

11. Acceptable investments will include funds managed by the North Georgia United Methodist Foundation, the United Methodist Development Fund or the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

F. Supervision:

1. The Council will maintain and review:
 - a. the investment policies and objectives of the Council;
 - b. procedures for a periodic analysis, at least annually, of the application of these investment policies and objectives and the performance resulting therefrom; and
 - c. procedures for handling the receipts, deliveries, transfers, and safekeeping of securities and the safeguarding of assets.

ADVANCE Mission Special Guidelines

I. Preamble

The Advance is the official program within the United Methodist Church (except for World Service Special gifts and programs of the United Methodist Women) through which support may be designated by individual groups, classes, and churches for projects approved by the Advance Committee.

Endorsement is a policy approved by the Missions/Global Ministries' Committee under the Outreach Team in the Office of Connectional Ministries by which a ministry/agency may receive credibility and recognition within the North Georgia Conference. It provides the endorsed ministry a vehicle by which it can receive conference advance mission contributions. It will provide entry into United Methodist local churches in order to tell its name behind the endorsed ministry. It is important to be an endorsed ministry because it identifies that ministry as something special and unique. Endorsement must be protected in order for it to work and have credibility.

II. Endorsement Criteria

- A. The ministry must be uniquely church related. It must be able to show a clear biblical and theological foundation.
- B. The ministry must have significant United Methodist Church involvement such as United Methodist organization, Board membership, or housed in a United Methodist Church.
- C. The ministry must justify that the Advance is the best vehicle for it to relate to the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church.
- D. The ministry must show that it uses an adequate fiscal accounting method and must make its fiscal reports available to the Advance representative.
- E. The ministry must have a realistic budget and plan for acquiring adequate funds.
- F. The ministry addresses significant needs of the church and community. Preference will be given to ministries that enables and empower persons and communities or that intervene in critical situations.
- G. The ministry must not duplicate a program being supported by the Conference. If it does, justification must be given for the duplication.
- H. The ministry must support one or more of the mission outreach programs of the church.
- I. The ministry must agree to an annual review of its immediate and long range goals and objectives.

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- J. The ministry must send the Missions/Global Ministries' Committee an annual financial statement (copy of audit if available, annual program report and evaluation that it does).
- K. Any major changes in programs, policies or staff must be reported immediately to the Missions/Global Ministries' Committee.

III. Agreement of Outreach Ministry Team

- A. Endorsement does provide a vehicle for an endorsed ministry to receive Advance Mission Special contributions from United Methodist churches in North Georgia.
- B. Advance Mission Specials received through the Advance designated for an endorsement ministry will be sent to the endorsed ministry dollar for dollar.
- C. Endorsement does not inform United Methodist churches that the endorsed ministry is a creditable agency and worthy of contributions that the local church may choose to give.
- D. The Missions/Global Ministries' Committee will provide a list of all the endorsed ministries to United Methodist churches in North Georgia.
- E. The Missions/Global Ministries' Committee will from time to time include descriptions and other information concerning endorsed ministries in its publicity.
- F. The Missions/Global Ministries' Committee will clearly delineate in its reporting of work done by approved and endorsed ministries so that each will receive full credit for its work.
- G. An Advance member may agree to help approve and/or endorse ministries as time may allow.

IV. Limitation and Endorsement

- A. Endorsement does not assure United Methodist funding or funding from the Missions/Global Ministries' Committee.
- B. Endorsed ministry is responsible for its own publicity and contacts with local churches.
- C. An Advance representative or its designee to the endorsed ministry has the option to serve as liaison to the endorsed ministry on behalf of the Missions/Global Ministries' Committee but assumes no responsibility for fund-raising and publicity for the endorsed ministry.
- D. The Missions/Global Ministries' Committee will give preference to United Methodist Church related ministries although its endorsement is not limited to them.
- E. Endorsement shall originate with and shall be received annually by the Missions/Global Ministries' Committee.
- F. Endorsement is for one year only beginning July 1.
- G. Endorsement is based on the needs presented that year. Needs will be prioritized annually.

V. Criteria for Becoming Unendorsed

- A. Voluntary withdrawal of endorsement by the ministry.
- B. Any action of the endorsed ministry which violates the principles of the criteria such as maladministration, mismanagement, or misappropriation.
- C. Major program and organizational changes without the approval of the Missions/Global Ministries' Committee.
- D. Upon the judgment of the Missions/Global Ministries' Committee representative to the endorsed ministry, any recommendation for the suspension of endorsement will be given in writing to the ministry. This notice will detail what is considered

wrong and state that “temporary suspension” is given pending action of the North Georgia Missions/Global Ministries’ Committee.

- E. The Missions/Global Ministries’ Committee shall grant suspension of endorsement after a meeting called for the purpose of retrieving the report and changes of the Missions/Global Ministries’ Committee and hearing from the endorsed ministry.
- F. The ministry may become unendorsed by the discretion of the Missions/Global Ministries’ Committee based on the needs presented that year.
- G. **The ministry will be unendorsed if it fails to return the Renewal application.**

VI. Procedure for Requesting

- A. Request application to become a Conference Advance Special from the chair of the Missions/Global Ministries’ Committee in the Office of Connectional Ministries.
- B. Complete the entire application and return it to the chair of the Missions/Global Ministries’ Committee of the Office of Connectional Ministries.
- C. The Missions/Global Ministries’ Committee will study the request and make a recommendation and vote on the recommendation at their next regularly scheduled meeting.
- D. If the Missions/Global Ministries’ Committee approves it, it will be presented at Annual Conference as a part of the report of the Office of Connectional Ministries.

Resolution on Disaster Response

WHEREAS, disasters are going to happen, come when least expected, and have lasting effects on physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of those involved; and

WHEREAS, North Georgia has experienced devastating floods, hurricanes, tornados, fires and human-made disasters in recent history; and

WHEREAS, every responsible person regardless of age can offer themselves to respond to a disaster through physical work, emotional support, and/or spiritual prayer; and

WHEREAS, Scripture calls us to be ready to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, treating all people with fairness and equality; and

WHEREAS, the North Georgia Annual Conference has a Disaster Response Committee in place; and

WHEREAS, the conference Disaster Response Committee has developed training in coordination with UMCOR and UMVIM to prepare men and women to respond to a disaster; and

WHEREAS, training is offered by the conference Disaster Response Committee on a regular basis; and