



The Call

HOLSTON CONFERENCE

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A new section, loaded with news from each of the conference's 12 districts.

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How First Broad Street United Methodist Church came to be one of the denomination's top 10 welcoming congregations.

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■ Left Behind

"Yes, I fret a lot about being left behind," writes Bishop Ray Chamberlain. "I wonder about God being active outside my comfort zone. I worry that I could be left behind where God is at work because of my preconceived ideas."

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Despite Economic Recession and National Tragedy,

CHURCH SEES GIVING INCREASE DURING DIFFICULT YEAR

By United Methodist News Service

In the face of a recession and events related to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, United Methodists increased their giving to the denomination's general funds by more than \$2.4 million, or 2.1 percent, in 2001, according to the church's finance agency.

Giving to the seven general apportioned funds hit \$114.7 million for the year, according to the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) in Evanston, Ill. Local churches support the apportioned funds through payments to the denomination's annual conferences, or regional units.

Beyond that amount, United Methodists gave \$17.5 million to the church's ongoing "Love in the Midst of Tragedy" offering, made in response to the aftermath of Sept. 11.

Sandra Kelley Lackore, the denomination's treasurer and top staff executive of GCFA, said she was "overjoyed" at the 2.1 percent increase in general fund income, achieved despite an economic recession and a national tragedy.

"Our annual conferences and local churches have worked diligently," she said on Feb. 1. "This is a remarkable demonstration of the faithfulness of our connection."

The \$114.7 million figure represents 90.1 percent of the denomination's goal for the year, according to GCFA. That's down slightly from the 91.1 percent level of support for 2000. However, the 2001 budget represented a 4.4 percent increase to the annual conferences compared with the previous year. General Conference, the church's top lawmaking assembly, sets the budgets and increases when it meets every four years.



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In Remembrance:

▲ Families of victims of United Airlines Flight 93 visit a memorial near the plane crash site in Pennsylvania. In response to the aftermath of Sept. 11, United Methodists gave \$17.5 million to the church's "Love in the Midst of Tragedy" offering.

Donor promises \$20 million for Hiwassee College

MADISONVILLE, Tenn. — An anonymous donor has promised to give Hiwassee College \$20 million to renovate its campus and establish an international institute.

The gift would be the largest donation ever received by the 153-year-old college — four times the amount of the school's current annual budget.

"We are just about as giddy as you can find any grownups," said Chuck Philip, Hiwassee College president since 2000. "For me ... it's a dream come true. But for the college, it's a culmination of generations of work."

College officials announced the gift on Jan. 29. The private, two-year liberal arts college is related to the Holston Conference.

The funds are expected to be received in increments within the next four to six weeks, Philip said on Feb. 5.

Among the planned improvements are a 21st-century classroom, laboratory, theater, athletic, residential and recreational facilities. A new International Institute will be established in one of the oldest buildings on campus, Brunner Hall, a dormitory built in 1916. The institute will provide opportuni-

Donor promises \$20 million, continued on page 7

The Legacy of Commitment campaign's purpose is to raise \$7.8 million to fund Holston's liability for pre-1982 pensions. Progress as of February 5, 2002:



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