

The Apportionment Spiral – We Can Do Better

Bishop Beverly J. Shamana, in
March 2006 *Connection*

**DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,
GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE IN THE NAME OF JESUS.**

It is my sad duty to inform you that the California-Nevada Conference participated at just 60% in the apportionment covenant that we share with the forty-nine other conferences in the U.S. This means that we paid a lower percentage than any other conference in the connection. Even with the devastation of Katrina, the gulf coast conferences of Louisiana and Mississippi participated at 95% and 80%, respectively. We have slipped from next to the lowest for last year's covenant to the lowest apportionment shared in the country for 2005.

At the same time, I know that we are a generous people who care about our neighbors near and far. Our churches have sent over \$815,500 for Katrina relief. Several churches extended their apportionment support beyond the 100% level in their connectional compassion for our UMC gulf conferences.

So what does this say about our giving for the ministry of Jesus?

- + We have been blessed with money to give.
- + We are still learning how our apportionment funds are used.
- + Our churches are not encouraged to make apportionments a priority.
- + We are choosing to use available funds for other projects and mission.

As your Bishop I feel privileged to serve Christ and the world with you in this conference and would not choose to be anywhere else. I do believe that we want to improve our giving through the apportionment system. So I invite you to join me in a commitment to significantly raise our apportionment giving this year, beginning now. I am asking every pastor and congregation to make your participation in the apportionment covenant a priority in your ministry. Let us not continue to be at the bottom in our giving. We can do it, God being our helper.

YOUR SISTER IN CHRIST,

Beverly J. Shamana