

IGRC FIVE STAR CHALLENGE

1) What is the Five Star Challenge?

The Five Star Challenge was developed to encourage local churches in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference to grow in mission giving and mission outreach every year. Five Star churches receive an award certificate and special conference recognition of their giving beyond the local church within the United Methodist connection.

2) What are the Five Star Requirements?

- ★ Pay 100% of your Conference Apportionments
- ★★ Donate to salary support for a GBGM Missionary
- ★★★ Donate to at least (3) Special Sunday Offerings
- ★★★★ Donate to one or more General or UMCOR Advance(s)
- ★★★★★ Donate to one or more IGRC Advance Special(s)

Information on your choices of giving can be found at <https://www.igrc.org/fivestar> and on the GBGM website at <https://www.umcmmission.org/>.

3) What are apportionments?

In the United Methodist Church, apportionments are defined as the funds each local church pays to support the Annual Conference, regional, national and international missions. These apportionments are our connection together and are often referred to as connectional giving.

4) What is the amount of salary support that should be given for a GBGM Missionary?

The suggested minimum amount of salary support for a GBGM Missionary is \$5.00 per member per year. Your church is then considered to be in a Covenant Relationship with the missionary.

5) What are the Special Sunday Offerings?

The Special Sunday Offerings include Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday (One Great Hour of Sharing), Native American Ministries Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, World Communion Sunday, United Methodist Student Sunday. These offerings do not need to be received on their official Sunday.

6) What is a General or UMCOR Advance?

The Advance (General and UMCOR) is the designated giving channel of the United Methodist Church that raises funds to transform communities and empower individuals across the globe. These projects have been approved by the Advance Committee.

7) What is an IGRC Advance Special?

Every ministry that is designated as an IGRC Advance Special has gone through a thorough application process and has been approved for Advance Special Status by the IGRC Annual Conference. These ministries are considered both effective within our conference and financially responsible.

Your church chooses which GBGM Missionary, Special Sunday Offerings, General or UMCOR Advance(s) and the IGRC Advance(s) to give to. The churches giving in these areas are not used for administration or promotional costs but 100% is given to the mission area chosen.

Please note: ALL giving toward Five Star status must be sent through the Conference Treasurer's office so there will be an automatic Conference record of the church's giving for every project. All giving must be received for each calendar year by the final apportionment due date.