

# DOLLAR\$ & \$SENSE

APRIL 2020

CONFERENCE TREASURER

## A Message from David

During these unusual times, I recognize that many of our churches are facing new challenges and being forced to adapt to different practices. My office is working to support our churches with resources and information. So far, we have established an online giving website for those churches that do not have already have this in place. This site allows members to give their weekly offering online. We have also worked with CFA to implement a change in our 2020 Apportionments designed to provide a financial relief while maintaining our services and ministries to assist our clergy and churches. We will continue to search for ways to be of assistance and provide support to you.

## Donation website

The Virginia Conference Treasurer's Office is pleased to announce the launch of a donation website. The Virginia Conference recognizes this is a period of hardship for many and in an effort to assist and facilitate giving for those churches that may not be able to do so on their own, this website has been created for online giving as well as offering the option to support the Pandemic Relief Fund. This is a collection of funds on behalf of the conference in an effort to support those organizations who are affected by or providing assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### For Churches

- \* Please communicate with your members about the online giving website: [www.vaumcdonations.org](http://www.vaumcdonations.org) .
- \* For faster processing, churches should instruct their donors to provide the church's GCFA #.
- \* Churches that receive donations will be contacted by the conference Treasurer's office to remit the funds to the church bank account.
- \* The conference is accepting the gift on behalf of the church and will acknowledge the gift for tax purposes.

### For Individuals

- \* To donate, please visit [www.vaumcdonations.org](http://www.vaumcdonations.org)
- \* Select either Local Church Online Giving or Pandemic Relief Fund.
- \* Provide the name of the church and the city; also include the church GCFA# if possible
- \* The website accepts debit card, credit card, and Google Pay
- \* You will receive an email which will serve as a receipt for tax purposes.

## CARES Act

Recently the US Senate passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). This can potentially help non-profits and small business keep their employees on their payroll. Applications can be submitted as early as April 3<sup>rd</sup>. To learn more, go to <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/cares-act> .

## CFA Prioritizes 2020 Apportionments

The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) recognizes the impact that the pandemic is having on local churches in the Virginia Conference. CFA responded by prioritizing the apportionments for 2020 in an effort to relieve the impact our local churches are experiencing. By prioritizing apportionments, this allows churches to pay the critical and essential amounts to support the Virginia Conference clergy and connection. CFA has divided apportionments into "Priority 1", making up 72.77% of the total apportionment with the remainder categorized as "Priority 2." Local churches are asked to first pay into Priority 1, and they will be considered having paid 100% of the 2020 apportionment if the Priority 1 amount is paid in full. CFA is encouraging churches to pay into Priority 2 as their financial situation allows. The overall Conference Apportionments for 2020 have not changed, just strategically prioritized.

Priority 1 represents the critical and essential ministries of the conference:

1. Clergy benefits will continue with no cuts to benefits
2. Clergy credentialing and supervision of clergy were given a high priority
3. The ministries and administration that support local churches were emphasized

We recognize ministries which were placed in Priority 2 are important and CFA hopes that churches that are able will continue to support these ministries to the extent their finances allow. Existing 2020 grant commitments awarded to churches and new faith communities, including Equitable Compensation, will be honored. Churches will be considered having paid 100% of the 2020 apportionment if the Priority 1 amount is paid in full. Churches must pay 100% of Priority 1 before contributions will be allocated to Priority 2. All contributions already received by the Treasurer's Office for 2020 have been re-allocated based on the new categorization. Churches and local treasurers will see this change reflected on their March apportionment statement. We encourage churches to use the website to remit payments using [www.vaumcpayapp.org](http://www.vaumcpayapp.org) , as it is the most secure way to ensure funds are safely delivered to the Treasurer's Office.