

SPECIAL DAY REQUESTS FOR 2021

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

1. **Human Relations Day-January 17, 2021**
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. **UMCOR Sunday – March 14, 2021**
A special offering for disaster and emergency relief administered by the United Methodist Committee on Relief.
3. **Native American Ministries Sunday – April 18, 2021**
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 30, 2021**
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 3, 2021**
Provides support for Crusade Scholarships, Ethnic Scholarship Program, and Ethnic In-Service Training Program.
6. **United Methodist Student Day – November 28, 2021**
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 7, 2021**
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 7, 2021**
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 2, 2021**
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 Giving Sunday – June 6, 2021**
Lakeshore has been blessed with a thriving ministry on the shores of the Tennessee River since 1948. Thousands of campers and guests have experienced the God of Grace on these grounds. Lakeshore is a legacy of this conference, passed down from generation to generation. We are now in our fourth generation of the camp family and intend to have just as vibrant a ministry four generations from now. We would not be where we are today without the support of the local church, and we would like to encourage each congregation to participate in Lakeshore Giving Sunday to raise the funds that will continue this good work.

11. **Project Transformation – June 13, 2021**

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. **Christian Education Sunday – August 1, 2021**

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.

13. **Conference Advance Special Day – September 5, 2021**

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.

14. **Grace Place Church (Missional Church) – September 19, 2021**

A vibrant and unique prison ministry for women at the West Tennessee Correctional Facility at Ft. Pillow, TN. 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.

15. **Disability Awareness Sunday – October 10, 2021**

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.

16. **Reelfoot Rural Ministries Sunday – October 17, 2021**

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

17. **Partner's in Permanency – October 24, 2021**

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.

18. **Memphis United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, December 5, 2021**

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

19. **Lenten Hunger Offering, February 17 to April 4, 2021**

Taken during the Lenten season or another time during the year chosen by each congregation. Supports lenten hunger ministries including Mexico feeding ministry, Project Peanut Butter and Our Father's House. Also provides support for conference hunger projects including United Methodist Neighborhood Centers in Memphis and Reelfoot Rural Ministry, four districts to distribute to local church feeding ministries.

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

1. **Heritage Sunday – May 23, 2021**
To call the church to remember the past by committing itself to God's continuing call.
2. **Laitly Sunday – October 17, 2021**
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 14, 2021**
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 3, 2021**
To develop Christian unity through prayer and fellowship.
2. **African-American Sunday – February 7, 2021**
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 22, 2021**
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 and Licensed Ministry – September 5, 2021**
To celebrate God's claim on our lives with specific emphasis on being called into the ordained and licensed ministry and hearing clergy share their own call.
5. **Drug and Alcohol Concerns Sunday – November 7, 2021**