

SPECIAL SUNDAYS WITH OFFERINGS FOR OBSERVANCE IN 2022-2023

The United Methodist Church

From the *2016 Book of Discipline*:

¶ 263. Six churchwide special Sundays with offerings shall be celebrated in each United Methodist Church.

Purpose—General Conference shall determine the purpose of the churchwide offerings upon recommendation of the General Council on Finance and Administration, after consultation with the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table. The purpose of these offerings shall remain constant for the quadrennium, and the net receipts shall be distributed on ratio to the administering agencies by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration (see ¶ 824.7 and ¶ 805.6). The General Commission on Communication shall promote these offerings in cooperation with the agencies responsible for the administration of these funds. (See ¶ 1806.12.) Each offering shall be promptly remitted in full by the local church treasurer to the annual conference treasurer, who shall transmit the funds in full, except where noted differently below, to the General Council on Finance and Administration within thirty days of receipt in the office of the annual conference treasurer.

World Communion Sunday – October 2, 2022

World Communion Sunday is the first Sunday in October. The offering supports a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ. The offering supports the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry which provides ethnic scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. It also supports the World Communion Scholarship Leadership Development Program administered by the General Board of Global Ministries. This offering provides ethnic scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduate students studying in the U.S. and funds In-Service Training Programs for racial and ethnic persons.

United Methodist Student Day – November 27, 2022

The United Methodist Student Day offering is collected on the last Sunday in November and provides for over 70 scholarships available for United Methodist students to further their education and enrich the life of the Church. The Gift of Hope Scholarship is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. One hundred percent of the offering received goes to this scholarship fund.

Human Relations Day – January 15, 2023

Human Relations Day is the Sunday before the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday and supports outreach to underserved communities, ministries that respond to non-violent youth offenders, community advocacy, and faith-based volunteer programs for community developers, and other programs that work with at-risk teens. It also supports at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program administered by the General Board of Church and Society. The offering also supports community developers and community advocacy through the United Methodist Voluntary Service administered through the General Board of Global Ministries. One hundred percent of the offering goes to the General Council on Finance and Administration.

UMCOR Sunday – March 19, 2023

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is the fourth Sunday of Lent. This offering supports disaster and emergency relief administered by the United Methodist Committee on Relief. It enables emergency grants and supplies immediately after a disaster, provides for sustainable sources of food, water, and shelter, and allows UMCOR workers and volunteers to be among the earliest to arrive and the last to leave when people are in need. This offering helps strengthen communities through both disaster preparedness and long-term recovery. The special Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's costs of doing business, allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project (through Advances), rather than administrative costs. The offering is also used to create grants for partners around the world under UMCOR's different programmatic areas.

Native American Ministries Sunday – April 23, 2023

Native American Ministries Sunday is the third Sunday of Easter. This offering supports the development and strengthening of Native American ministries in the annual conferences, Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries, and communities relating to the General Board of Global Ministries. This offering provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology and it is distributed by the General Board of

Higher Education and Ministries and The General Board of Global Ministries with 50% remaining in the annual conference for the Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) to administer.

Peace with Justice Sunday – June 4, 2023

Peace with Justice Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost. The General Board of Church and Society has a vision to promote justice, by advocating public policies that protect the rights of all people. This offering supports the fostering of a better world by educating leaders and change-makers to become grassroots activists and global advocates who challenge systems of inequality. It also supports the connection of networks with ecumenical communities to advance peace and justice. Fifty percent provides grants to local churches, districts, conferences, and other affiliated organizations that advocate for peace with justice while the other 50% remains in your annual conference to develop local peace with justice ministries and support a peace with justice coordinator.