

# SPECIAL DAY REQUESTS FOR 2018

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## GENERAL CONFERENCE AUTHORIZED OBSERVANCES WITH OFFERINGS: (¶1262 AND ¶1263 THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

1. **Human Relations Day-January 14, 2018**  
Calls the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. Receipts shall be divided among Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services Program, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.
2. **One Great Hour of Sharing – March 11, 2018**  
A special offering for disaster and emergency relief administered by the United Methodist Committee on Relief.
3. **Native American Ministries Sunday – April 15, 2018**  
Reminds the church of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. One-half of the offering remains in the Annual Conference to be administered by the Committee on Missions with the remainder divided between the Board of Higher Education and Ministry for scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist Schools of Theology and the General Board of Global Ministries for the Native American Urban Initiative.
4. **Peace with Justice Sunday – May 27, 2018**  
Witnesses to God's demand for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world. An offering shall be received for Peace with Justice Ministries, including the education work of the General Board of Church and Society for Peace with Justice ministries; the annual conference treasurer shall divide the receipts, retaining 50% of the offering for Peace with Justice Ministries in the annual conference to be administered by the annual conference Board of Church and Society.
5. **World Communion Sunday – October 7, 2018**  
Provides support for Crusade Scholarships, Ethnic Scholarship Program, and Ethnic In-Service Training Program.
6. **United Methodist Student Day – November 25, 2018**  
Calls the Church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. Provides support for United Methodist Scholarships and the United Methodist Loan Fund.
  - a. **Conference Special Days Request with Offerings:**
7. **Sunglasses Sunday – February 4, 2018**  
In support of Project 20/20 local churches will be asked to receive used sunglasses and an offering to be used in processing the glasses and getting them to people in need.
8. **Youth Service Fund Sunday – March 4, 2018**  
Youth Service Fund is money raised by youth and administered by youth to benefit youth in need. YSF enables youth to be disciples of Christ in helping others. YSF is more than money; it is helping our brothers and sisters in need in our conference, our nation and our world.
9. **Golden Cross Sunday – May 6, 2018**  
A day that recognizes the conference ministry to the elderly – Wesley Senior Ministries. The Golden Cross Offering provides support for the residents of our Wesley communities throughout the Memphis Annual Conference in the way of rent, food, and medical emergencies. Know that 100% of your gift directly touches the lives of our elderly residents, "our greatest generation".
10. **Lakeshore Camping Scholarship Day – June 10, 2018**  
In an effort to be inclusive across socio-economic and ethnic lines, our Camp and Retreat Ministry program has been opening doors. Approximately 16% of our camper base requires scholarship assistance and that amount is growing annually. All the proceeds for this offering will go directly to provide scholarships. No administrative costs will be assessed. Along with regular camp scholarships, funds will support the following programs: Urban Issues Camp, Developmentally Disabled Camp, Camp Hope, Camp Teen Hope, Camp Grace, Camp Peace, and Camp Love.

11. **Project Transformation – June 24, 2018**

Our mission is to engage young adults in purposeful leadership and ministry, support underserved children and families, and connect churches to communities in need. We provide high-quality, structured after school and summer day camp programs for underserved children and youth.

12. **Paducah Cooperative Ministry – July 22, 2018**

Seeks to do God's Work with Human Hands by drawing together individuals and congregations to respond to basic human needs and conditions by providing programs in the following in the Paducah area: emergency relief, emergency food pantry, commodity supplemental food, emergency meal-on-wheels, homeless shelter and extended care housing programs.

13. **Christian Education Sunday – August 5, 2018**

A day to celebrate the Sunday School and small group ministries; recognize leaders and lift up the importance of Christian Education. The offering is used by the Conference Connectional Ministries Office to purchase resource materials for the Conference Resource Center.

14. **Conference Advance Special Day – September 2, 2018**

Invites churches in the Memphis Annual Conference to support one or several approved ministries within our conference by taking a special offering on this Sunday. Be sure to include the Conference Advance Number and the offering amount for each contribution.

15. **Grace Place Church (Missional Church) – September 23, 2018**

A vibrant and unique prison ministry at the Memphis Correctional Facility for Women. It is the embodiment of the Gospel and has experienced steady growth as it empowers those incarcerated to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to live out their call to discipleship in and outside of prison.

16. **Disability Awareness Sunday – October 14, 2018**

To celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and to call for full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community. Funds donated will go to support – Asbury Communities of Tennessee (ACT) whose mission is to provide a secure living environment for adults with developmental disabilities, regardless of faith or denomination. The group seeks to provide nurturing homes in which these adults may live purposeful and meaningful lives, that their families may know loving persons of faith will always care for them.

17. **Reelfoot Rural Ministries Sunday – October 21, 2018**

Reelfoot Rural Ministries provides numerous spiritual and social services for low-income families, children and the elderly in rural northwest Tennessee and southwest Kentucky.

18. **Partner's in Permanency – October 28, 2018**

**Hannah's Hope**

A place to belong, to call home, to be loved "no matter what," is as essential to our emotional well-being as food, water and shelter is for our physical health. With the mission of "promoting permanency for children through strengthening commitment, planning and parenting," Hannah's Hope is striving to serve those children in the West Tennessee area who suffer from a lack of permanency. Through programs to enrich parenting skills and efforts to raise corporate consciousness to the need for "forever homes," many children will benefit and thrive.

**Western Kentucky Family Services Inc.**

A Christian ministry committed to providing a safe haven to foster children until they reach permanency. Both basic and therapeutic (children who are either medically fragile or who have severe acting out behaviors due to abuse and/or neglect) foster care are provided within the Purchase Region. The agency facilitates foster care adoptions and conducts international home studies for persons wanting to adopt children from other countries.

19. **Memphis United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, December 2, 2018**

Supports the work of the Neighborhood Centers in Memphis – a ministry of presence and support among the poor and marginalized.

20. **World Hunger Offering, February 21 to April 25, 2018**

Taken during the Lenten season or another time during the year chosen by each congregation. Supports world

hunger ministries including United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Heifer Project International, and Potato Project. Also provides support for conference hunger projects including Hunters for the Hungry, United Methodist Neighborhood Centers in Memphis and Reelfoot Rural Ministry, and district projects and food banks.

III. GENERAL CONFERENCE AUTHORIZED DAYS WITHOUT OFFERINGS  
(¶1264 THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

1. **Heritage Sunday – May 20, 2018**  
To call the church to remember the past by committing itself to God’s continuing call.
2. **Laitly Sunday – October 21, 2018**  
To celebrate the ministry of all Christians as their lives are empowered for ministry by the Holy Spirit.
3. **Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday – November 11, 2018**  
To celebrate the gift of life by including the topic of organ and tissue donation in the worship service.

IV. ANNUAL CONFERENCE AUTHORIZED DAYS WITHOUT OFFERINGS

1. **Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns – January 7, 2018**  
To develop Christian unity through prayer and fellowship.
2. **African-American Sunday – February 4, 2018**  
To celebrate the historical contributions of African Americans to the worship life, mission and ministry of the church.
3. **Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) Awareness Sunday – August 26, 2018**  
To celebrate and confirm the role of women, lay and clergy, in all areas of ministry across the church while embracing their goal of full and equal participation.
4. **Vocation Day: Hearing God’s Call to Ordained Ministry – September 2, 2018**  
To celebrate God’s claim on our lives with particular emphasis on being called into the ordained ministry and hearing clergy share their own call.
5. **Drug and Alcohol Concerns Sunday – November 4, 2018**