

A Reason to Celebrate!

Even in the midst of unprecedented national and world economic upheaval, 2008 was a time to celebrate the sharing of God's abundance in Northwest Texas. United Methodists in the Northwest Texas Conference increased their giving to ministries of the local church, their districts, the Conference and the world church.

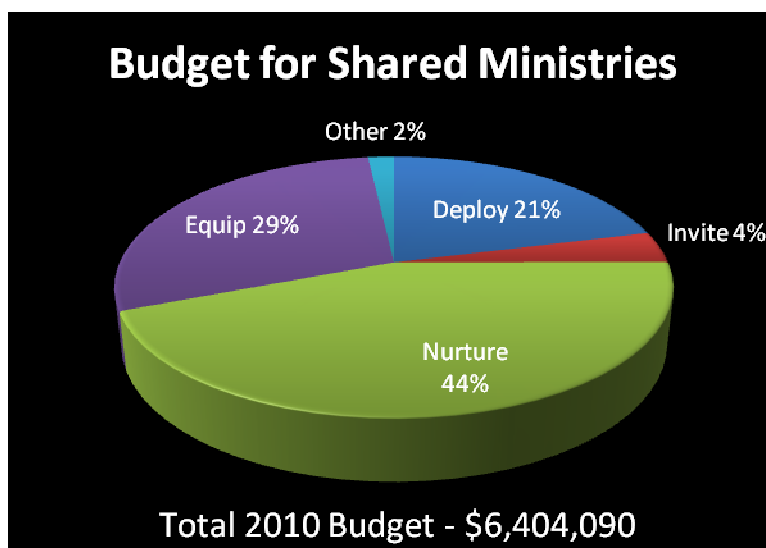
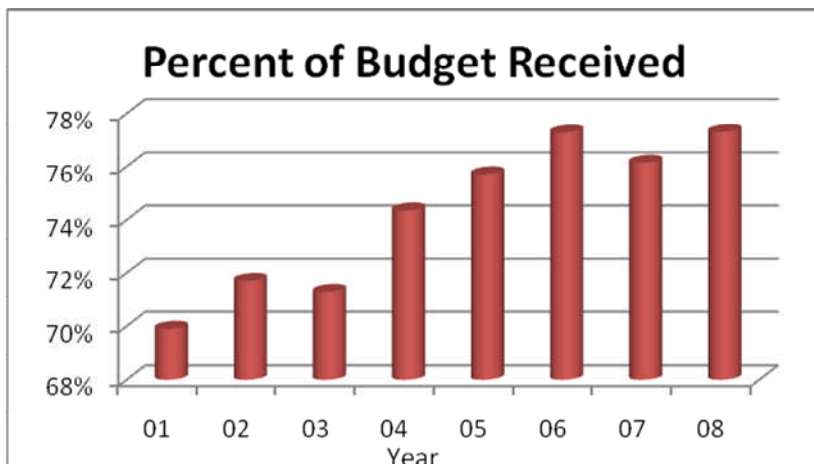
In 2008 we realized, as never before, that we can use our resources – our Spiritual gifts, our time, our prayers and, yes, our money – to make a difference in this world as we proclaim the coming glory of the next. Through our Shared Ministries we helped make disciples of Jesus Christ and consequently helped transform the world – here in our neighborhoods, in Texas, in our nation and the planet.

You made 2008 a year of celebration rather than a year of despair. **For that, we say Thank You!**

⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NRSV)

As we look forward with assurance to 2010, we again are called to share in God's abundance through our time, talents, prayers, witness and financial resources. In 2010 we will continue to strive to be more effective with the gifts that we have been given. Our goal is to use these resources in fulfilling our mission as we **deploy** to make disciples of Jesus Christ and support these disciples and disciples-in-the-making by **inviting** all to share the Lord's table within a local church, to be **nurtured** by fellowship, and **equipped** by spiritual growth for their unique purpose in the kingdom, and then to repeat the cycle again and again.



Deploy

Deploy Ministries “exists to send called persons to engage the culture inside and outside the church.” Deploy Ministries and programs send people out to engage in other cultures in their community and beyond.

Deploy Ministries include ministry support programs such as equitable compensation so that clergy can be deployed into the mission field. Also included is the Wesley Community Center which is transforming lives in Amarillo by offering educational, recreational and spiritual activities for children, youth, and adults of all races and faiths.

Another large part of our Deploy Ministries is Cultural and Ethnic ministries. Leaders are being trained to undertake new multi-cultural ministries like Vacation Bible School, prison ministries, and prayer groups. Additionally, a mission trip is planned. In 2010 the plan is to Deploy the leaders trained – clergy and laity – to start a new Hispanic/Latino church.

We believe United Methodists of the Northwest Texas Conference are called to Deploy persons to minister to people of other cultures in their community and beyond. Through our contributions to World Service Ministries we help certify United Methodist professional Christian educators, communicators and musicians and help build a more ethical, just and humane world.

Joining with other United Methodist churches across the nation we help support specific local church work with children, youth, singles, students, persons who are mentally and physically challenged, adults and the elderly. This fund also helps by providing leadership and coordination for denominational ministry with youth and continues nearly 200 years of commitment to quality college and graduate education.

Equitable Compensation	175,000
Wesley Community Center – Amarillo	50,000
Cultural and Ethnic Ministries	50,000
Other Deploying Ministries	88,365
World Service Ministries	626,771
Support and Infra-structure	358,446
Total Deploying Ministry Opportunities for 2010	1,348,582

Invite

The Invite Ministries of the Conference “...develop meaningful relationships with others and incorporate them into the church.”

The goals of Invite Ministries coordinated and facilitated through the Conference are to develop relationships with people outside the local church, bring people into the faith community, strategically develop new congregations, and revitalize existing congregations.

The Journey United Methodist Church is a new church in Abilene. With the help of the Conference Committee on Church Extension and Revitalization, an existing agency now

amenable to the Invite Ministry Team, The Journey has grown from a dream just a few years ago to a vital congregation with approximately one hundred worshippers.

The Invite Ministry Team believes that to effectively invite people into meaningful relationships with Jesus Christ as embodied in the local congregations we must communicate with those people. Therefore, we plan to make communication grants totaling \$20,000 in 2010 plus designate another \$5,000 to teaching church leaders about effective communication.

New and Revitalized Congregations (not including BRR funds)	182,500
Support and Infra-structure	66,068
Total Inviting Ministry Opportunities for 2010	248,568

Nurture

The Nurture Ministry Team connects “people to Jesus Christ and cares for people so they can care for others.” Nurture ministries form the primary connection for ministries that work to help people through their faith walk and “nurture” their faith and belief in the Lord.

Nurture Ministries take the form of supporting the chaplaincy ministry at Covenant Health Systems in Lubbock, Sears-Methodist and Kings Manor homes for the aging in Abilene and Hereford, respectively, and the Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso.

Another large part of Nurturing Ministries is funding pensions and health benefits for our clergy, past and present.

Chaplaincy Ministry	110,000
Ministry to the Aging	100,000
Other Nurture Ministries	20,233
Lydia Patterson Institute	26,636
Clergy Pension and Health Benefits	1,820,000
Support and Infra-structure	751,861
Total Nurture Ministry Opportunities for 2010	2,828,730

Equip

The mission and vision of the Conference Equipping Ministries is “...to identify spiritual gifts, provide tools and knowledge and teach and train leaders.” Equip Ministries help people identify and use their gifts and talents as well as develop leaders. Equipping Ministries include youth camping ministries at Ceta Canyon Camp and Retreat Center near Canyon and Butman Methodist Camp and Retreat Center near Abilene.

The Wesley Foundations on the campuses of South Plains College and Texas Tech, West Texas A&M, and McMurry universities minister to the future leaders of our church and nation .

Camp Operations and Programming	290,000
Wesley Foundations and Campus Ministries	482,379
Texas United Methodist College Association	125,000
Africa University	19,157
Black College Fund	85,597
Archives and History (including History of Northwest Texas Conference)	40,150
Ministerial Education	264,861
Other Equipping Ministries	60,658
Support and Infra-structure	495,167
Total Equipping Ministry Opportunities for 2010	1,862,969

Other Ministries

In addition to the DINE Ministries there are several additional ministries that deserve our support. While relatively small in comparison to the rest of the budget, they are, nevertheless, no less important. These include the General Services and Interdenominational Co-op Fund of the General Church

Through the General Administration Fund, we implement a trustworthy system of administrative oversight and fiscal accountability, underwrite the legislative work of the General Conference, fund the work of the Judicial Council to adjudicate questions of church law, and maintain United Methodism's official documents. The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund supports United Methodist participation in the World and National Councils of Churches and the Consultation on Church Union.

General Church Administrative Services	67,911
Interdenominational Co-op Fund	16,699
Support and Infra-structure	30,630
Total Other Ministry Opportunities for 2010	115,240