

2026 PNW Annual Conference Budget FAQ

In this FAQ, we are attempting to answer some anticipated questions around the conference budget, apportioned giving, and related items. More information on how we calculate apportionments and distribute the budget can be found in the Funding Ministry and Mission booklet on the conference website. <https://pnwumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/missionandministry2024.pdf>

How much is the 2026 Annual Conference Budget, and how does it compare to previous years?

The ask of the PNW churches is \$4.5 million, 3% higher than in 2025. This is down significantly over the last 15 years from its peak of \$6.1M. Over this time, we have worked to align our conference budget with changes in the needs of local churches, their capacity to support connectional giving, and financial realities we all face, like inflation.

General Church Apportionments: Are we paying 100% of what is asked of us to the general church?

It has been our practice to pay 100% of the latest General Church and Jurisdictional asking. This is one way we model the value of connectional giving at all levels of the Church.

Why are the General Church Apportionments in the budget slightly different from what they were in 2025?

Disaffiliation has impacted the distribution of General Church apportionments across conferences. The PNW Conference saw a small decrease in our allotment, which is reflected in our budget.

Under GNW Episcopal Office, \$35,000 is listed. Does this pay for space use and utilities? Do all three conferences have an episcopal office, or are all three contributing at a percentage rate to one office?

The GNW Episcopal Office is an expense shared among the three annual conferences using a ratio based on each conference's relative size. All three conferences share one staffed office for the bishop.

Under the district service center, how many staff are included?

The District Service Center staffing is 2.5 full-time equivalents (FTE). Two district administrators directly support the superintendents/district superintendents and their local churches and clergy. The ½ time position is combined with the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the District Committees to support clergy candidates through the entire process as a full-time position. The board supports their portion of this position from investment earnings.

The cost for District Superintendents covers which staff? And where is the housing endowment from?

The line item for district superintendents pays for 5.5 staff FTE that support the superintendency role. We currently have three district superintendents, a new superintendency team in the SeaTac

District with three 1/3-time superintendents, one Transitional Ministry Developer, and a half-time Connectional Ministries Coordinator for the Seven Rivers and Inland Districts. Midway through 2026, we expect the team-based superintendency model to replace the current model in the remaining districts, hopefully working in the proposed budget. These positions fulfill the Superintendency requirements of the *Book of Discipline*.

The housing endowment was created from the proceeds of the sale of district parsonages over the past several decades. Those funds are invested, and the earnings are used to pay the housing allowances for the DSs.

There is a new line item called shared services. What does that mean, and where can I get more information?

Shared Services is a replacement line for the Treasurer's office. The funding here is pooled with the other two conferences and covers all financial, legal, human resource, property, benefits, and administrative staff working across the area. There are currently 9.5 FTE's that are shared in this way. The budget document represents the PNW Conference's share of the total. We have worked diligently for the last 3 years to broaden expertise, build resiliency in staffing, and embrace new ways to be church that meets federal and state requirements. Please refer to the Shared Services document for more information.

How many staff members is the requested salary amount covering for the Office of Connectional Ministry (OCM)?

The Office of Connectional Ministries includes the work of Ethnic/Hispanic Ministries, Communications, Camp and Retreat Ministries, Disaster Response, Circle of Indigenous Ministries, Board of Laity, Board of Discipleship, Ministry with Young People, Climate Care, and other programmatic areas. The OCM currently has 5.5 staff members on the payroll. The Hispanic Ministries Director's compensation is covered in its own line in this budget. Camp and Retreat Ministries funds its Executive Director from their operations.

Under annual conference session—what does the funding cover?

This amount most often includes things like the meeting space, AV and technical equipment, worship, speaker costs, production costs, overtime, meals and travel for non-exempt staff, etc.

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry—what is expected for those dollars? How many campus ministries are we supporting?

These funds help support campus ministries on three campuses and provide some programmatic money for opportunities across the Conference. This board has been diligent in scaling its budget to reflect the changes in the larger annual conference budget and regularly encourages campus ministries to develop diversified support.

Conference Trustees—what other funds do they have? What are they expected to do with 10,000 a year?

The Trustees are the legal entity for the annual conference. Their work includes insurance and risk, legal, and they have some responsibility for all conference property. These include: the conference

center, the episcopal residence, a district parsonage, closed church properties, and local churches (indirectly). Operating and maintenance costs for these properties, as well as their holding costs, legal, sales costs, etc., all come from the Trustees. Funding sources outside of the apportioned budget will be impacted by the passing of petition #10 at the 2025 PNW Annual Conference Session. Future budgets may need to respond to this.

The current nominal ask of the apportioned budget is primarily for legal and operating expenses and is supplemented by funds from the sale of church properties. Closed church proceeds also fund the Board of Congregational Development and its redevelopment/development projects.

Council on Finance and Administration—what is the point of a \$50 line item? Is it just a placeholder going forward so that line isn't lost? If so, then what funds does CFA actually have, and what are they used for?

This line item is for meeting expenses. CFA does not have any funds of its own but is responsible for overseeing all monies that pass through the conference office. They have an annual audit done for the Conference (separate line in the treasurer's budget) for all areas of Ministry.

Under local ministry funds in the district service center: what are these funds for? (It says AC young people—but what has happened with them in recent years?)

Each District Superintendent has access to about \$6,000 a year that has been used for purposes like the following: equalizing members of AC which helps to balance lay and clergy voices, supporting the expenses of youth and young adult representatives to annual conference, district programs, clergy day apart/recognitions, etc.

Leadership development: "funds available if needed"—from where? How much is available? What is the process for requesting these funds?

This line item is a discretionary line for the Cabinet for specific leadership development training or programs that would not fall within the guidelines for MEF funds available to the clergy. There is an accumulated surplus of \$45K presently available, so no ask is made of the local churches in this budget. These funds are available to the Cabinet for training and programming as they identify the need.

What is the healing care fund?

This fund is to support a local church should a boundary-related issue befall them. The current balance is just over \$9K, which would need to be supplemented with other resources when such an event might occur again.

Unpaid apportionments—how are we improving this number/participation? What percentage of churches paid what % in 2022, 2023 and 2024?

The Treasurer and the Cabinet work diligently on this each year. Most of our churches are extremely faithful in their shared ministry payments, but some have exigent circumstances that prevent them from meeting 100% of their goal in a given year. Others do not participate fully, which results in a higher allocation to other churches to make up for this shortfall. We have consistently received in the low 90% range (up dramatically from 74% in the early 2000s).

We included this estimated payout line for budgeting purposes of our boards and agencies, so they know what they will receive for the year. Our connectional system depends on every effort being made to pay 100% of the budget that our local church representatives to annual conference approve. This line of the budget would decrease (with savings passed along to local churches) if every church were to pay 100%.

More information on how apportionments are calculated and how the budget is distributed can be found in the Funding Ministry and Mission booklet on the conference website.

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