

DOLLAR\$ & \$SENSE

AUGUST 2022

CONFERENCE TREASURER

Conference “Brick and mortar” Grants

For more than a century, the Virginia Annual Conference provided grants for “brick and mortar” projects to assist local churches in purchasing property or constructing new facilities. Under the terms of these grants, repayment was necessary only in the event that the property transferred from The United Methodist Church’s ownership.

These grants supported new faith communities that reach new disciples, and existing churches embarking on creative new ministries. Through their apportionments and second mile giving, donors and local churches invested in these initiatives by supporting the Church Extension Fund.

To honor the intent of those donors, the conference filed liens so that, in the event that these properties were sold or transferred from ownership by the United Methodist Church, and no longer serve as home to United Methodist ministries, the conference may recoup the initial grant funds to reinvest in new projects by returning them to the Church Extension Fund.

Effective July 1, 2022, the conference will now release all liens that pre-date 1968. Additionally, the conference will forgive the first \$2,500 of any grant extended after 1967. This honors the contribution these churches have made to the conference since The United Methodist Church’s founding. The conference will not pro-actively release the liens securing such grants under these terms, because of the sheer number of liens in place. However, in the event that a church transfers or sells property, this policy will apply.

If a church seeks to finance or refinance a loan using the property as collateral, the conference will forgive grants, and release the liens securing such grants that pre-date 1968, or which are \$2,500 or less, rather than subordinating them to the bank’s lien. For liens related to grants over \$2,500, the conference will

(“Brick and mortar” continued)

simply subordinate the original amount of the lien. The conference will forgive the first \$2,500 of such liens only when repayment is due.

If your church is considering the sale, transfer, or refinancing of church property, please conduct a title search early in the process. The Office of Influencing Ministries will work with you to apply this new policy appropriately to your situation. The goal of this policy is to ensure that the conference is honoring the ministry churches have done over many decades, while also honoring the intent of donors and the legacy that these grant funds may continue to support new faith communities and initiatives to reach new disciples for Jesus Christ. Questions regarding these grants, contact Dwayne Stinson, Associate Director of Influence at Influencing@vaumc.org.

Partnerships of Hope – September Offering

Partnerships of Hope (POH) is one of the five Annual Conference Special Offerings. POH is a focused effort of the Virginia Conference, partnering in mission for the 'Transformation of the World' to cultivate soil for the Gospel to grow through our six partners: Brazil, Cambodia, Haiti, Mozambique, Native American Ministries, and Vietnam.

POH is thrilled that CFA recognized September as a special offering! Through your support, we will be able to continue to join hands with our partners to share the good news across the world! Go to <https://vaumc.org/partnerships-of-hope/> to learn more or email serving@vaumc.org.

Church treasurers can remit contributions to the Treasurer’s office by notating **Fund #5015-Partnerships of Hope** at the bottom of your apportionment statement or remitting a payment through vaumc.acumatica.com.