

DOLLARS & SENSE

APRIL 2019

CONFERENCE TREASURER

2019 Annual Conference Offering

This year the Annual Conference special offering goal is \$150,000. Bishop Sharma Lewis is requesting contributions to support the eight ministries listed below.

- Africa University Student Scholarships - \$40,000
- Cambodia Pastors Leadership Scholarships - \$40,000
- Mozambique Lay Leadership Training - \$20,000
- Brazil "Shade and Fresh Water" children's program - \$20,000
- Just Neighbors Matching Funds Grant for Immigrant Legal Counsel in four districts - \$30,000

You may bring your offering to Annual Conference in Roanoke (June 20th-22th) or mail it to the Conference Treasurer's Office in advance. Please designate as **Fund #5500 – Annual Conference Offering** and **include your GCFA #**. Because we process hundreds of checks after the Annual Conference offering is taken up, we are unable to research each church name to apply it to your apportionment statement if your GCFA # is not provided. For more information about Annual Conference, go to www.vaumc.org/ac2019.

Kits for Conference

One way your church may be preparing for Annual Conference is packing Kits for Conference. Go to www.vaumc.org/AC2019 for details. If your church would prefer to have UMCOR purchase the supplies and assemble the kits, your church can simply send in a donation for any amount.

Cleaning Kits \$75 each
Hygiene Kits \$12 each
School Kits \$11 each

Send \$1 per packed kit (\$3 for cleaning buckets) to the Conference Treasurer for processing and shipping, and \$1 for toothpaste for each health kit. Please do not put the money in the actual kit. Do not turn it in with the kits at Annual Conference. Donations for Kits for Conference and contributions for transportation should be sent to the Conference Treasurer's Office designated as **Fund # 901440 – Material Resources (Kits for AC)**.

Personal Message from David Dommis

April 1st was my 11th anniversary at the Conference and it was my first day that I worked without Janet Davis. Janet retired at the end of March after 35 years with the conference. She helped countless church treasurers during her time and three conference treasurers. She will be sorely missed.

Clergy Housing Allowance ruled constitutional

The Virginia Conference Treasurer's office and Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI) are pleased to report that the Seventh Circuit US Court of Appeals ruled that the clergy housing allowance under section 107(2) of the Internal Revenue Code is constitutional. In the decision, the court held that excluding housing allowances from clergy taxable income does not violate the First Amendment's directive that Congress shall pass no law "respecting an establishment of religion." This unanimous decision overturns a prior district court ruling in which the allowance was declared to be unconstitutional.

Go to www.vaumc.org/document.doc?id=3480 to read the Appeals Court ruling.

The ruling was issued in Gaylor v. Mnuchin. That case was originally filed by the Freedom From Religion Foundation in 2011, challenging the constitutionality of the housing allowance. The Freedom From Religion Foundation may appeal the decision to the US Supreme Court, but it is uncertain whether the Supreme Court would take up the case.

Native American Ministries Sunday – May 5th

Native American Awareness Sunday is one of the six General Church Special Sundays. The funds are sent to the General Council on Finance & Administration (GCFA) and are equally divided between the Board of Higher Education and Ministry to provide scholarships for Native Americans attending schools of theology and the Native American Urban Initiative of the General Board of Global Ministries. For additional information go to www.umcsgiving.org and select Special Sundays. Record contributions for this cause at the bottom of your apportionment statement, designated as **Fund #4432 – Native American Awareness Sunday** and include the amount in your apportionment check.

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