DISTRICT CONFERENCE

November 14, 2026

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A Letter from your District Superintendent

Grace and peace to you, beloved, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

We began the new conference year focused on our roots. Who we are and how we serve in light of our traditions. During our charge conference season, we took a walk down history lane and remembered that we are the extension of the community of Christ's invitation to a table of grace. In the Acts of the Apostles, we see this extended invitation lived out time and time again. Through house communities, public speeches, transformed lives, and engaging the people where they are. The early church is a wonderful display of shared ministry rooted in the person of Jesus Christ. Today we celebrate our own shared ministry across the district.

This packet is a piece of that shared ministry. Inside, you'll find our continued work and update on **district goals for 2027**, our **budget**, **reports** from staff and committees, **nominations** for leadership and **opportunities to collaborate** in mission and ministry across our connection. Each piece represents not just work accomplished, but lives touched, relationships formed, and hope extended.

As we look ahead, we stand on the rootedness of our faith and tradition, seeking new and collaborative ways to be in ministry together. I pray this year brings signs of revival, renewal, and recommitment to kin-dom work. Thank you for your leadership, your prayers, and your steadfast witness to God's transforming love. I am grateful to be ministering alongside you.

Grace upon grace,
Lindsey

Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown
Director of Connectional Ministries
Mission Rivers District Conference Report 2026

Dear friends and colleagues in ministry,

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior. I pray that all is well among you and that God's Spirit is working among you to lift the name of Jesus Christ in the communities you serve.

I write today to affirm the privilege I have enjoyed to serve as the Director of Connectional Ministries of the Mission Rivers District.

Among the many activities I have engaged in the past Annual Conference year have been the privilege of walking alongside many of your congregations which have been engaging visioning and/or re-visioning processes; engaging in candidacy conversations with those considering pursuit of ordained ministry.

I have also been blessed by partnering with District Clergy and Lay Leadership in strategic planning for the future of the District.

I have been invited by many of you to preach the Gospel for your congregations, something that has fed my spirit.

Finally, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work alongside our and support the ministry of our District Superintendent and the many outstanding lay leaders of the Mission Rivers District. All of the above and other duties as requested have brought me great joy.

I must interject at this juncture of my report that this will be my final year of active service. I plan to be fully retired at the end of this conference year. I thank God for the blessing of the journey.

Rev. Deborah Lewis
Director of Clergy Support
Mission Rivers District Conference Report 2026

Thank you for investing in the wellbeing and connection of our clergy!

Over the past year we have gathered 12 times in person and online. From book clubs with Lindsey, to a clergy appreciation lunch, to hikes and yoga, to historic site tours, to a Bake and Pray day apart, clergy have spent time together nurturing connection and their spirits. I have heard from many clergy—those who have been able to participate and those who have not yet been able to—that they are thankful for these offerings and for the encouragement and permission from our district to spend time tending to their whole selves.

In addition to clergy gatherings, I have spent time traveling the district to meet with clergy individually and helping connect clergy with resources to support their personal and vocational growth. I have offered pastoral support for those grieving or dealing with a health crisis. I have consulted with SPRC leaders as they consider how to best support the clergy with whom they work.

This is necessary and important ministry. Wespath has been tracking clergy wellbeing for more than 10 years now, across 5 dimensions: physical, social, spiritual, financial, and emotional. In their 2025 report[1], they note that since the previous report in 2023 some things have improved, some have held stable, and some have worsened. But in all categories, clergy wellbeing remains at lower-than-desired levels. As Wespath notes, clergy wellbeing impacts not just the clergyperson and their family, but their congregation and community as well.

Mission Rivers is unique in our Conference by creating this position and proactively focusing on clergy wellbeing and support. *Your* support is making a difference in the lives of Mission Rivers District clergy. You are making an investment in the long-term flourishing of our clergy, and by extension, our congregations and communities. Thank you!

[1] https://www.wespath.org/individuals/caring-for-your-well-being/well-being-overview/clergy-well-being-survey-results/

Mission Rivers Lay Servant Committee Annual Report

The Mission Rivers Lay Servant Committee is pleased to offer our yearly report. We continue to offer high-quality educational opportunities for both laity and clergy. Clergy participants are able to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through Clergy Excellence, while laity may take courses for personal enrichment or work toward certification as a Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker, or Certified Lay Minister.

Mission River continues to lead the conference in training. We offered training for church lay leaders, as well as three sessions of Safer Sanctuaries. These courses were open to any one seeking to learn, and we welcomed participants from around the conference. We are proud to report over **150 people** took a Safer Sanctuary training in the 2026 year, showing a commitment to protect our most vulnerable populations.

Our Lay Servant Ministries continues to offer year round training through several models: In Person and virtual, as well as classes during the week, on Saturdays and intensives.

Mission Rivers continues to partner with the **Virginia Conference** to support the Certified Lay Minister program, while also opening our classes to participants from other conferences. This year, we were delighted to welcome laity from beyond our district who sought training through Mission Rivers, further expanding the reach and impact of our ministry.

Throughout the year, the Lay Servant Ministries program offered seasonal sessions in Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. This included:

- Five classes in the Winter (Online)
- Four classes in the Spring (Online)
- Three classes in the Summer (Online)
- Four classes in the Fall (Online)
- Four classes in the Fall (In Person). This event was cancelled due to lack of participants.

In total, nearly **200 participants** engaged in Lay Servant Ministries training during 2025.

We are also pleased to report the recognition of **five new Certified Lay Speakers** and one **new Certified Lay Ministers** at the 2026 Annual Conference. Additionally, **six laity** are currently enrolled in the Certified Lay Minister program, continuing their journey of spiritual growth and service.

Kim Johnson,
Director of Resourcing
Mission Rivers District Conference Report 2026

I am thankful for another great year as part of the Mission Rivers District team. As the Conference's Director of Resourcing, I support many of our districts with communications, forms, technology, graphic design, registrations, and more, and I am glad Mission Rivers is one of them.

Much of this year's work grew directly out of the full communications audit completed in 2025. One of the biggest projects was a redesign of the district website. The new site is built to make it easier for clergy, laity, and anyone checking us out to find what they need, from upcoming events to district resources, without having to dig for it.

We also gave the district newsletter a fresh redesign, with a cleaner look and a layout that helps the most important news rise to the top. Alongside that, we've worked to streamline how information moves between the district office and our churches, so good news and important updates reach the right people without getting lost in the shuffle.

Forms are a big part of the behind-the-scenes work, too. I build and maintain the district's online forms, and this year we also moved the district's grant applications online, making it easier for churches to apply and for the district to keep requests organized.

In the coming year, I'll keep partnering with the district team to make our communication clearer, simpler, and more useful for our congregations, so our churches can spend less time searching for information and more time in ministry.

Thank you to the Mission Rivers team for your partnership and for the opportunity to serve alongside you. It is a joy to serve with the staff and the people of the district, even when much of what I do happens behind the scenes.

Kim Johnson
Director of Resourcing

Mission Rivers District Board of Directors

Class of 2027

Rev. Emily Moore-Diamond	emilymoorediamond@vaumc.org
Pastor Nancy Yarborough	nancyyarborough@vaumc.org
Rev. Chris Watson	chriswatson@vaumc.org

Class of 2028

Rev. Kristie Askew	kristieaskew@vaumc.org
Rev. Stephen Little	stevelittle@vaumc.org
Mr. Art Sheffield	alsheff43@gmail.com

Class of 2029

Mr. Robert Fry	bobbyscottfry@gmail.com
Mr. David Ledbetter	ledbetterward@gmail.com
Mrs. Unkyong “Jennie” Im	imunkyong@gmail.com
Mr. Barry Sudduth	brsudduth2000@yahoo.com

Mission Rivers District Committees

Finance Committee

TBD, Chair	
Ms. Rhonda Alexander	alexrhona@aol.com
Mrs. Deb Beutel (Lay Leader)	deb@beutel.us
Rev. Elizabeth Foss	elizabethfoss@vaumc.org
Bola Hill (Conf. Treasurer Support)	bolahill@vaumc.org
Rev. Chris Watson (Board rep)	chriswatson@vaumc.org
Mr. John Whitmore	jwhitmorev@aol.com
Mr. Kevin Wilson	kevinawilson55@gmail.com

Lay Servant Ministries Committee

Ms. Jenn Robinson-O'Brien, Director	MRDlayservants@vaumc.org
Ms. Cindy Banek	cindybanek@vaumc.org
Mrs. Deb Beutel (Lay Leader)	deb@beutel.us
Rev. Josh Hagstrom	joshhagstrom@vaumc.org
Rev. Angie Hoen	angiehoen@vaumc.org
Rev. Brian Sixbey	briansixbey@vaumc.org
Ms. Stephanie Serrett	hillcrestunitedmethodist@gmail.com
Pastor Nancy Yarborough (Board rep)	nancyyarborough@vaumc.org

Ministry of Inclusivity & Nominations Committee

Rev. Lindsey Baynham, Chair	MRDS@vaumc.org
Mrs. Deb Beutel (Lay Leader)	deb@beutel.us
Rev. Ellis Crum	Elliscrum@vaumc.org
Ms. Allison A. Hickey	allison.hickey@allin-solutions.com
Rev. Angie Hoen (Conf. Nominations)	angiehoen@vaumc.org
Ms. Lisa Jones (staff support)	LisaJones@vaumc.org
Rev. Dick Lahey	dicklahey@vaumc.org
Rev. Mina Sumpter	minasumpter@vaumc.org
Ms. Donna Turley (UWF)	donnamturley@gmail.com
Mr. Bob Pickett (UMM)	bob.pickett1@verizon.net
Mr. Art Sheffield (Board rep.)	alsheff43@gmail.com

Mission Committee

TBD, Chair	mrmissions@vaumc.org
Ms. Deb Beutel	deb@beutel.us
Mr. Tom Conley	pudpid@charter.net
Mr. Jim Helm	BJJ915123@gmail.com
Ms. Sarah Martin	sjhglm@charter.net
Mr. Christopher Merrill	d.christopher.merrill@gmail.com
Rev. Evelyn Penn	evelynpenn@vaumc.org
Mr. David Ledbetter (Board rep)	ledbetterward@gmail.com

TBD Vacancy

Mission Work Groups: Heartwood Seed Project, Disaster Response, Grants, Scholarships, and International Missions

District Committee on Ordained Ministry (July 2026 – June 2027)

Co-chairs:

Rev. Rebecca Rumburg Padgett	rebeccarumburg@vaumc.org
Rev. Owen Taylor	owentaylor@vaumc.org

District Staff:

Mrs. Lynn Manley (Staff rep)	lynnmanley@vaumc.org
Rev. Lindsey Baynham (DS)	MRDS@vaumc.org

Mrs. Kathy Dumas Angel, CLM	kathyhoggdumas@gmail.com
Rev. John Choi	johnchoi@vaumc.org
Rev. David Hindman	davidhindman@vaumc.org
Rev. Brian Johnson	brianjohnson@vaumc.org
Ms. Debbie McDaniels	dhmcdaniels@gmail.com
Rev. Mandy Newman	mandynewman@vaumc.org
Ms. Sarah Newton (Secretary)	s.newtonmrd@gmail.com
Rev. Brian Sixbey (Mentor Coordinator)	briansixbey@vaumc.org
Rev. Marcus Stallworth	marcusstallworth@vaumc.org
Rev. Eric Vaudt (Registrar)	ericvaudt@vaumc.org
Rev. Bertina Westley (BOM Rep)	bertinawestley@vaumc.org
Pastor Nancy Yarborough, CLM	nancyyarborough@vaumc.org

Superintendency Committee

Rev. Robin BeMiller, Chair	robinbemiller@vaumc.org
Mrs. Deb Beutel (Lay Leader)	deb@beutel.us
Mr. Warren R. Harper	wrscharper@gmail.com
Mr. Robert Pickett	bob.pickett1@verizon.net
Rev. Mina Sumpter	minasumpter@vaumc.org
Mr. Bob Fry (Board Rep)	bobbyscottfry@gmail.com
Rev. Barbara Lewis	barbaralewis@vaumc.org

Trustees Committee

Ms. Kristina Williams, Chair	kmswms@yahoo.com
Rev. Kristie Askew (Board Rep)	kristieaskew@vaumc.org
Mr. Chris Czubowicz	chriscfe107@yahoo.com
Rev. Jeffery R. Harrison	jeffharrison@vaumc.org
Rev. Carl Perez	carlperez@vaumc.org
Ms. Nancy Ransome	nanq52@charter.net
Rev. Tom Tipton	tomtipton@vaumc.org

Trustee Work Groups: Building & Location, Grants, and Closed Churches

UMM & UWF

UWF President	Donna Turley	donnamturley@gmail.com	757. 897.2806
UMM President	Bob Pickett	bob.pickett1@verizon.net	540.834.3068

MISSION RIVERS DISTRICT CONFERENCE

2027 BUDGET REPORT

Supporting and Investing in Local Churches, Laity, and Clergy

WE ARE 105 UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATIONS WITH ONE UNITING VISION —
TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.

Supporting churches from Fauquier County through the Northern Neck to Tidewater.

AI Disclosure: Presentation drafting & visual layout assisted by AI; all figures verified by District Leadership.

Mission Rivers District

105 Churches

$937,630 Budget

2027 Budget at a Glance*: Putting Local Churches First

-2.1% Decrease

District Apportionments were reduced from $213,740 to $209,184 — and capped at a 20% max change to protect individual churches. 51 of 106 churches decrease or stay flat.

64% Direct Investment

$597,000 from the Mission Fund goes directly into church grants, congregational support, youth projects, and field staff — funded 100% from reserves ($0 apportioned).

$4.48 Multiplier

Apportionments cover just 22.3% of our total $937,630 budget. For every $1.00 apportioned to a local church, the District puts $4.48 to work across our connection.

*The District budget is prepared by the District Finance committee, approved by the Board of Directors and presented to the District Committee.

The Board of Directors organizes the 2027 budget around Two Funds with one focus: supporting and investing in local churches, laity, and clergy.

1) Mission Fund — Direct Investment ($597,000 | 64%)

- 100% Reserve-Funded ($0 from Church Apportionments)
- Direct grants to churches: Trustees ($150k), Heartwood Seed ($119.5k), Mission Grants ($100k), Church Support ($36.75k), New Faith ($26.75k)
- Student Ministry project fund ($21k), Scholarships ($20k), ERT ($7k)
- Field staff working directly with churches & clergy (DDCM & DCS)

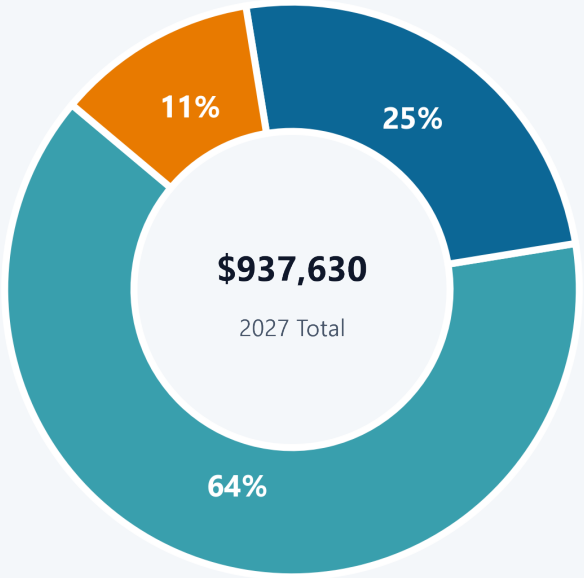
2) General Fund — Supporting Roles ($340,630 | 36%)

- Funded by Apportionments ($209,184) + District Investment Income, Parsonage Fund Transfer, and General Fund Reserves ($131,446)
- Equips local churches via Support Staff, Laity & Clergy Training, Annual Conference lay representation ($36k), and lean operations
- Reduced by -$8,107 (-2.3%) from 2026 through operational savings

Two Funds, One Mission: 89% Directly Equips Congregations

Aligning our financial structure with how we invest in and support local churches, laity, and clergy

2027 Budget Allocation ($937,630)



- **Mission Fund: Direct Investment ($597,000 | 63.7%)**
- **General Fund: Support Roles & Training ($234,500 | 25.0%)**
- **General Fund: Administrative Ops ($106,130 | 11.3%)**

88.7% (~89%) Invests In & Supports Local Churches!

MISSION FUND (40-4010) — Direct Investment — $597,000 (64%)

- Source of Funds: 100% funded from District Mission Reserves ($0 from church apportionments).
- Direct Grants & Vitality ($433,000): Trustees Capital/Emergency Grants ($150k), Heartwood Seed ($119.5k), Mission Grants ($100k), Responsive Church Support ($36.75k), New Faith Communities ($26.75k).
- NextGen, Scholarships & Programs ($57,500): Student Ministry Project Fund ($21k), District Scholarships ($20k), District-Wide ERT ($7k), Strategic Support ($5k), Clusters ($3k), Conf. Kits ($1.5k).
- Field Staff ($106,500): Director of Connectional Ministry (DDCM) & Director of Clergy Support (DCS).

GENERAL FUND (10-1000) — Supporting Roles — $340,630 (36%)

- Source of Funds: Church Apportionments ($209,184 / 61.4%) + District Investment Income ($31k net), Registration Income ($4k), Parsonage Fund Burn-Down ($16.4k), and GF Reserves ($80.1k).
- Supporting Roles & Training ($234,500 — 25% of total budget): District Support Staff ($156.4k), Annual Conference Lay Members ($36k), Laity Training & Lay Servant Ministry ($10.9k), Lay Leadership ($7k), DS & Staff Travel ($16.7k), Pastoral Care & DCOM ($7.5k).
- Administrative Infrastructure ($106,130 — 11% of total budget): Lean office, communications, insurance, accounting, and DS housing operations.

Investing in Local Churches: The Mission Fund ($597,000)

64% of the total District budget — 100% funded by District investment reserves ($0 from apportionments)

1. Direct Church Grants & Vitality — $433,000

Grants – Trustees (51120) *$100k Capital Improvement Grants + $50k Emergency Grants*	**$150,000**
Heartwood Seed Project (51050) *Continued discipleship & seed ministry investment (+$4,500 vs 2026)*	**$119,500**
Grants – Mission (51010) *Direct grants empowering local congregation outreach*	**$100,000**
Church Support – NEW Line Item *Responsive support to help local churches with urgent/transitional needs*	**$36,750**
Grants – New Faith Community (51100) *Supporting new church starts & expressions across the District*	**$26,750**

Key 2027 Mission Fund Shifts:

- Responsive 'Church Support' ($36,750): Added after stepping in during 2026 to help local congregations navigate unexpected financial and transitional needs.
- Project-Specific Youth Fund ($21,000): Transitioned from a staff salary model to a dedicated project fund that clusters and churches can leverage directly.
- New Faith Communities ($26,750): Calibrated to current launch schedules.

2. NextGen, Scholarships & Programs — $57,500

Student Ministry Support (52270)	**$21,000**
District Scholarships (51200)	**$20,000**
District-Wide Early Response Team / ERT (52200)	**$7,000**
District Level Strategic Support (51800)	**$5,000**
Cluster Development (52210)	**$3,000**
District Conference Mission Kits (59000)	**$1,500**

3. Field Staff Equipping Churches & Clergy — $106,500

Director of Connectional Ministry (DDCM) Salary	**$40,000**
DDCM Travel ($8.5k), Ministry, Discr. & Cont. Ed ($4.5k)	**$13,000**
Director of Clergy Support (DCS) Salary	**$40,000**
DCS Travel ($5.8k), Ministry, Discr. & Cont. Ed ($7.7k)	**$13,500**

Note: Standard compensation adjustments (+$2k each) and field travel updates reflect active presence with local churches and clergy.

Opportunities for Your Church: Grants & Leadership Support

Direct Mission Fund & Restricted Fund resources available to local congregations, laity, and clergy in 2027

Available Church & Cluster Grants

Direct Church & Youth Grants ($454,000 Total):

- Mission Grants ($100,000): Direct grants for local church outreach and community mission initiatives.
- Trustees Capital & Emergency Grants ($150,000):
  – Capital Improvement ($100,000) & Emergency Facility Grants ($50,000)
- Student Ministry Project Fund ($21,000): Project-specific funding for clusters and churches collaborating on youth ministry.
- Targeted Vitality & Launch Grants ($183,000): Heartwood Seed ($119.5k), Responsive Church Support ($36.75k), and New Faith Communities ($26.75k).

Collaborative Ministry & Communities of Practice

- Special Grants of $1,000 – $2,000 (Open Year-Round)
- Up to $2,000 for 2 or more UMC churches partnering on a shared community mission project
- Up to $1,000 for Communities of Practice (clergy/laity learning networks)

Slaydon Fund — Clergy & Candidate Education

Eligibility: Certified candidates for ministry in the Mission Rivers District may apply for assistance with educational endeavors including undergraduate degrees, master's programs, Course of Study, or Licensing School.

Ordained or licensed clergy appointed in MRD may also apply for continuing educational assistance.
- Application Windows: April and September (Funded via Restricted Slaydon Fund)

District Scholarships — $20,000 Budgeted

Eligibility: Persons who are attending or plan to attend an accredited college, university, or trade school, who are active members of a United Methodist Church in the Mission Rivers District, and are enrolled in a degree or certification program.

- Annual Allocation: $20,000 from the Mission Fund
- Application Window: Spring

Supporting Local Churches: The General Fund ($340,630)

36% of total budget — Reduced by -$8,107 (-2.3%) in 2027 while strengthening staff & connectional support

1. Supporting Roles, Training & Connection — $234,500

68.8% of General Fund | 25.0% of Total District Budget

Support Staff Salaries & Benefits (Lynn, Lisa, Laity)	$156,400
Annual Conference Lay Member Support (61520)	$36,000
Staff Travel ($8,250) & Continuing Ed ($900)	$9,150
Laity Training / District Training Day (52230)	$8,000
DS Travel & Expenses (60730 — incl. Lodging)	$7,500
Assoc. Lay Leader ($5k) & District Lay Leader ($2k)	$7,000
DS Discretionary Ministry & Care (58010)	$6,000
Lay Servant Ministry (52240 — dropped Canvas LMS)	$2,900
DCOM ($750), Leadership Coaching ($500), UMM ($300)	$1,550

Why Lay Servant Ministry Decreased (-$5,650): We preserved core District Training Day ($8,000) and Lay Servant training while eliminating the unused $5,600 Canvas LMS subscription.

2. Administrative Infrastructure — $106,130

31.2% of General Fund | Only 11.3% of Total District Budget

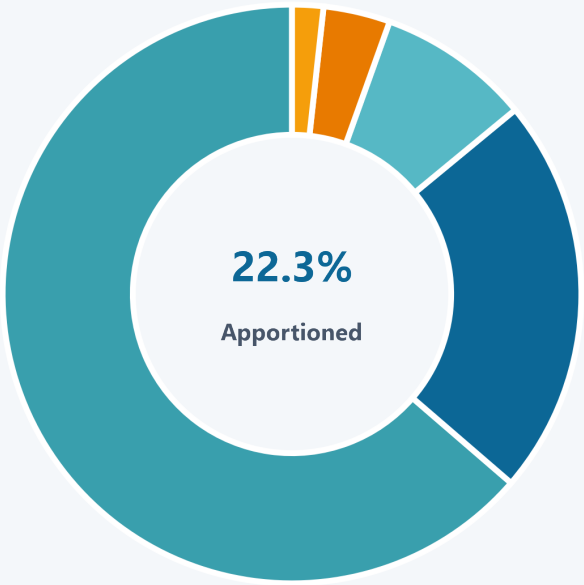
DS Housing (60200 — offset by $16.4k Parsonage transfer)	$30,000
District Office Rent (71100)	$25,000
Copier Lease ($5.5k), Office Supplies ($4.1k), Misc. ($400)	$10,000
District Insurance ($4,800) & Accounting ($4,800)	$9,600
Communications Consultant (64180 — Website & Maps)	$9,000
Telephone & Internet ($5,540) + DS Cell ($1,700)	$7,240
Board Strategy ($5,000) & Committee Meetings ($750)	$5,750
Real Estate Taxes ($4,500) & Marvin Grove ($240)	$4,740
Computer/Equipment Refresh ($2,300) & Furniture ($500)	$2,800
Software & Webhosting (63200/63235 — saved $5,160)	$2,000
Closed Church Property & Utilities (Eliminated in 2027)	$0

2027 Admin Savings: No longer covering closed church properties (-$7,150) + software clarification with the Conference (-$5,160).

How the 2027 Budget is Funded ($937,630)

Active reserve stewardship keeps local church apportionments low while maximizing ministry impact

2027 Funding Sources



Every $1.00 in church apportionments is matched by $3.48 from District investment income & reserves — delivering $4.48 in total District ministry!

Total Budget Expenses	**$937,630**
Total Budget Funding	**$937,630**

District Apportionments (40000)	**$209,184**	**(22.3%)**
Reduced by -$4,556 (-2.1%) from 2026; 20% YoY cap protects churches		
Net Investment & Reg. Income	**$35,000**	**(3.7%)**
$31k net dividends/interest + $4k event registrations		
Parsonage Fund Burn-Down (40620)	**$16,363**	**(1.7%)**
Final transfer bringing the restricted Parsonage Fund balance to $0		
General Fund Spend Down	**$80,083**	**(8.5%)**
Down from $92,112 in 2026; offsets General Fund operating costs		
Mission Fund Spend Down	**$597,000**	**(63.7%)**
Cash reserves intentionally deployed to fund 100% of grants & field staff		

2026–2027 Budget Comparison & Key Drivers

Disciplined operational stewardship alongside continued high-impact congregational investment

Budget Category	2026 Adjusted	2027 Proposed	Diff ($)	% Change	Primary Reason / Storyline
General Fund Expenses (Supporting Roles & Ops)	$348,737	**$340,630**	-$8,107	-2.3%	Eliminated closed-church property expenses (-$7.2k), dropped Canvas LMS (-$5.6k), coordinated software savings with Conference (-$5.2k), and consolidated DS travel/lodging (-$3.3k) — offsetting a 3% support staff adjustment and rent increase.
Mission Fund Expenses (Direct Church Investment)	$659,350	**$597,000**	-$62,350	-9.5%	Maintained $370k in Mission, Trustees & Heartwood grants; created a $36.75k responsive Church Support fund; transitioned Youth Ministry from staff salary to a $21k project fund; and calibrated New Faith Community grants (-$71.8k).
Total District Budget	**$1,008,087**	**$937,630**	**-$70,457**	**-7.0%**	**Apportionments to local churches reduced by -2.1% (-$4,556) while deploying nearly $600k in reserve-funded church investments.**

How We Protected Churches on 2027 Apportionments

- Base Apportionment Pool Held Flat: Kept consistent with 2025/2026 levels.
- 20% Maximum YoY Cap: Protected 14 growing/re-decimalized churches from sharp increases — the District absorbed $5,822 in cap relief.
- Broad Relief: 51 of 106 churches decrease or stay flat in 2027, bringing total District apportionments down to $209,184 (-2.1%).

"In faithful stewardship of our cash reserves, District Leadership continues to work towards using our investment resources to effectively equip local churches for ministry — while lowering the apportionment ask on congregations."

Fund Balance & Reserve Stewardship Report

Strong Foundation & DevCo investment reserves sustain multi-year church vitality investments

Unrestricted Reserves (Projected Jan 2027)

General Fund Reserves: $2,797,450

Core reserve fund ($2,711,061 Foundation + $86,389 DevCo) supporting District operations. 2027 budgeted draw is $80,083 (~2.9% of balance, largely offset by market returns).

Mission Fund Reserves: $2,122,312

Dedicated mission reserve ($1,970,040 Foundation + $152,272 DevCo) used for church grants, Heartwood Seed, new faith communities, and field staff ($597,000 budgeted in 2027).

Restricted Funds

Slaydon Fund: ~$293,715

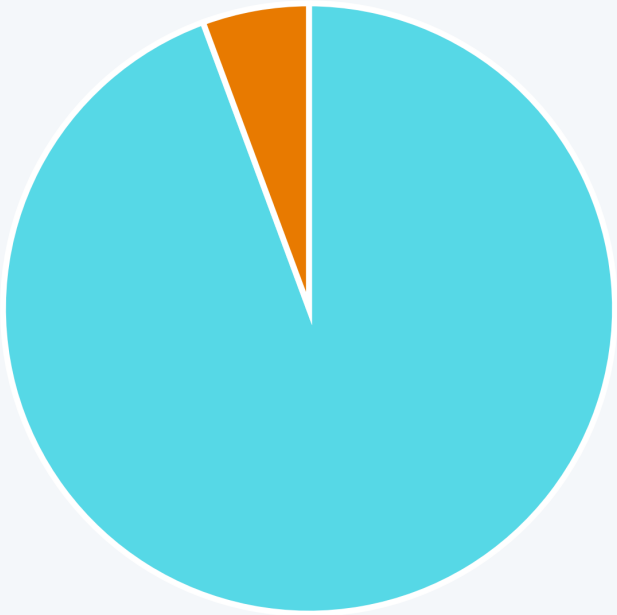
Endowed/restricted fund for continuing education for clergy and certified ministry candidates in the Mission Rivers District.

Parsonage Fund: $16,363 → $0 at Year-End 2027

Restricted for DS Housing ($46,362 in 2025; after $30k draw in 2026, final $16,362.64 transfers in 2027 to close out the fund at $0).

District Reserve Position (~$5.21M Total)

Ongoing Restricted (Slaydon): ~$293,715 (5.6%)



Unrestricted Reserves: ~$4,919,762 (94.4%)

**Unrestricted balances reflect projected Jan 2027 Foundation + DevCo balances from the Cash Flow Drawdown model (Jul 2026 actual start: $5.29M unrestricted). Remaining $16,363 Parsonage Fund transfers in 2027.*