

## VIRGINIA CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL GUIDELINES 2023-2024

### **Statement of Purpose:**

A conference Advance program may be established and carried out in the same spirit of partnership as the general Advance program.

A conference Advance Special Gift is made to a conference Advance Special project within the bounds of the annual conference or episcopal area authorized by an annual conference upon recommendation by the conference board of global ministries or its equivalent structure and consistent with the goals of the Advance. The funds received shall be administered by the Conference Missional Ministries Board or such structure as designated by the conference. (*The Book of Discipline, 2016, paragraph 656*)

Churches and individuals shall prioritize the support of the World Service Fund and conference benevolences and other apportioned funds. Advance giving shall be voluntary and in addition to the support of apportioned funds.

### **Mission:**

The Advance is an accountable, designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures 100% of each gift reaches its intended mission or ministry.

Endorsement is a policy approved by the Conference Missional Ministries Board, giving credibility and recognition to the Virginia Annual Conference. It provides the endorsed ministry a presence within the Mission Opportunities booklet and offers the conduit for individuals and local United Methodist Churches to support the ministry financially.

### **Eligibility:**

1. Applicants shall conform to the Disciplinary provisions for Conference Advance Specials as identified above (Statement of Purpose).
2. Applicants' ministries shall be located within the bounds of the Virginia Annual Conference.
3. Applicants' ministries shall align with the Virginia Annual Conference's mission priorities.
4. Applicants' ministries shall have adequate personnel, facilities, and funding. (Advance Special giving is voluntary in nature. It is expected that a project is not entirely dependent upon such giving. Still, a reasonable amount of financial support should be cultivated from other sources, including persons participating in the program.)

5. Any applying organization shall have United Methodist representation on the governing board to be eligible for consideration as a Conference Advance Special.
6. A financial statement of twelve months' activity by the ministry shall be provided with the application.

**New Application process:**

1. Any applying organization must submit the application to the Conference Office of Serving Ministries. Serving Ministries is responsible for informing the District Superintendent upon receiving the application.
2. The steps leading to approval include the following:
  1. The application will be presented to the Mission Connections Team for review and recommendation to the Conference Missional Ministries Board in its first meeting of the year.
  2. Ministries receiving recommendations from the Conference Missional Ministries Board should be printed in the Annual Conference Book of Reports and submitted to the Annual Conference for approval.
  3. Approved ministries shall remain included for the remainder of the quadrennium (December 31, 2027), submitting an annual report and the request for continuation.
  4. After approval, Conference Advance Specials shall be identified by the Virginia Annual Conference Advance Special number assigned by the Conference Treasurer's office.