

Friends,

While I understand that for many the primary reasons for changing our affiliation are theological and spiritual, as finance chair, I wanted to share a practical advantage to affiliating with the GMC. The transitional Book of Discipline and the leadership council of the GMC have designed a leaner, more efficient structure for the general church. Less local church money will be paid to support a large institutional structure which frees up more money for local church ministry and mission. Here are some facts and figures about our apportionments -

Apportionments for the UMC and the GMC are calculated by a local church operating income. Our 2022 apportionments total to \$76,847. 42% of that is to the general church, 53% to our annual conference, and 5% to the district.

If the congregation votes to affiliate with the GMC, our apportionments the first year would only be 2% of our operating income, or about \$20,000. After the first year GMC has capped apportionments at 1.5% of operating income for the general church and 5% for annual conference operations, or a total cap of 6.5% - of those funds, 77% support the annual conference and 23% support the general church. This means, using our present operating income, our apportionments would be approximately \$60,500. That is a difference of over \$56,000 in the first year of affiliation and \$16,000 in subsequent years. That translates to more local mission and ministry for our local church and community.

Tania Whitfield

AUMC Finance Chair