

Note: This resolution was approved by the 2026 Annual Conference.

RESOLUTION 2026.1: Western States Conference Connectional Giving Policy

Submitted by the Connectional Council of the Western States Conference of the Global Methodist Church

WHEREAS, the Connectional Council of the Western States Conference has reviewed and approved a Connectional Giving Policy establishing consistent and equitable funding contributions for all congregations within the Conference; and

WHEREAS, ¶449 of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline provides the framework for Annual Conference connectional funding; and

WHEREAS, the Connectional Council recommends adoption of this policy to the 2026 Annual Conference;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2026 Annual Conference of the Western States Conference of the Global Methodist Church hereby adopts the Western States Conference Connectional Giving Policy as approved and submitted by the Connectional Council, to take effect following the close of this Annual Conference.

Western States Conference Connectional Giving Policy

Scope

This policy applies to all local churches, chartered and unchartered, within the Western States Conference of the Global Methodist Church. It governs connectional funding contributions to the Annual Conference. *Note:* General church funding percentages are not included in this policy. As outlined in ¶449 of the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline*, those percentages are determined by the General Conference and are not subject to adjustment by the Annual Conference.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent and equitable approach to connectional funding across the Western States Conference of the Global Methodist Church. This policy ensures that local churches support the work of the Annual Conference while maximizing resources available for ministry at the local level.

Theological Foundation

Connectional giving is an expression of our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. As members of the Global Methodist Church, we join together in covenant partnership to support the essential functions of our Annual Conference while keeping mission giving for ministries beyond the Conference as the responsibility of individual churches and members.

Policy Statement

In accordance with ¶449 of the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline* of the Global Methodist Church:

1. Connectional Funding Amount

Each chartered congregation within the Western States Conference shall contribute the greater of:

- **2% of its total annual operating budget**, or
- **\$100 per month** (\$1,200 annually).

2. Unchartered congregations (e.g., House Fires or other new faith communities) are not expected to contribute during their initial six months of worship gatherings. After this initial period, they are **strongly encouraged to contribute at least \$50 per month** for the first two years, as they are able, as a tangible expression of their connection to the broader church.

3. Churches/new faith communities unable to meet these targets should have a conversation with their Presiding Elder.

4. **Budget Definition**

A congregation's annual operating budget includes all projected income and expenses used for the church's ongoing ministry, operations, staff compensation, and facilities—excluding designated pass-through giving such as capital campaigns or mission-specific funds.

5. **Minimizing the Burden**

The Western States Conference is committed to minimizing administrative overhead and maximizing the resources that remain in the local church. The connectional giving rate is set to ensure the necessary administrative and strategic functions of the Conference can continue with accountability and transparency.

6. **Connectional Accountability**

Local churches are expected to honor this covenantal contribution. Any adjustments to the funding percentage in future years will take into consideration guidance from the Connectional Council and the financial capacity of congregations across the Conference.

Implementation Timeline

This policy shall take effect after the 2026 Annual Conference.