

## **Q&A: The Financial Costs Associated with the Disaffiliation Process**

### **What is paid to the Annual Conference upon disaffiliation?**

A local church shall pay to the Annual Conference any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months immediately prior and an additional 12 months of apportionments, plus unfunded pension obligations, direct-bill obligations, and other liabilities.

### **When will a church know its Unfunded Pension obligation?**

If a church requests a Church Conference to vote on disaffiliation, the congregation will know the final unfunded pension amount before taking the vote.

Working with Wespath, the North Georgia Conference has calculated the amount of the unfunded pension liability attributed to each church. This valuation has been conducted solely for this purpose. The Conference will update this amount quarterly (in the days following December 1, March 1, July 1, and September 1).

Clergy and others with church permissions may see the amount for their local church in Conference Data Services at any time. Find it in the Church section on the Main Index. There is a green button labeled "Bene Unfunded Lookup" for accessing the page. The button only appears for clergy and users who have church-level permissions.

The number reflected on the Data Services page on the date of the church conference is the final number and will be honored.

### **When does our church pay the final amount?**

The payment will be due prior to the church's disaffiliation date.

### **Where can I find more about the Disaffiliation Process?**

At the 2021 North Georgia Annual Conference, the Conference Board of Trustees presented a process for disaffiliation that was established by the 2019 General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline identifies and charges the Conference Trustees with oversight of terms and conditions of disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church. This Process and the subsequent Disaffiliation Agreement both follow ¶2553 of the 2019 Book of Discipline.

Find detailed information at [www.ngumc.org/disaffiliation-process-and-information](http://www.ngumc.org/disaffiliation-process-and-information).