THE ADVANCE FAQ
The Advance for Christ and His Church was the name of the petition created by the General Conference that established The Advance in 1948.

It’s the official platform for giving of The United Methodist Church for voluntary, designated, second-mile mission giving.

**BONUS FACT:**

In 1956, General Conference voted to make The Advance for Christ and His Church a permanent channel of giving.

**WHAT’S THE PURPOSE OF THE ADVANCE?**

1. To be an educational tool to connect Methodists with the ministries being established around the world.

2. An evangelical vehicle to rebuild and expand faith communities and churches.

3. To provide a safe channel to send aid to those in need, and other displaced and hurting people.
HOW THE ADVANCE IS CONNECTED TO UMCOR

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) was established first, in 1940.

UMCOR needed support to keep moving. The purpose of The Advance project was to serve—and still is!—as the channel of giving.

THE ADVANCE OFFICE SOMETIMES OPERATES LIKE A HUB:

- connecting people with other offices at UMCOR,
- connecting people with other offices at Global Ministries.

HOW DID THE ADVANCE PROJECTS BEGIN?

Bishop Costen C. Harrell described the war-ravaged climate in 1948 as a “tragic and confused time.”
Methodists abroad found themselves in loving communities that had been deemed the enemy, and tragedy struck on every corner. The Advance enabled the Methodist Committee on Relief (MCOR) to do its work helping those impacted by the war, including the support of many pastors on the brink of starvation.

Religious institutions everywhere work hard to connect the servants at home and around the world. The genius of The Advance, is the personalized process by which the U.S. church could become involved with the work of mission at home and abroad, as said by the head of World Division Advance office, Rev. Donald E. Redmond.

“THE U.S. CHURCH COULD BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE WORK OF MISSION AT HOME AND ABROAD.”

REV. DONALD E. REDMOND.

Through various promotional materials and stories that followed the people and ministries the program supported, the face of mission began to take on familiar characteristics—people connecting with other people through the grace of God.
WHAT MINISTRIES DO THE ADVANCE PROJECTS SUPPORT TODAY?

Advance projects are deep and wide. Thanks to the commitment and generosity of partners, they are able to:

- SUPPORT MISSIONARIES,
- PLANT CHURCHES,
- ERADICATE MALARIA,
- RESPOND TO DISASTERS,
- SEEK JUSTICE,
- PROMOTE EDUCATION,
- ELIMINATE POVERTY, AND FOOD INSECURITY,
- AND MUCH MORE.

MORE THAN

300 missionaries and 600 projects focus on missions all over the world.

www.umcmission.org
HOW DO GIFTS MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE SPECIFIC ADVANCE PROJECTS?

For instance, do you have a passion to:

- end human trafficking?
  Choose Advance #333615

- support U.S. disaster response?
  Choose Advance #901670

- contribute to Cambodia Women's Livelihood projects?
  Advance #3020788

Choose from hundreds of projects to find what fits your passion and interest area.
WHY ARE THERE MULTIPLE PROJECT OPTIONS INSTEAD OF JUST ONE GENERAL FUND?

In an age of many options, people want to choose how their gifts are impacting the world. The Advance projects meet that need by connecting people with projects in their areas of interest.

DONORS FALL INTO MANY CATEGORIES

• Some want to give money through The Advance and know that their gift, however great or small, has made a difference.

• Others want a hands-on experience, not just “giving,” but also “doing,” and The Advance accommodates that by connecting people to ministries, often through missionaries, who work directly with beneficiaries and know their needs.
Andrea Ramprashad, Partner Relations Manager for The Advance at Global Ministries, interprets this channel of giving as a relational vehicle within the United Methodist Church. Giving sets up a relationship with a ministry, a project or a missionary.

“A DONATION THROUGH THE ADVANCE IS A KIND OF GIVING THAT IS BIGGER THAN THE DONATION,” SHE SAYS.

“YOU CAN BE IN MISSION AND MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE MINISTRY WHILE NOT BEING ON THE GROUND PHYSICALLY. CONNECTING THE CHURCH IN MISSION IS WHAT WE DO—WE FOLLOW GIFTS AND RECEIVE REPORTS THAT DEMONSTRATE HOW TANGIBLE MINISTRIES HAPPEN ALL AROUND THE WORLD.”

Everyone has a role to play in this whole process of mission—but without you, a big piece is missing and the projects cannot be achieved. All gifts, big or small, make a difference in the life of those in need. Help improve the lives of many by choosing a project to support today.
I WANT TO GIVE. WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

LEARN, then SHARE

1. Get to know Advance projects and missionaries by visiting: www.umcmission.org/Give
   Search for projects by name or key word, or click a category button that interests you.

2. Choose a project that fits your interests and passions.

3. SHARE your resources!

ONLINE GIFTS:
WWW.UMCMISION.ORG/GIVE-TO-MISSION/HOW-TO-GIVE

OR

CREDIT CARD GIFTS: CALL 888-252-6174 TOLL-FREE

CHECK:
Mail directly to The Advance office (see below)
Or make the check out to your church, write the name of the project and number in the note section of your check—and your local church finance office should forward the check to your conference treasurer for processing to Global Ministries.