AN INVITATION AND MESSAGE ABOUT CONNECTIONAL FUNDING IN THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE OF THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

February 18, 2025

Dear Local Global Methodist Church,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! We are very grateful your church is a member congregation of the Global Methodist Church and part of the Northeast Annual Conference. Our prayer is that God will keep working through every local church so together we are a movement of disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples and spread scriptural holiness across the globe!

As a member congregation, you are invited to invest in this important movement through Conference Connectional Funding. Now that you are a member congregation of the Northeast Annual Conference, we invite you to join with your sisters and brothers across the region to provide the financial resources for the continued creation of a healthy and vibrant denomination and conference dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

The pages that follow contain information about the basis for connectional funding as Global Methodists, ways to give as local churches, and resources from our Northeast Annual Conference website to help church leaders engage together in connectional funding. We invite you to read through this document carefully. If you have questions, you can reach out to our Conference Treasurer, Erika Renwick (treasurer@northeastgmc.org) or me (staylor@northeastgmc.org).

Thank you.

Blessings, Steve



CONNECTIONAL FUNDING IN THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

In the Global Methodist Church, local congregations will not receive a connectional funding bill from either the Global Methodist Church (GMC) or the Annual Conference. Instead, a local church calculates the amount it will give for connectional funding and then, on a monthly basis, sends a portion of that amount to the general church (GMC) and also a portion to their Annual Conference. Thus, there are two categories of connectional funding—one for the general church and one for the Annual Conference. The following information will guide you through that process.

Connectional funding is addressed in ¶449 of the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. The Global Methodist Church has set general connectional funding at one percent (1%) of a local church's operating income. For additional information on connectional funding for the Global Methodist Church, please visit: https://globalmethodist.org/connectionalfunding/.

For 2025, the Northeast Annual Conference rate will remain at three percent (3%), as approved by the Conference Connectional Council.

DETERMINATION OF CONNECTIONAL FUNDING AMOUNT

Your local church financial designee will calculate the amount to be given, based on your local church's **prior year** operating income. This means that for 2025, the calculation is based on your 2024 operating income.

- Operating income is defined in ¶449.4 and ¶449.5. Specifically, ¶449.4a states that local church operating income includes (see some examples below):
 - Giving from identified and unidentified donors

Tithes Offerings (unrestricted)

> Investment income utilized for operations

Interest Dividends

> Building use fees and rental income

> Other unrestricted operating income

Fundraisers

To report these amounts:

- 1. Enter the data in the appropriate cells listed under "Included in Operating Income" on the worksheet.
- 2. The worksheet will automatically calculate "Total Operating Income" once the data is entered.

¶449.4b outlines the types of revenue that should be *excluded* from local church operating income. These exclusions include:

- > Benevolences (outside ministries supported by the local church)
- Capital campaign receipts
- > Borrowed funds
- Fundraisers for non-operating expenses
- Receipts for reduction of indebtedness
- Memorials, endowments, and bequests (whether restricted or non-restricted)
- > Receipts for Global Methodist Church special mission programs
- Grants and support from other organizations
- Sales of land, buildings, or other church assets
- > Other non-operating income received

Income from these sources should not be included in the categories that constitute operating income on the worksheet. (See Examples of What IS and IS NOT Operating Income HERE.)

The worksheet automatically calculates the local church's "Yearly Annual Conference Connectional Funding" (Row 21). The worksheet then calculates the local church's monthly payment for Annual Conference Connectional Funding (Row 22).

Each January a local church financial designee (i.e., treasurer) is asked to complete a new Connectional Funding Worksheet to determine Connectional Funding remittances to the Global Methodist Church and the Northeast Annual Conference.

Please submit your completed <u>2025 Connectional Funding Worksheet</u> to the treasurer at the Northeast Annual Conference via email: treasurer@northeastgmc.org.

*The entire Book of Doctrines and Disciplines of the Global Methodist Church can be accessed here.

REMITTANCES OF CONNECTIONAL FUNDING

Global Methodist Church

For remittances to the Global Methodist Church, visit <u>Connectional Funding</u> in the Global Methodist Church.

Northeast Annual Conference

Your church will make its Northeast Annual Conference connectional funding payment either through electronic transfer (our much-preferred method) using the following link: Northeast Conference Realm Portal or by check payable to:

Northeast Annual Conference of the GM Church c/o Erika Renwick, Treasurer PO Box 103 Duncansville, PA 16635

(Please print, complete and submit this <u>Remittance Form</u> with your check.)

Payment of your connectional funding by electronic (ACH) is beneficial not only to the Northeast Annual Conference, but also to your church. Since the amount of the payment does not change from month-to-month, paying electronically allows you to set up recurring payments once per year rather than expending the effort to generate and mail a check each month. Local churches can send more than one month's payment at a time, however, we encourage local churches to send connectional funding payments on a monthly basis. Please complete this **Electronic Remittance Form** for electronic payments through Realm, your bank, or when using a third party vendor to mail a check.

We look forward to receiving your local church's connectional funding giving and sharing with you the fruits of our connected ministry.

In Summary:

- 1. Within the first few weeks after receiving this document, please complete the <u>Connectional Funding Worksheet for 2025</u>, scan to an electronic file, and email to the Conference Treasurer, Erika Renwick, at treasurer@northeastgmc.org.
- 2. When you are ready to make your first month's connectional funding payment, either:
 - Set up your electronic ACH giving account through the <u>Realm portal</u> and submit your monthly or recurring payment. Use <u>this form link</u> to notify the Conference of any electronic payment (including bank and third party vendors).

OR

Mail your Annual Conference connectional funding check, and Remittance Form to:

Northeast Annual Conference of the GMC c/o Erika Renwick, Treasurer PO Box 103 Duncansville, PA 16635

3. If paying connectional funding creates a financial hardship for your church, please contact the Northeast Annual Conference Treasurer, Erika Renwick, at (223) 797-7719 to discuss your situation. She welcomes the opportunity to speak with you and support your church.