

January 21, 2009

Revised Spending Plan For 2009 Budget Adopted by Council on Finance and Administration

FLINT, Mich. – The Detroit Conference Council on Finance and Administration has adopted a “revised spending plan” for the 2009 budget in response to the current economic crisis, it was announced today (Wednesday, Jan. 21) by Barbara Ulman, CFA chairperson.

The revised spending plan includes a 70 percent payout of the approved 2009 budget, which was adopted at the last session of the Detroit Annual Conference in May 2008. The CFA also froze the salaries of all conference employees: district superintendents, council on ministries program staff, district administrative assistants, and conference support staff personnel at 2008 levels as part of the plan.

“These actions are in response to the economic situation of our country and state,” Ulman said. “However, we are hopeful that the local churches of the conference will be able to be generous and allow us to continue our mission and fulfill our calling to make disciples for Jesus Christ.”

Ulman noted that due to reductions in the pension and common budget apportionments, 2009 apportionment levels are already lower than the 2008 totals. Further reduction of the 2009 apportionment to local churches is not planned at this time.

“Our conference, through its leadership, has responded with a good deal of sensitivity and discipline to the benevolent and administrative needs of the conference,” said the Rev. John C. Huhtala, Sr., conference director of connectional ministries. “They have made decisions that will enable the conference to be responsive and in ministry in a time of grave financial concern. We are moving forward with the hope that we can continue to live in a Christ-centered perspective of our call to be in ministry to others.”

The revised spending plan is in response to the conference receiving 71 percent of apportioned funds, the lowest return in over 10 years, as well as no investment earnings in 2008. The conference was able to pay its 2008 general church apportionments at the level of receipts only, breaking a seven-year record of 100 percent payment of general church apportionments. Of the seven apportioned funds that come from the general church, only the Episcopal Fund and the Africa University Fund were paid 100 percent. All other funds were paid at the level of receipts.

In addition to the revised spending plan, the CFA is proposing a 2010 budget that will be two percent higher than the 2009 revised spending plan, or 28 percent lower than the approved budget for 2009.

The 2010 budget will be put before the members of the Detroit Annual Conference for their approval during its annual session on May 14-17, 2009, on the campus of Adrian College in Adrian, Mich.

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