

Statement to GCFA Regarding the Base Percentage Rate

November 2, 2018

Sharing resources across the UMC has been part of the Wesleyan connectional ethos from the very beginning of our denomination when circuit riders delivered pamphlets across the frontier that were printed in a single printing house. The ability to quickly shift resources where needs and opportunities emerged enabled strategic decisions that responded to those needs on behalf of the emerging denomination.

While The Connectional Table has not been involved in determining the base percentage this year (for the first time) we are aware that 5 of the 6 past General Conferences have seen significant cuts to the World Service portion of the budget. We are concerned that there is a “minimum level” of funding the program needs of the denomination that will essentially mean that we are no longer a “connectional church” as we reflect a more congregational polity in funding ministries primarily at the local level, and less and less at the denominational level. It seems to us that the proposed 18% reduction in World Service funding has this result for the agencies who receive World Service funding. What conversations are taking place around this concern as GCFA makes these budgetary decisions?

How is the part of the budget that is *not* World Service funding being affected by these budget cuts?

Our hope is that there will be a formal response to our concerns and reconsideration of the base rate by January 1, 2019 in order to assist the Connectional Table budget allocations team in their work.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Connectional Table