

# SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

## **Turning Connectional Living into Connectional Giving**

*an online course from United Methodist Communications*

### **CONNECTIONAL GIVING 101 COURSE SYLLABUS**

Welcome to **Turning Connectional Living into Connectional Giving**, a four-part online course for The United Methodist Church provided by United Methodist Communications. The course will prepare you to *express how the United Methodist Church makes a difference in the world and to engage others in financially supporting our church and its mission.*

After completing this online course, individuals will be prepared to:

- Describe biblical and theological foundations for the way we give,
- Describe what a connectional church is and how it makes a difference in lives and transforms the world,
- Identify opportunities for members and others to participate in giving,
- Utilize the tools of a “missional storyteller” to engage individuals in their congregation’s and denomination’s ministries and missions,
- Facilitate individuals’ abilities to fund their congregations’ and denomination’s ministries and missions using connectional fundraising techniques, and
- Identify resources available for leading congregations into full support of connectional giving.

#### **First-time Moodler?**

- Introduction
- How to Use Moodle
- Questions Forum

#### **Course Resources**

- How to Earn CEUs
- Discussion Forum Guidelines
- Your Introduction to Other Learners (First Discussion Forum)]

#### **Frequently Used Resources**

- Your Online Journal Reflections

- Action Plan to Promote Giving (.docx)
- Action Plan to Promote Giving (.pdf)

### **Module 1: Why We Give [20 points]**

- In this Module
- Centering Moment
  - *Reflection 1.1*
- Biblical and Theological Foundations for the Way We Give
  - Scripture Passages on Giving
    - *Reflection 1.2*
  - Practicing Generosity (includes a video of Bishop Bruce P. Blake, “Giving Until it Heals”)
    - *Discussion 1.1 (5 points)*
- John Wesley’s Views on Giving
  - *Discussion 1.2 (5 points)*
  - Gain All You Can (includes video on John Wesley’s first rule, “Gain all you can,” and a link to his sermon, “On Riches”)
    - *Reflection 1.3*
    - *Digging Deeper*
  - Save All You Can (includes video on John Wesley’s second rule, “Save all you can,” and a link to his sermon, “The Danger of Riches”)
    - *Reflection 1.4*
  - Give All You Can (includes video on John Wesley’s third rule, “Give all you can,” and a link to his sermon, “On the Danger of Increasing Riches”)
    - *Reflection 1.5*
    - *Digging Deeper*
  - Why We Give
    - *Activity 1.1 (Matching) (5 points)*
    - *Discussion 1.3 (5 points)*
- Module 1 Wrap Up

### **Module 2: The United Methodist Connection [20 points]**

- In this Module ...
- Centering Moment
  - *Reflection 2.1*
- What is a Connectional Church?
  - *Discussion 2.1 (5 points)*
- What **IS** Connectionalism? (includes video of Rev. Dr. Ken Sloane, “What it Means to Be a Connectional Church”)
  - *Reflection 2.2*
  - *Dig Deeper*
- How is the United Methodist Church a Connectional Church?

- *Discussion 2.2 (5 points)*
- What is Missional Storytelling?
- The Cross and Flame: A Symbol of Our Connection
  - *Activity 2.1 (5 points)*
  - *Dig Deeper*
- The United Methodist Giving Process Demonstrate Our Connection
  - *Reflection 2.3*
  - *Poll*
- Apportioned Giving in Connectional Giving (includes a link to the current statistical report of The United Methodist Church)
  - *Discussion 2.3 (5 points)*
  - *Digging Deeper*
- Module 2 Wrap Up

### **Module 3: Turn Connectional Living into Connectional Giving [7 points]**

- In this Module ...
- Centering Moment
  - *Reflection 3.1*
- Connectional Giving and John Wesley
- How Are the Apportioned & Designated Funds Connectional Giving?
  - *Activity 3.1 (5 points)*
- The Apportioned Funds
  - *Digging Deeper – “WSF – Thank You For Reaching Your Apportionment Goal – May ‘09”*
    - World Service Funds
    - Africa University Fund
    - Black College Fund
    - Episcopal Fund
    - General Administration Fund
    - Interdenominational Fund
    - Ministerial Education Fund
- Designated Funds
  - *Digging Deeper – “Designated Relief Soars in 2010”*
    - The Advance
    - Special Sundays
    - World Service Special Gifts
  - *Activity 3.2 – Action Plan: Part 1, Step 1 (2 points)*
- Module 3 Wrap Up

### **Module 4: Making a Difference in the World [53 points]**

- In this Module
- Centering Moment
  - *Reflection 4.1*

- Become a missional storyteller to engage individuals in Your Congregation’s ministries and missions
  - *Activity 4.1*
- Tips from storytellers on how to tell a story
  - *Reflection 4.2*
- Find Your Story
  - *Digging Deeper*
- Prepare Your Story
  - *Activity 4.2 – Action Plan: Part 1, Step 2 (5 points)*
- Create a Call to Action
  - *Activity 4.3 – Action Plan: Part 1, Step 3 (5 points)*
  - *Activity 4.4 – Action Plan: Part 1, Step 4 (5 points)*
- Tell the Stories – Your Personal Call to Action
  - *Activity 4.5 – Action Plan: Part 1, Step 4 (5 points)*
  - *Discussion 4.1 (5 points)*
- Start at Home
  - *Reflection 4.3*
- Tell Your Story Person-to-Person and to Groups
  - *Reflection 4.4*
  - *Digging Deeper: Resource: The Storytelling Moment*
  - *Digging Deeper: Listen to a Pro*
- Using Traditional and Social Media to Broadcast Your Call to Action
  - *Activity 4.6 – Action Plan: Part 1, Step 5*
  - *Digging Deeper*
  - *Reflection 4.5*
  - *Digging Deeper*
- Become a Disciple Who Asks
  - *Activity 4.7*
  - *Reflection 4.6*
- What We Can Learn From Professional Fundraisers
  - *Discussion 4.2: (5 points)*
- The Ask Approach
  - *Reflection 4.7*
  - *Digging Deeper*
- *How Long Does It Take to Ask? 11 Minutes!*
  - *Activity 4.8: Part 2, Step 2*
- *What if You don’t Have 11 Minutes? The 5/60 Pitch*
  - *Reflection 4.8*
- Promote Giving: Completing Your Action Plan
  - *Activity 4.9 (3 points)*
  - *Activity 4.10 (3 points)*
  - *Activity 4.11 (3 points)*
- More Than Money: Giving Time and Skills

- *Discussion 4.3: (5 points)*
  - *Digging Deeper*
- Serve with Love
  - Reflection 4.8
  - Digging Deeper
- Pray without Ceasing
  - *Digging Deeper*
- You Make It Possible
  - *Discussion 4.4*
- Module 4: Wrap Up
  - *Evaluate the Course*
  - *Claim Your CEUs*
  - *Digging Deeper*

### **Course Wrap Up**

- Certificate of Completion
- Course Evaluation
- Additional Resources
  - Print and Audio Visual Resources
  - Web-based Resources
  - Training Opportunities
  - Ways to Turn Connectional Living into Connectional Giving
  - Learn about the General Agencies of the United Methodist Church
- Glossary of Terms
- UMCGiving.org
- Electronic Funds Transfer for Local Churches