

UNITED TO LOVE

2018 BWC MINISTRIES REPORT

WE ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD WHO IS ONE.

Our God is Holy, Gracious, Just, Righteous, All-loving, Merciful, Mysterious, Generous, All-knowing, Always right, Faithful and Good. And, as a part of God's family, we are beloved and we are One. We are called to be holy because God is holy. We are recipients of God's grace and unconditional love; and, in

response to God's unmerited love, we are to unconditionally love one another.

God believes in and has formed the sacred worth of each person. God has poured God's grace – prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying – into each one of us and has called us to be Christ followers. What kind of

love is this? This kind of love creates unity with diversity and has a seat at the table for all.

United to Love. This love commands us to love God with all our hearts, minds, soul and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Or, as Jesus later simplified: to love as Jesus loves us.

And because of this love, under the direction and leadership of Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, the Baltimore-Washington Conference hosted a United to Love Rally for Peace, Love and Justice on August 12, 2018, where more than 1,000 people from across theological, racial, economic, and other lines of difference united together on the National Mall for love's sake. This love overwhelmed the manifestation of hate in the Washington, D.C. area on the one-year anniversary of the Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville, VA.

This love calls us to worship in faith communities on Sunday mornings and worship God in the public square as a witness to God's love for all people. This love is often prophetic, inconvenient and uncomfortable; yet, it is a part of God's transformational work in creating a new world order.

Because of this love, during the pre-rally march to the National Mall, a United Methodist church in D.C. received one new member. The "Church" became more visible for this individual who recognized that the Church was clearly seeking to unify, not divide; to love, not hate; to be a public witness for God's good in a seemingly polarized world.

**Create Ministry
Foundations
Enabling Ministry
Costs – \$1,068,372**

5.8%
of the 2018 budget

WE ARE ONE

The United to Love Rally deepened ecumenical and interfaith partnerships. Together, we acted to end the partial U.S. Federal government shutdown and call for migrant justice at the Tijuana border. Together, we've journeyed to the District of Columbia, Annapolis and other places to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty and militarization as we work toward environmental justice.

**Transform
the World
Advocacy and Action**
— \$455,090
2.5%
of the 2018 budget



**Empower
Wholeness
Abundant Health:
Wellness and Missions**
— \$64,283
0.4%
of the 2018 budget



This Love enabled us to organize mission service teams here and around the world to include alleviating human suffering in Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Russia and Frederick after natural and human disasters. Through our three Maryland mission hubs (at Bentley Springs in Parkton, Liberty Grove in Burtonsville, and St. Matthew in Bowie), we sent more than 2,700 kits to Mission Central valued at over \$80,000.





We are united to love through our generous giving. More than 980 BWC individuals and churches gave generously through The Advance (which is “second mile giving” over and above mission shares).

**Connect Our Faith
General Church and
Jurisdictional Ministries**
— \$3,571,610
19.5%
of the 2018 budget



**Direct Giving to
The Advance**
Total: \$673,185



 \$132,330.44 for Missionaries
 \$540,854.24 for Advance Projects:
UMCOR & Global Health

**Reach the Next
Generation**
Young People’s
Ministry — \$2,358,968
12.9%
of the 2018 budget



6,903 people were involved with Young People’s Ministry in 2018



ROCK: 4,000; Summer Camp: 1,400; Retreat Ministries: 1,353; Campus Ministry: 150

Because we are always called to be United to Love, more than 400 people from across our conference were engaged in assessing, redeveloping, realigning and strategically planning for an even more transformational Young

People’s Ministries (YPM). We celebrate the Young Clergy Initiative grant from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministries for the Change Maker’s Project, for Project Transformation DC, and youth and young adult

projects initiated across our annual conference. Our shared values and goals will help us stay united to make new, younger and more diverse disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



It is love that is intentional about developing and growing multicultural ministry. In the BWC, we are reimaging and reestablishing Asian Ministries, Native American Ministries, and Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. We are continuing to support and celebrate the good work of Deaf Ministries, Hispanic/Latino Ministries, and Accessibilities Ministries.



WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS?

In 2018, our Hispanic-Latino Ministries alone received more than \$50,000 in a grant that helped to fund a Hispanic/Latino Lay Missionary School. This school provided an opportunity for 24 lay people to be theologically and practically equipped to lead small groups and other ministries which support the invitation and growth of community-transforming disciples. These funds also made possible an exploratory border trip which resulted in UMC resources for Global Migration, video resources, and plans for a trip on October 11-14, 2019.

Our Deaf Shalom Zone operates out of Christ Deaf Church and empowers the underserved and often unseen Deaf and DeafBlind in Baltimore to live their most productive and happy lives. We serve 150 people each week and have 50 direct clients that we assist working with service providers. This is in addition to providing a culturally safe place for individuals to explore their faith at two churches and Gallaudet University, and assisting other churches in finding ways to serve the Deaf people in their church in culturally appropriate ways.



WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS?

This love has called us to launch a conference-wide, multi-phase strategy to realize a diverse and inclusive culture that impacts every layer of our connection from local faith communities to our executive leadership. And we continue our commitment to the NEJ Call to Action for Racial Justice. More than 550 leaders have pledged to do their part to change hearts, minds and systems so that no single ethnicity is valued or has an advantage over another.

Together we will support one another in naming and addressing racism when we witness it and work toward becoming at least a level-4 change agent.

Commit
to do your
part to end racism
[bwcumc.org/
racialjustice](http://bwcumc.org/racialjustice)

1	2	3	4	5
Acts with no knowledge of biases and prejudice's and their negative impact.	Aware of biases and prejudices, but continues negative behaviors and reinforces stereotypes.	Tolerates unjust behavior in others and plays it safe.	Acts as a role model, takes action when appropriate, and addresses others' behaviors when necessary.	Always on the lookout for prejudice and sees it everywhere.

Each time you put a dollar in the collection plate, you participate in the following ministries and more:

Inspire and **EQUIP** local faith communities • Offer United Methodist worship experiences that draw 51,383 people every week in Maryland, D.C., the panhandle of West Virginia and Bermuda • Operate a centralized **MISSION CENTER** in Fulton, Md., for staff and meeting space • Hold a Culture of Call forum to help people explore God's intentions for their lives • Maintain historical church **history and archives** that tell the story of more than 235 years of Methodism • Assist your pastor with **moving expenses** when they change churches • **Defend your church in court** and provide sound legal advice as needed • Provide access to detailed and **strategic demographic information** about your area • Advocate for immigration rights • Help churches build new **facilities** or update existing ones • Provide **SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT** so that your church can have a pastor • **Appoint pastors** to 623 churches • Offer annual **training** to hundreds of church leaders at four **regional Leadership events** • Keep you informed with the latest news and information through **e-connection**, a weekly electronic newsletter • Provide equitable compensation so churches can become self-sustaining • Deliver the **UMConnection**, an award-winning newspaper to inform and engage local church leaders • **TRAIN LEADERS** to reach new people with God's love and build vibrant communities • Start and nurture new faith communities • Create a new generation of spiritual leaders through Young People's Ministry • Train **Certified Lay Ministers** to partner with clergy • Assess clergy giftedness and help pastors live out their specific call • Offer assistance and training to make churches accessible • Send developing clergy leaders to national training events • Promote mental health resources created by youth, for youth • Connect and engage United Methodists with a state-of-the-art website and information system • Assist and support local churches during times of crisis in their congregations • Provide DISC assessments to local churches to engage new leaders • Support the **United Methodist Foundation** to advise your church on its investments • Administer pastors' **pension and medical benefit plans** • Hold an **annual meeting** for 1,500 area United Methodists to plan the BWC's vision and ministry • Operate a **HISPANIC-LATINO LAY LEADERSHIP SCHOOL** • Provide creative outlets for young adults to be in ministry • Empower leaders to work within the area Korean community • Protect children in your church through the **Safe Sanctuary** training • **Investigate complaints** about clergy • **Recruit** and educate future pastors • Distribute **Mission Innovation Grants** to local churches seeking to do a new thing for the benefit of their communities • Preserve your history at **Lovely Lane Museum, Sharp Street and Strawbridge Shrine**, birthplaces of Methodism • Support **Mission u**, an annual school of Christian mission • Initiate and maintain partnerships with interfaith and ecumenical groups • Ensure sound **financial management** of all gifts made to churches • Provide radical hospitality to 15,000 guests every year at our **Retreat and Camping** ministries • Help fund background checks for volunteers in your church working with children • **Support 66 bishops** who provide spiritual leadership to the world • Send 24 delegates to **General and Jurisdictional Conference** gatherings every four years to craft denominational policies and practices • Assist children in learning how to read and improve their literacy skills • Offer a **coaching network** to equip pastors • Promote change-makers through annual **Moral Courage awards** • Operate a Call and Clergy Care office to meet clergy needs as they arise • Use former parsonages as homes for women

• Train and engage **STUDENT LEADERS** • Sponsor annual advocacy days to train lobbyists and meet with state lawmakers • Speak prophetically and act practically to bring Hope to the City • Host **immersion trips** to the Mexican border • Train and commission people called to be missionaries • Address and fight systemic racism • Inspire more than 4,000 youth at our **ROCK YOUTH RETREAT** each year in Ocean City • Care for and inspire people living with **HIV/AIDS** at weekend Quality of Life retreats • Operate a prayer line • Work with churches that fall behind in their missional giving • Equip local churches to develop intentional discipleship systems • Care for orphans in Namibia and Zambia • Host **Camp Joy** participants who repair homes each summer in Alleghany County • Offer a college education to 1,200 students from across the continent at **Africa University** • Provide training and certification for lay servants to deepen their faith and abilities • Assist in operating facilities for abused and neglected children and their families • Provide American Sign Language interpreting services for Deaf people in worship and other settings • Rebuild area homes destroyed by flooding • Host nationally known experts to teach workshops to church leaders • Operate **three hubs** to collect supplies for the United Methodist Committee on Relief • Offer healing communities to prisoners released from area jails • Provide comprehensive strategic insights and alignment for developing and strengthening ministries • Do prison ministry • Sponsor community **town hall meetings** on pressing social issues like gun control, immigration and opioid addiction • Partner with and support Wesley Theological Seminary in D.C. • Participate in long-term disaster relief around the world • Partner with the Methodist Church of **Puerto Rico** • Provide worship, fellowship and pastoral care for students at the University of Maryland, Howard, American and Frostburg, and Gallaudet universities • Award **MINISTRY GRANTS** that expand the possibilities of what church might be • Witness in rallies and forums to the life-giving love of Jesus • Advocate on behalf of healthcare for all • Put love into action with 125 **VOLUNTEER IN MISSION** trips each year • Provide camping experiences to more than 2,000 children at three camps • Remove physical and attitudinal barriers facing people with disabilities • Feed children in Appalachia, where the average income is less than \$20,000 • Create cross-cultural exchanges for young adults with our partners in the South Conference in **South Korea** • Support 10 historically black colleges nationwide • Proclaim a Christian witness in the West Virginia Council of Churches • Award **college scholarships** to United Methodist students • Deliver readiness training to **DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEERS** who provide urgent care in times of emergencies • Provide legal services to immigrants at **Justice for Our Neighbors** clinics • Bring together parish nurses to support local church health ministries • Engage more than 5,000 people daily on social media • Live in covenant relationship with six **missionaries** • Offer healing and hope to victims of domestic violence through **Seeds of Security** • Translate the Word of God into many languages • Provide chaplain services to men and women in the armed services • Advocate on Capitol Hill and State Houses for issues we support in our **Social Principles** • Promote awareness of Native American issues and ministries • Partner with churches and Camp Kristall in the Black Soil District of Russia • Engage in ministry with the poor throughout Maryland, D.C. and West Virginia • **BUILD PARTNERSHIPS** with government and nonprofit groups creating change in their communities • Enable 168,000 BWC United Methodists to **DEVELOP DISCIPLES** of Christ for the transformation of the world.

12 SERVANT LEADERS CREATE A CULTURE OF CALL & DISCIPLESHIP

The Baltimore-Washington Conference seeks diversity and excellence in all of its leaders. We are United to Love, in part, because of our servant leaders who seek to give the best of themselves. They work in the rhythms of Ephesians 4, mature and wise, as they seek to serve as Christ did. Throughout the year, the Leadership Development Team worked to equip laity, pastors and congregations so that they can pour themselves out – Kingdom builders, robust in love.

As part of this development, a series of trainings with national experts were offered. Fourteen people took “Tending the Fire” coaching-focused training; 235 people attended “The Laity Fix” workshops; 95 attended the “Five Things Your Visitors are Thinking But Won’t Ask,” seminar; and 75 leaders learned about “Stepping up to Staffing and Supervision,” held at Foundry UMC.

Throughout the year, the office of Call and Clergy Care worked with the Board of Ordained Ministry to help people respond to God’s purpose for their lives. More than 40 people attended the Living Your Call Summit. A dozen pastors also participated in a Respire Renewal Cohort, learning about spiritual growth and self-care. The Respire project served as a pilot for a conference-wide Five-Year Anniversary Initiative set to launch next year.



Develop Disciples
Leadership
Development
— \$544,926
3.0%
of the 2018 budget

Love is also expressed as we create new expressions of faith.

This year, the Annual Conference increased its investing in creating new places and spaces for new people. Our goal is to reach more new people, more young people, and more diverse people who become more like Christ in the world.

WE LIFT UP THREE NEW FAITH EXPRESSIONS WHICH ARE HELPING US REACH OUR GOAL.

01

Shalom Hispanic Ministry

This “church within a church” meets at Brook Hill UMC in Frederick. Together they are reaching to the Hispanic-Latino community within the area.

02

New Beginnings in Grace

This is a new ministry at College Park UMC, in partnership with the Wesley Foundation at the University of Maryland and Lutheran Campus Ministry. Together they are creating an intentional community utilizing the former parsonage at College Park UMC. Young Adult students from UMD will live together and build relationships with one another and their neighbors.

03

Holy Renaissance

Relaunching of the ministries of New Hope Christian Fellowship in Edgewood, this project will provide hope and restoration for the children of God living in Harford County, who suffer from effects of poverty.



Build New Faith
Communities
New Faith Expressions
— \$584,881
3.2%
of the 2018 budget

“TRANSFORMED LIVES TRANSFORM LIVES”

The basic, foundational body of The United Methodist Church is the annual conference. The Baltimore-Washington Conference is one of 54 annual conferences in the United States. There are an additional 75 annual conferences in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. Pastors hold their membership in the annual conference, not a local church. Each annual conference is led by a bishop.

The mission of the Baltimore-Washington Conference is to inspire and equip local faith communities to develop disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world so that more transformed lives transform lives.

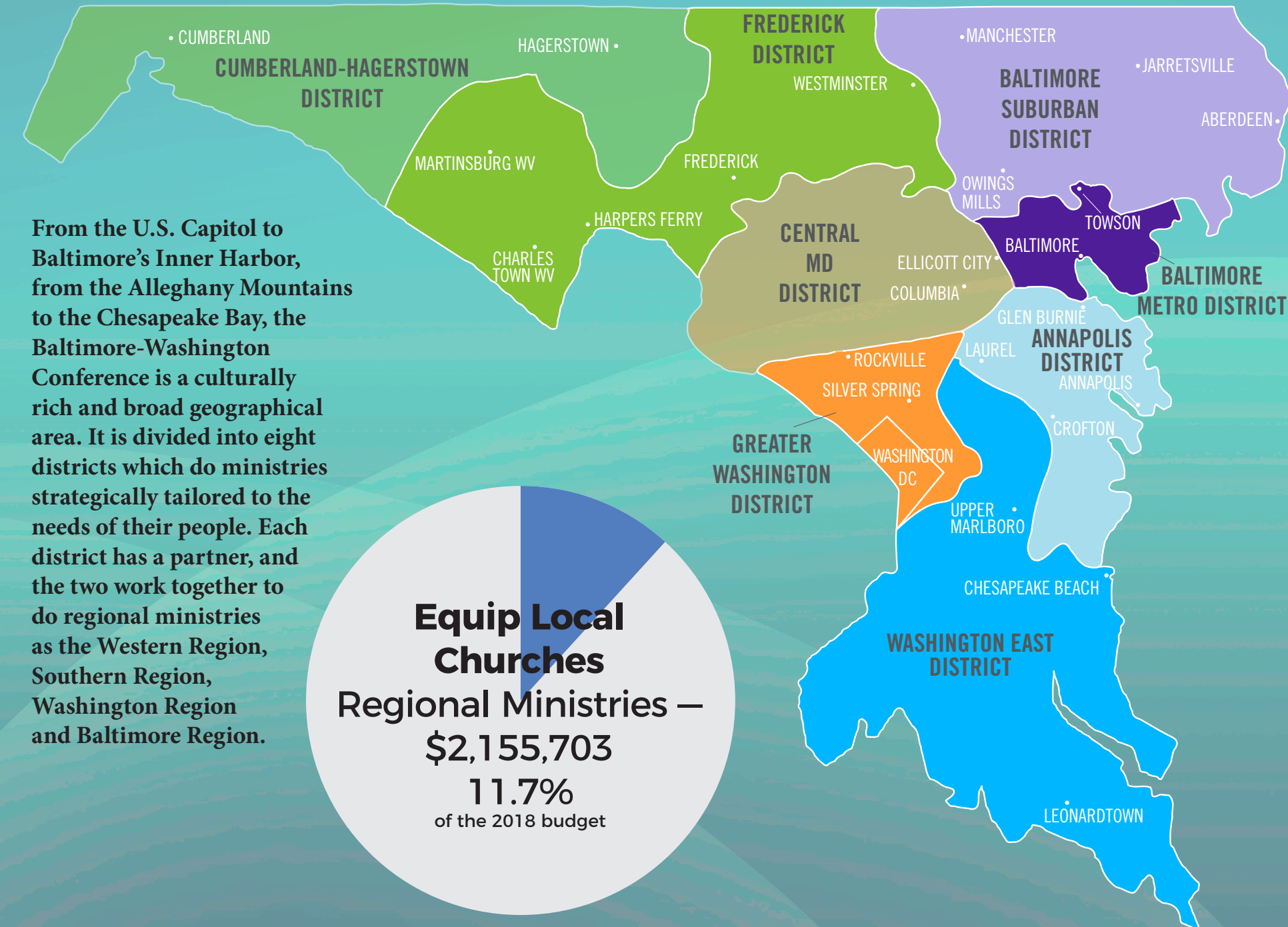
These discipleship efforts are led by a 60-member staff working at the Mission Center in Fulton, Md., five college campuses, our three retreat and camping facilities and more than a dozen historical United Methodist sites. They work with the clergy and lay spiritual leaders of 623 churches.

The Baltimore-Washington Conference has a vibrant discipleship witness. It has 514 active pastors and 151,816 members. Each Sunday, 51,383 people gather in United Methodist churches to worship, and 14,722 meet for church school.

In 2018, according to statistical reports, 52,696 adults were involved in small groups and 57,291 engaged in mission.



DISTRICTS OF THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE



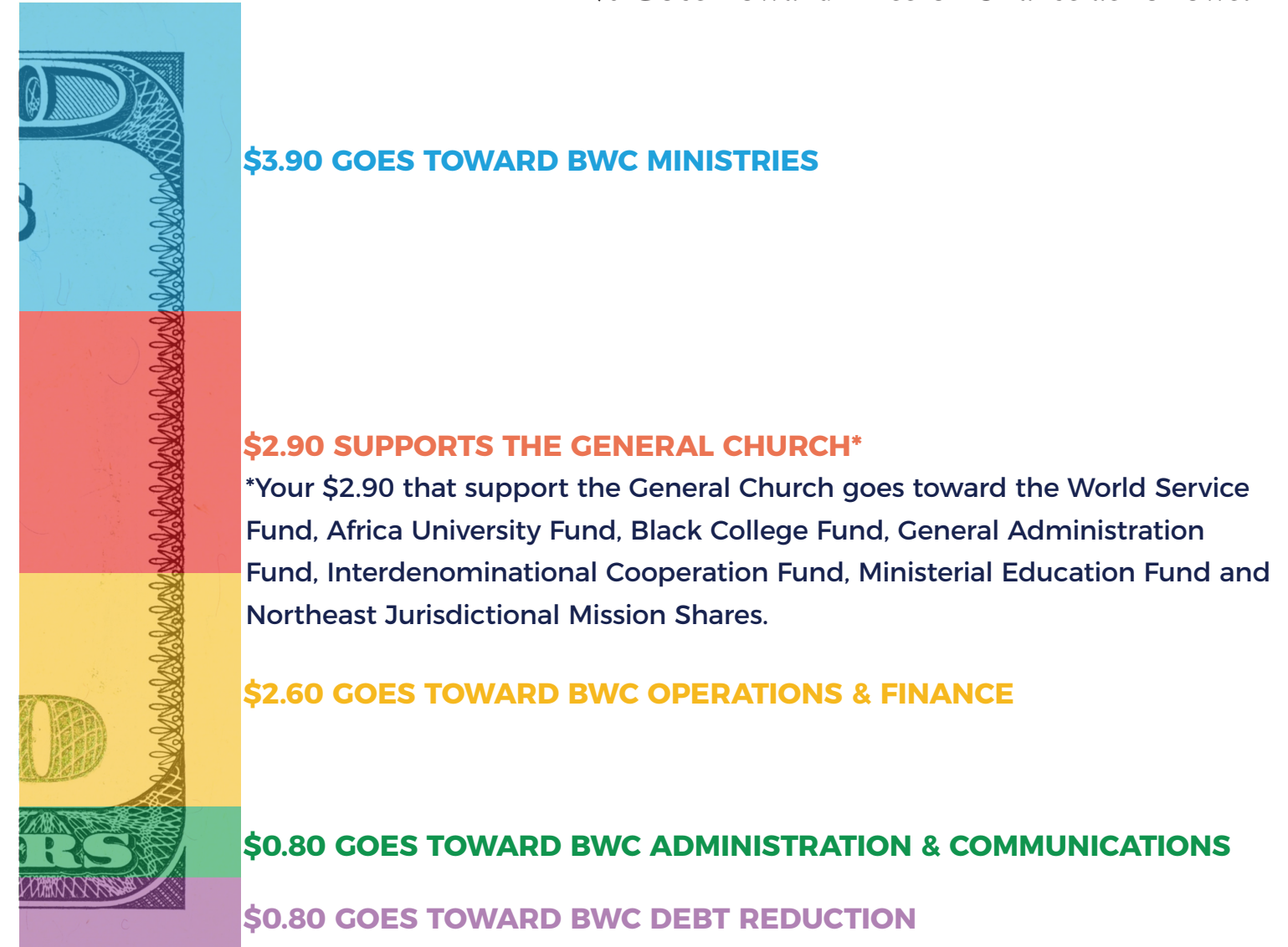
WE ARE FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF EVERY DOLLAR WE RECEIVE



For every hundred dollars put in a collection plate or through other means of giving at the local church:

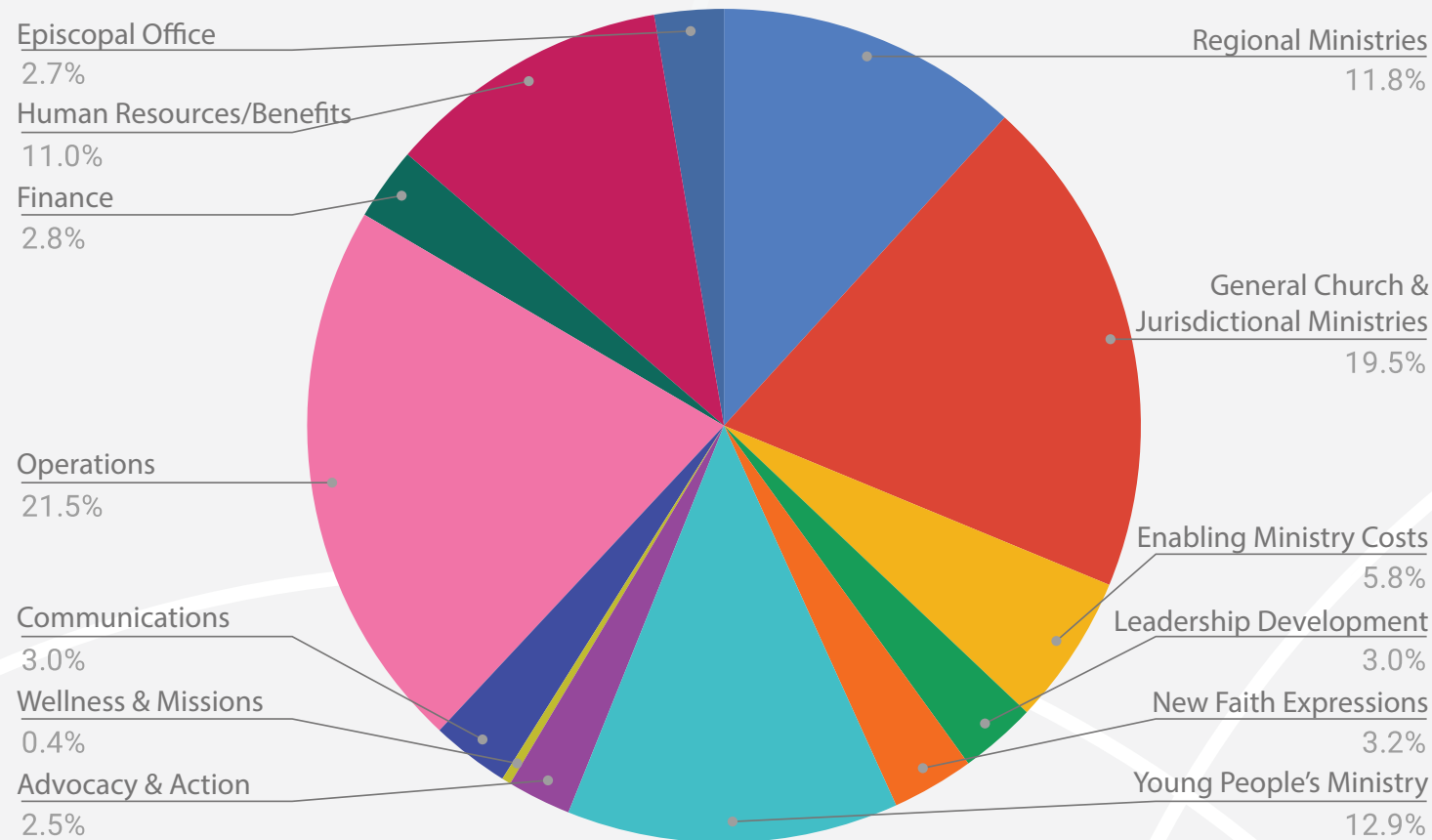
89% Stays with Local Church

11% Goes Toward Mission Shares as follows:

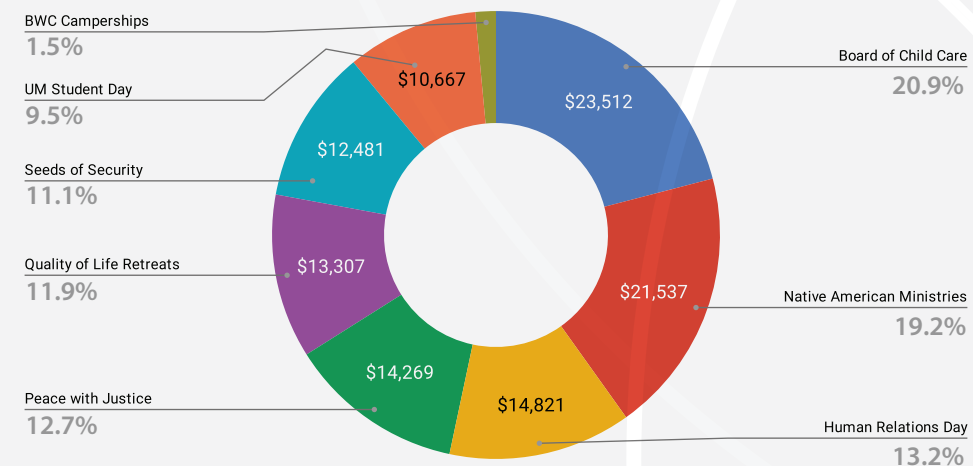


2018 BWC BUDGET - \$18,335,931

Connectional giving – all of us giving together – allows United Methodists to do together what we cannot do alone. Through the spiritual act of giving in response to what God has done in our lives and our world, the people of the Baltimore-Washington Conference fund mission and ministry around the corner and across the world.



BWC Special Sunday offerings and campaigns blessed these ministries:



OUR SOCIAL CREED

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

GET CONNECTED

The Baltimore-Washington Conference seeks to inspire and equip local faith communities to develop disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through developing spiritual leaders, launching new faith expressions, entrusting young people, engaging in advocacy and action and creating abundant health for all through wellness and missions so that more transformed lives transform lives.



Together we share
resources, network and
grow all to the glory
of God.

BWC Ministries

[bwcumc.org/
conferenceleadership](http://bwcumc.org/conferenceleadership)