Celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Upper New York Conference

"Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people." 1 Peter 2:10 (NLT)

Five years ago the Upper New York Conference was just a dream. We existed as four separate conferences that crossed state boundaries into Vermont and Pennsylvania. In the planning stages we were like an engaged couple. We did things together and made exciting plans, but that wasn't the same as living together and combining all of our talents, people and resources into a completely new corporate and spiritual entity. With a single vote on June 19, 2010, we were no longer what we were. A whole new "us" had been born.

It's one thing to cast a vote and declare that we are now the Upper New York Conference, it is quite another to pull together all the finances, details, and visions that are involved in actually making our new Conference a reality. It has taken five years to bring us together and make us who we are today. Our engagement is over, and now we look to move into greater ministry as we partner together as the people of Upper New York.

Local churches from Plattsburgh to Jamestown have banded together to finance ministry on a very large scale. The purpose of this pamphlet is to share the story of what we have created together.

You may address questions or feedback to the Upper New York Conference Finance Team at **FinanceTeam@unyumc.org** or (315) 424-7878.

For additional copies of this brochure, you may print from our website at www.unyumc.org.

The story of

Ministry Shares

Sharing God's gifts with the world

Brought to you by the Upper New York Conference Council on Finance and Administration

"What makes us special as United Methodists is our Connection. Alone no individual church could hope to stop killer diseases around the world, provide ministry to every setting in our Conference, bring spiritual healing to people near and far, or provide any of the other countless vital ministries that your Ministry Shares support ... But together we can do amazing things!" – *Upper New York Bishop Mark J. Webb*

What does this mean for *my* church? To determine how much of your total ministry shares amount were allocated to the main components of the Annual Conference budget, download the Ministry Shares worksheet from **www.tinyurl.com/MyMinShares**. When you enter your church's ministry share amount in the yellow box at the top, the spreadsheet will automatically calculate the component amounts for you.

Where does your money go?

Ministerial Support
$3,534,496
34%

Conference Connectional Ministries
$2,626,493
26%

General (Global) Connectional Ministries (General Church Apportionments)
$2,145,084
21%

Administrative Ministries
$2,034,365
19%

Source figures: Based on 2015 Ministry Share Revenue Budget
As the percentage of churches that do not pay their ministry shares falls short of 100%, remember that fixed expenses remain at 100%, and spending for discretionary Conference ministries will be more substantially decreased.

What is
Ministerial Support?

The primary focus of these monies is to teach, ordain, appoint, develop and support clergy to serve in our local churches and congregations. The work of the Episcopal Office, the Cabinet and our district offices is funded under Ministerial Support. These apportionments represent approximately 34% of our annual budget, such as:

- Board of Ordained Ministry
- District Operations
- Board of Pensions & Health Benefits
- Equitable Compensation
- Ministerial Support (including moving expenses)
- Bishop's Crisis Response Team
- Episcopal Office
- General & Jurisdictional Travel Reserve (used every four years)

Here are a few examples of your Ministry Share dollars at work:

- **Thirteen (13)** grants were extended to RON MOT's to help the needy through your Ministry Shares.
- Your shared ministry dollars reached out to **nine** College Ministry sites this past year.
- Camp Ministries touched **16,111** participants in 2014 – **2,566** were campers, **1,145** were site-hosted programs along with many guest groups!

What are Conference
Connectional Ministries?

Funding of Conference Connectional Ministries supports a variety of programs which enhance, expand and extend the disciple-making ministries of Upper New York's local churches. These programs include:

- Leadership training through the work of Lay Servant Ministries, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries and the Second Half of Life Older Adult Ministries;
- Camp & Retreat Ministries offered at Aldersgate, Asbury, Casowasco, Findley, Skye Farm, and Sky Lake;
- Justice and mercy ministries led by our Social Holiness Team, our Committee on Native American Ministries, our Reaching Our Neighbors Ministry Oversight Team and our commissions on Religion and Race and the Status and Role of Women;
- Congregational development initiatives like Hand to Plow, New Faith Community Planting and the Road T.R.I.P.

Financial support of Connectional Ministries enables small, medium and large congregations from across our Conference to share resources and do big things together.

What are General
Connectional Ministries?

Your gifts to the General (Global & National faith partnership) Connectional Ministries represent the Conference's apportionment determined by the General (Global) Church to fund the broader initiatives of the denomination. They allow our local congregations to reach far beyond our community to change the world for Christ. Along with the connectional power of more than 14,000 local congregations and more than 11.1 million professing United Methodists, our Conference's ability to pay these apportionments is directly dependent on the level of Ministry Share payments by our local churches. These apportionments represent approximately 21% of our annual budget, such as:

- World Service
- Ministerial Education
- Black College
- Africa University
- Episcopal
- Interdenominational Cooperation
- General Administration
- Jurisdictional Administration

How are Ministry Shares calculated?

The process and calculation of an individual church's annual Ministry Share allocation starts with the adopted Conference budget, which has averaged just over $10 million per year since 2011. This annual budget total is allocated to our churches based on operating income reported by each church in their annual statistical report. The total of all our churches' annual operating income totals approximately $71.8 million. The $10 million budget divided by the $71.8 million income figure gives us an annual Ministry Share percentage to apply to each churches' reported operating income. The Ministry Share percentage for 2015 is 14.41379%.

What are
Administrative Ministries?

Administrative Ministries include the Conference-level activities to manage the operations of the Conference to enable and support the work of our staff and teams as they carry out our mission and strategies. These apportionments represent approximately 19% of our annual budget, such as:

- Operations & Communications
- Computer Services
- Pension & Health Benefits Services
- Financial Services
- Support Services
- Board of Trustees
- Council on Finance & Administration

"Now this will be the sign for you, Hezekiah: This year you will eat what grows by itself. Next year you will eat what grows from that. But in the third year, plant seed and harvest it; plant vineyards and eat their fruit."

Isaiah 37:30 CEB

"They plant fields and vineyards and obtain a fruitful harvest."

Psalm 107:37 CEB