



Questions and Answers Pre-Conference Gatherings AC 2024

○ **2025 budget proposal**

- Why is there is an increase in the Dakotas Cabinet budget.
The dual role of Executive Director of Connectional Ministries and Southeast District Superintendent will end. A full-time salary is in place for the Southeast District Superintendent.
- How much is the stipend for pastors who are moving in 2024?
The moving stipend is \$5000 plus \$3 per mile. For clergy couples, the stipend is 125% of the standard stipend. Clergy may apply for additional amounts if the stipend does not cover all moving expenses.
- Why is the 25% added for a clergy couple?
You have more things to move since you have to move two different offices, office libraries etc.
- Is the former Aberdeen First UMC missing from the disaffiliation list (Page 10 on the Conference Workbook)?
Aberdeen First UMC disaffiliated in 2022. The list on page 10 of the Conference Workbook, in the Treasurer's report, list churches that disaffiliated in 2023.
- The numbers regarding the deficit seem to differ from those on p. 8?
Yes, a small adjustment was made in Archives & History budget to reflect an increase of about \$3,000.
- It seems to suggest that CCFA "approved" the apportionment formula. Did you mean they recommended it to the AC?
CCFA approved a recommendation to the Annual Conference that will come before the body during the 31st Session.
- Please explain the plans for using the 2.2 million reserves over years 26-28.
2024 we are expecting a smaller budget shortfall than originally estimated because the Board of Pensions has decided to cover the direct bill for



conference staff, an estimated \$200,000. We also may come in under budget because of decreased expenditures. We will decide when we get to closer to the end of 2024 how and when to use the reserve funds. The Wisdom Council will look at how we can go forward into the next years with strategic planning. The council will be looking at other ways to fund some of our goals, including grants, fundraising, and capital campaigns.

- What accounts for the reduction in General Church apportionments?

The 2025-2028 budget was passed at General Conference that lowered the base rate for General Church apportionments from 3.29% to 2.6% of local church expenditures coupled. The lower base rate coupled with fewer churches due to disaffiliation accounts for the reduction.

- In the list of disaffiliated churches, I don't see Selby. There are 38 listed of 39 mentioned at the top of page 10.

The list on page 10 is of those churches who disaffiliated in 2023. Selby disaffiliated in 2022.

- Who or how is the Wisdom Council elected?

The Wisdom Councils is by invitation of the bishop, after input from the Dakotas Conference Cabinet, Extended Cabinet, and Common Table. A variety of clergy and laity were selected representing voices that are not necessarily in other seats of leadership. [View an article that lists the membership.](#)

- **Board of pensions**

- Scheduling clarification - on Wednesday night, there is a clergy gathering at Legacy and then clergy session at McCabe?

→ No, both clergy sessions are at Legacy also (sorry for the typo)

- **Organizational Resolutions / Consent Calendar/ Nominations**

- Voting will be by voice vote. If needed there will show of hands and / or standing. Paper ballots are available if needed.

- So, our current move policy is in effect and being used for moves this summer?

→ We have an interim move policy in place that was approved by CCFA and the



Common Table, implemented on an interim basis for moves this summer until it goes before the Annual Conference for a vote.

○ **General Conference**

- When is the summary of the discussion from May 11th going to be available?
→ It was sent to clergy in an e-mail on May 30.
- When will the Dakotas Conference vote to affirm GC action?
→ Constitutional amendments will be ratified at our 2025 Annual Conference. This matter is around regionalization and structural pieces.
- I assume we will not have a proposal ready for a path for churches that disaffiliated to re-enter the United Methodist Church.
→ That was affirmed as a part of GC that there will be a way for churches to become United Methodist again. The legislation will go into effect Jan.1, 2025.
- We will have quadrennial elections among them the treasurer, conference secretary, statisticians, chancellors and conference co-lay leaders.

AC 2024:

- There will be round tables in the plenary space
- We will have Wi-Fi at Legacy and McCabe.
- You can pay for t-shirts that were preordered at the registration desk.
- You can bring snacks to the Annual Conference. 😊
- A message from Marty Toepke-Floyd: Please attend the Lunch and Learn about Green Church formation on Friday, June 7 at noon. Special guests will be present from Yankton UMC Green Team and from Capital Electric Coop (Bismarck) to discuss how churches can save money and help the environment. This is a General Conference and United Women in Faith priority for churches
- The CLMS will be changed from the usual Friday evening slot. It will happen on Saturday morning at 10am at McCabe and will be live streamed on our website.
- We have an online schedule that can be used via App on your phone. There will be instructions at the registration table.