

“My mission or ministry is an East Ohio Mission Advance partner, but what does that mean?”

East Ohio Mission Advances are a vital part of The United Methodist Church’s mission to make disciples of Jesus and transform the world!

Benefits

- Local church giving - being an Advance is not a guarantee of funding from the conference. Advances have a unique conference fund that makes it easy for churches and individuals to financially support your work. See current listing here: <https://www.eocumc.com/finance/advance-special.html>.
- 100% of donations received through the fund will be designated for that mission or ministry. Once a month, you will receive a check and a list of donors (unless you request that funds are held until needed or the Advance is conference administered). The total received through all Conference Advance funds in 2024 was \$128,717.
- Priority in conference and/or district ENEWS. Help us to help you to increase awareness and support of your ministry by sending news items to the Connectional Ministries office at connectionalministries@eocumc.com. District contact information can be found here: <https://www.eocumc.com/map/index.html>
- Opportunity to apply for Board of Missions grants when funding is available. When grant applications are open, we will contact you and publish the form online here <https://www.eocumc.com/missions/forms.html>
- Opportunity to create partnerships with UMCs in your area. If you would like a list of church emails, phone numbers, and addresses, contact Melanie Thomas at mthomas@eocumc.com
- Opportunity to request an information table at the Annual Conference in June. Space is very limited; we will contact you when registration opens.

A Conference Advance needs to operate using these best practices:

- Complete the year-end report (every year!) and the renewal application (every 4 years!)
- Be a mission or ministry that aligns with the mission and vision of the conference: https://www.eocumc.com/about_us/welcome.html
- Be connectional & seek out support from local churches and/or other faith-based groups
- Be financially healthy and transparent
- Continue to work toward being an equitable workplace that doesn’t discriminate based on race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religion
- Continue to improve accessibility regardless of physical and/or mental ability
- Continue to improve child protection policies
- Share news and events with the district and conference
- If the mission or ministry is not doing these things, and no donations have been received through the fund in the past two years, **the fund may be discontinued by the conference.**

Contacts:

Mariellyn Grace, Director of Mission Engagement: mgrace@wocumc.org

Melanie Thomas, Connectional Ministries Administrative Assistant: mthomas@eocumc.com or (330) 499-3972 x102