference. It includes production of the online *South Georgia Advocate*, *The Communicator*, and *The Link*. Our staff provides reporting support and video support to communicate effectively throughout our Annual Conference.

28- WORKER'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE **\$ 11,000**

As required by the law of the State of Georgia, this fund provides Worker's Compensation Insurance for the members of the Cabinet, the professional staff, and support staff of the South Georgia Annual Conference.

29- COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS **\$ 1,400**

The Conference Committee on Nominations meets each year to appoint persons to conference committees.

30- LOCAL CHURCH TREASURERS' BOND **\$ 7,500**

This fund provides for the cost of an insurance policy providing “excess” coverage for potential employee dishonesty by local church treasurers or financial administrators. (The local church’s insurance policy is primary in the event employee dishonesty occurs.)

31- GENERAL CONFERENCE AND SEJ CONFERENCE DELEGATE’S EXPENSE **\$6,000**

This fund provides for the expenses of the South Georgia Conference delegates to meet and prepare to represent us at the 2020 called General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference.

32- EPISCOPAL COMMITTEE **\$ 1,200**

This pays for the travel for members of the Episcopal Committee to meet.

33- LEGAL FEES **\$ 91,300**

This funds covers cost of legal fees that the conference incurs.

34- CONTINGENCY FUND **\$ 50,000**

This fund provides for unanticipated conference needs that are not included in the budget and for funding fixed expenses when local church remittances are not forthcoming.

V. SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION **\$ 20,713** **0.21%**

35- SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION MISSION AND MINISTRY (THE SEJ APPORTIONMENT) **\$ 20,713**

This fund helps support the ministries and programs of the SEJ Administrative Council, including The Protestant Hour; supports the SEJ Office of Volunteers in Mission, SEJ Commission on Religion and Race, Campus Ministry at Emory University, and Course-of-Study Schools of Candler School of Theology, Duke Divinity School, and Gulfside Assembly. This fund pays the expenses of the Jurisdictional Conference which meets every four years.

TYPE B: ITEMS PAID BASED ON RECEIPTS

Monies received for these items are passed straight on to the ministry, in the exact amount received.

VI. REGIONAL CAUSES (ITEMS 36 – 38) **\$ 1,024,620** **10.18%**

36- CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION (GEORGIA) **\$ 792,370**

This fund provides support for the United Methodist Colleges and Wesley Foundations in Georgia. The Georgia United Methodist Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry administers these funds.

37- SOUTH GEORGIA EPISCOPAL AREA OFFICE EXPENSE **\$ 212,250**

This fund provides our share of the operating costs for the office of the Resident Bishop of the South Georgia Area, includes Assistant to Bishop and Office of Ministerial Services.

38- SOUTH GEORGIA EPISCOPAL AREA RESIDENCE EXPENSE **\$ 20,000**

This fund provides our share of the expense for providing housing for our Bishop.

VI. GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS (ITEMS 39 – 45) \$ 2,575,736 25.60%

Items 39 – 45 are part of our connectional ministry throughout the world. These apportionments are assigned to us by the General Council on Finance and Administration based on the finances and worship attendance of local churches in the South Georgia Conference. The information they use comes from the statistical reports turned in each year by local churches.

39- WORLD SERVICE \$ 1,325,015

World Service is the basic mission program and benevolence fund of The United Methodist Church. It enables members of every local church to share in thousands of worldwide ministries. World Service is the cornerstone of the entire general mission program of the Church. World Service carries out ministries which a local church could not do alone. This corporate outreach touches persons across the globe: It supports missionaries, strengthens churches outside the United States, certifies United Methodist health and welfare institutions, helps ethnic minority churches in the United States have better paid and better trained pastors, and expresses the United Methodist Church's position on critical issues in such forums as the United States Congress and the United Nations. It produces and enriches resources – persons, printing, and audio-visuals for local churches ministering in evangelism, worship, Christian education, stewardship, youth ministries, missions, and church concerns.

40- EPISCOPAL FUND \$ 392,391

This fund provides for the expenses of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church including their salaries and benefits as well as funds for the operation of their offices and to purchase and maintain the episcopal residence.

41- AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND \$ 39,951

In 1988, the General Conference voted to raise funds to establish and build a university on the continent of Africa, to raise up Christian leaders who could transform the continent for Christ. These funds will help with the continuing development of the university by helping fund additional buildings and faculty as the numbers of students and programs of study increase.

42- MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND \$ 447,529

This fund provides training for tomorrow's ministers and helps today's ministers be more effective in fulfilling their call. It is apportioned to the Annual Conference on the basis of two percent of the total local church expenditure for all purposes less capital, benevolent, and connectional ministerial expenses. Twenty-five percent of the amount raised in our Annual Conference remains within the conference to help educate ministers to serve our congregations and ministries. The remainder is distributed to our 13 Theological Seminaries to help meet current expenses and other financial needs.

43- BLACK COLLEGE FUND \$ 178,515

This fund supports United Methodism's 11 predominantly black colleges. This is the largest group of black colleges related to any Protestant denomination. Of this apportionment, five-sixths is for current operation budgets and one-sixth is for capital improvements. Although most students attending these colleges are black, the schools are open to students regardless of race.

44- GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND \$ 157,335

Several general agencies and items essential to The United Methodist Church are supported by this fund:

General Conference, our highest law and policy-making body
Judicial Council, the church's "supreme court"

General Commission on Archives and History
United Methodist Shrines
General Council on Finance and Administration, for administrative functions

45- INTER-DENOMINATIONAL COOPERATIVE FUND

\$ 35,000

This fund represents United Methodism's financial commitment to ecumenical mission and work and to interchurch cooperation. Several Christian endeavors in the United States and around the world depend on United Methodist support including the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States.

This budget was prepared by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, after receiving requests from various conference ministries and committees. The budget was presented to the Annual Conference for discussion, amendment and approval. Your lay delegate and pastor, together with delegates from other churches across South Georgia, were able to discuss, question, amend, and vote on this budget. We pray that our support of the ministries and services contained herein will be pleasing to God, and will help us both be and make faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

THE APPORTIONMENT FORMULA

Two items are used to calculate each local church's share of the total Conference Budget. They are the membership factor which is weighted at 35% and the financial factor which is weighted at 65%. Using these two factors sets the apportionments in such a way that larger churches have a larger share than smaller churches, and churches with greater means bear a larger share than churches with less means. The membership and financial factors are averaged over the last two reporting years, to even out spikes and dips. The membership factor is that reported by the local church in the *Conference Journal*. The financial factor includes the total expenditures of each local church as reported in the *Conference Journal*, minus the amounts paid on apportionments, the amounts paid on principal and interest on indebtedness, loans, mortgages, etc., the amount paid for building and improvements (not including loans and mortgages), other benevolences paid by local church, and the amounts paid on General and Conference Advance Specials.

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 \text{Average Church Membership} & & \text{Average Church Local Expenditures} \\
 \text{-----} & \times 35\% & \text{-----} \\
 \text{Average Conference Membership} & & \text{Average Conference Local Expenditures} \\
 & & \text{-----} \\
 & = & \text{Church Decimal}
 \end{array}$$

This decimal is multiplied by each item in the Conference Budget to obtain your local church's share of the Conference Budget.

FUND NAME	2019 BUDGET	LOCAL CHURCH SHARE
<i>Type A: Items Paid Based on Expenses</i>		
Conference Benevolences (# 1 - 4)	1,049,603	
Congregational Development (# 5)	326,459	
Clergy Recruitment, Certification, Supervision, & Support (# 6, 7, 14, 15)	1,622,241	
Pre-82 Pensions, CBOP, & Benefits Underpayment (# 8, 12, 13)	801,100	
Comprehensive Protection Plan (# 9)	700,000	
HealthFlex Clergy on Disability Leave (# 10)	165,000	
Post-retirement Medical (# 11)	520,000	
Administrative Expenses (# 16 - 34)	1,257,354	
Southeastern Jurisdiction Mission and Ministry (# 35)	20,713	
<i>Type B: Items Paid Based on Receipts</i>		
Christian Higher Education - Georgia (# 36)	792, 370	
South Georgia Episcopal Office Expense (# 37)	212,250	
South Georgia Episcopal Residence Expense (# 38)	20,000	
World Service (# 39)	1,325, 015	
Episcopal Fund (# 40)	392,391	
Africa University Fund (# 41)	39,951	
Ministerial Education Fund (# 42)	447,529	
Black College Fund (# 43)	178,515	
General Administration Fund (# 44)	157,335	
Interdenominational Cooperative Fund (# 45)	35,000	
2019 Budget Apportioned on the Decimal	10,062,826	

Note: Further information and additional copies of the *2019 Budget At A Glance Brochure* may be obtained from the Administrative Services Office (478-738-0048, 1-800-535-4224) or on the South Georgia Conference Website, www.sgaumc.com.