



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Resolution 2022-07

Commitment to Dismantling Racism: A Path Towards Wholeness

1). Why is A Path Towards Wholeness needed in EPA?

The hope of A Path Towards Wholeness is equity for all churches across EPA, revitalization for churches of color, and new & renewed leadership of people of color. Through this legislation, we seek to move one step closer to beloved community here in EPA. This legislation lives out the call of Jesus and celebrates that all of God's people are valued. If the historic inequities are not addressed, all churches in EPA will suffer. "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." (1 Cor. 12:26).

2). Will this legislation increase my church's current apportionment?

No. EPA continues to use the same apportionment formula since 2006. Apportionment only increases as reported expenses in the 3 previous years increase. This legislation will **NOT** increase apportionments for churches. It **WILL** decrease apportionments for those churches who meet the median household income formula below.

3). Are these reductions only for churches of color?

No. The reductions based on median household income are for all churches who qualify based on the formula. There are churches in the North, South, East and West districts that qualify for reductions.

3). What happens if my church doesn't qualify for a reduction?

We have identified churches who meet the median household income formula; however, if your church is not included in the list and you believe your church meets the formula, your church may contact your District Superintendent.

4). How do you define the radius for median household income?

The radius is defined as 1.5 miles from the church.

5). How do you define churches of color?

Churches of color refers to any church made up of 51% or more of racial/ethnic persons.

6). Are gentrification concerns addressed in the formula?

With concern for gentrification, we are using the median household income related to the church's specific race or ethnicity.

7). Are Indigenous persons included in the report?

Yes. Currently, the report identifies creating 10 ministry centers that would engage community leaders, including Indigenous persons. As we develop these relationships, the long-term hope of the council will be to

explore the possibility of a new Indigenous community of faith in EPA. We want to honor and hear the needs of Indigenous persons first, so year one will be a time of building relationships and discerning what the Indigenous community in EPA has established as needs.

8). What formula is being used?

- Using Eastern PA median household income, apportion all EPA churches using the following metrics:
- Communities with median household income \$35,000-40,000 – apportion at 70% of current figures.
- Communities with median household income \$30,000-34,999 – apportion at 65% of current figures.
- Communities with median household income \$25,000-29,999 – apportion at 60% of current figures.
- Communities with median household income \$20,000-24,999 – apportion at 55% of current figures.
- Communities with median household income below \$20,000 – apportion at 50% of current figures.