

DOLLAR\$ & \$ENSE

AUGUST 2024

CONFERENCE TREASURER

2024-2025 Advance Special Partners

The Advance is an accountable, designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures 100% of each gift is used for its intended mission or ministry. Our work fulfills both physical and spiritual needs through various partnerships in the Commonwealth to make a life-changing and long-lasting impact. The Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church continues our effort to support our Advance Special Partners through prayer, financial support, and engagement. To learn more about the Virginia, National, and International Advance Specials go to <https://vaumc.org/advance/> and find a partner in ministry!

The General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) is the worldwide mission, relief and development agency of The United Methodist Church, working with partners and churches in more than 115 countries to equip and transform people and places for God's mission. To find a missionary or a ministry to provide support, go to <https://umcmision.org/>.

Partnerships of Hope – September Offering

Partnerships of Hope (POH) is one of the five Annual Conference Special Offerings. POH is a focused effort of the Virginia Conference, partnering in mission for the 'Transformation of the World' to cultivate soil for the Gospel to grow through our six partners: Brazil, Cambodia, Haiti, Mozambique, Native American Ministries, and Vietnam. Through your support, we will be able to continue to join hands with our partners to share the good news across the world! Go to <https://vaumc.org/partnerships-of-hope/> to learn more or email missions@vaumc.org.

Church treasurers can remit contributions to the Treasurer's office by notating **Fund #5015-Partnerships of Hope** at the bottom of your apportionment statement or remitting a payment through vaumc.acumatica.com.

Labor Day Holiday

The Conference Office will be closed on Monday, Sept 2nd in observance of Labor Day.

Local Church Audit

As we begin to look towards the fall and churches are planning their Charge Conferences, the local church finance team should designate an audit committee that is independent to conduct the audit. The Audit Committee should be composed of at least two people unrelated to the treasurer, financial secretary, pastor(s), finance committee chair, business manager, those who count the offerings, or the church secretary. The key to using an audit committee made up of people within the church is *independence*, both in fact and appearance with no bias. They can be members of your church or swapped with members from another church. Go to the online audit guide for step-by-step instructions.

<https://www.gcfa.org/resource/local-church-audit-guide>.

UMC Partners in Ministry

The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) has built relationships with vendors and businesses outside our connection to provide services for our local churches. A few of the partners are:

- Tithely – six ways for people to give to your church, including a Giving App
- Home Depot – Pro Xtra Program for our local churches
- Payroll Partners – Payroll solutions
- UMC Market – church members can shop online and earn a donation for their UMC ministry/church
- Staples – Business Advantage
- And many more partners!

Explore all the partners through the link below:

<https://www.gcfa.org/umc-partners-program>

Undue Medical Debt

Undue Medical Debt is an organization that purchases medical debt from insurance and other third-party companies to erase medical debt for the most vulnerable persons in our communities. Your church can support this effort through **Fund 5000-Va Benevolences Misc and note Medical Debt**.

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