

A MESSAGE ABOUT CONNECTIONAL FUNDING

Dear Local GMC Church,

We are very grateful your church is a member congregation of the Global Methodist Church. Our prayer is that God will work through every local church so together we are making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

As a member congregation, you invest in this important work through Connectional Funding. Now that you are a member congregation, we invite you to join with your sisters and brothers to provide the financial resources for the creation of a healthy and vibrant denomination dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

In the Global Methodist Church, local congregations will not receive a bill from either the Global Methodist Church or their provisional annual conference. Instead, a local church calculates the amount it will pay for Connectional Funding and then, on a monthly basis, sends a portion of that amount to the general church and a portion to their provisional annual conference. The following information will guide you through that process.

Connectional funding is addressed in ¶349 of the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. The Transitional Leadership Council, in this season, has set general Connectional Funding remittance at one percent (1%) of a local church's operating income. See the enclosed document for examples of what is and isn't considered to be operating income. For the remainder of 2023, the Great Lakes Annual Conference has also set Connectional Funding at one percent (1%) of a local church's operating income. **For 2024, the Great Lakes Annual Conference rate increases to three percent (3%).** Thus, there are two categories of Connectional Funding – one for the general church and one for the provisional annual conference.

We have attached a **Connectional Funding Worksheet** you can use to determine your church's Connectional Funding payment. We have also attached a completed worksheet as an example. In addition, we have attached a **Connectional Funding Remittance Form** for communicating relevant payment information. Both of these forms can be accessed in a fillable format at this site: <https://greatlakesgmc.org/forms>

Your local church treasurer or designee will calculate the amount to be paid based on your local church's **prior year** operating income. This means that for 2024 the calculation is based on your 2023 operating income.

- What constitutes “operating income” is defined in ¶349.3.

¶349.3a provides that local church operating income includes:

“Giving from identified and not identified donors, investment income utilized for operations, building use fees and rental income, and other unrestricted operating income.” You enter these amounts in the appropriate cells listed under “Included in Operating Income” on the worksheet. The worksheet automatically calculates “Total Operating Income” once you have entered the data.

- ¶349.3b for the exclusion of certain types of revenue from local church operating income. It excludes:

“Benevolences (outside ministries supported by the local church),

capital campaign receipts, borrowed funds, fundraisers for non-operating expenses, receipts for reduction of indebtedness, memorials, endowments, and bequests whether restricted or non-restricted, receipts for Global Methodist Church special mission programs, grants and support from other organizations, sales of land, buildings or other church assets, and other non-operating income received." Income from these sources should not be included in the categories which constitute operating income on the worksheet.

- The worksheet automatically calculates the local church's "Yearly General Church Connectional Funding" (see Row 13) and "Yearly Annual Conference Connectional Funding" (Row 21). The worksheet then calculates the local church's monthly payment for General Church Connectional Funding (14) and Annual Conference Connectional Funding (Row 22).
- Each January a local church treasurer will be provided a new worksheet based on the Connectional Funding rate set by the TLC or the annual conference members in the prior year's annual conference session.

Your church then makes its Global Methodist Church Connectional Funding (Row 14) payment either through electronic transfer using this link: globalmethodist.org/connectional-funding/ or by check payable to:

Global Methodist Church
11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 501A
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

In addition, your church will make its Great Lakes Annual Conference Connectional Funding (Row 22) payment either through electronic transfer (our much-preferred method) using the following link: greatlakesgmc.org/cf or by check payable to:

Great Lakes Annual Conference of the GMC
3100 West Stones Crossing Rd.
Greenwood, IN 46143

Payment of your Connectional Funding by electronic (ACH) is beneficial not only to the general church and annual conference, but also to your church. Since the amount of the payment does not change from month-to-month, paying electronically allows you to set up recurring payments once a year rather than expending the effort to generate and mail a check each month. Instructions for setting up electronic transfer payments are found in the following pages.

Local churches can send more than one month's payment at a time. However, we encourage local churches to send Connectional Funding payments on a monthly basis.

We look forward to receiving your local church's Connectional Funding Payment and to sharing with you the fruits of our connected ministry.

In Summary:

1. Within the first few weeks after receiving these instructions, complete the Connectional Funding Worksheet for 2024 and email to the Conference Treasurer at treasurer@greatlakesgmc.org.
2. When you are ready to make your first month's connectional funding payment, either:
 - a. Set up your electronic ACH giving account at this website:

globalmethodist.org/connectional-funding/ and initiate the first Global Methodist Church payment.

Or,

- b. mail your first Global Methodist Church check along with the Remittance Form to:
Global Methodist Church
11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 501A
Fredericksburg, VA 22408
3. Then, either:
 - a. Set up your annual conference electronic ACH giving account at this address greatlakesgmc.org/cf (using the instructions enclosed below) and initiate the first Great Lakes Annual Conference payment.
- Or,
- b. mail your first annual conference check along with the Remittance Form to:
Great Lakes Annual Conference of the GMC
3100 West Stones Crossing Rd.
Greenwood, IN 46143
4. If paying Connectional Funding at this time of transition creates a financial hardship for your church, please contact the Great Lakes Provisional Annual Conference Treasurer, Mike Womack at (317) 501-5568 to discuss your situation.

Connectional Funding Worksheet for 2024

Click here for a fillable version: <https://greatlakesgmc.org/forms>



Connectional Funding for 2024

[Insert Church Name]

OPERATING INCOME See Note 1 (Based on 2022 closing numbers.)

Giving from Identified and Not Identified Donors	_____
Investment Income Utilized for Operations	_____
Building Use Fee and Rental Income	_____
Other Unrestricted Operating Income	_____
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$0.00

Calculation of Connectional Funding Remittance:

Yearly General Church Connectional Funding (1% of Total Oper. Income)	\$0.00
Monthly General Church Connectional Funding Payment	\$0.00

Mail General Church Payment to:
Global Methodist Church
11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 501A
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Yearly Annual Conference Connectional Funding (3% of Total Oper. Income)	\$0.00
Monthly Annual Conference Connectional Funding Payment	\$0.00

Remit your Annual Conference Payment via this website link See Note 2:
greatlakesgmc.org/cf

If you are unable to remit your payment by the electronic link or are uncomfortable doing so, then:

Mail Annual Conference Payment to:
The Great Lakes PAC of the GMC
3100 West Stones Crossing Road
Greenwood, IN 46143

ANNUAL TOTAL	\$0.00
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$0.00

CONNECTIONAL FUNDING WORKSHEET NOTES:

1. Operating income does not include “benevolences (outside ministries supported by the local church), capital campaign receipts, borrowed funds, fundraisers for non-operating expenses, receipts for reduction of indebtedness, memorials, endowments, and bequests whether restricted or non-restricted, receipts for Global Methodist Church special mission programs, grants and support from other organizations, sales of land, buildings or other church assets, and other non-operating income received” and revenues derived from these categories should not be included in Total Operating Income.
2. This is a secure and efficient way to make your payments. It can be set up as a recurring monthly payment of the same amount each month. The first time use this link, you will be prompted to set up an account and link it to your church bank account. Your account information is kept private and secure by the processor and will not be shared with anyone, including the Great Lakes PAC.
3. For help, email or call Mike Womack, Great Lakes PAC Treasurer, at treasurer@greatlakesgmc.org or 317-501-5568

Connectional Funding Worksheet for 2024 – Sample



Connectional Funding for 2024

Acme Community Church

OPERATING INCOME ^{See Note 1} (Based on 2022 closing numbers.)

Giving from Identified and Not Identified Donors	\$125,345.00
Investment Income Utilized for Operations	\$347.00
Building Use Fee and Rental Income	\$750.00
Other Unrestricted Operating Income	\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$126,442.00

Calculation of Connectional Funding Remittance:

Yearly General Church Connectional Funding (1% of Total Oper. Income)	\$1,264.42
Monthly General Church Connectional Funding Payment	\$105.37

Mail General Church Payment to:

Global Methodist Church
11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 501A
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Yearly Annual Conference Connectional Funding (3% of Total Oper. Income)	\$3,793.26
Monthly Annual Conference Connectional Funding Payment	\$316.11

Remit your Annual Conference Payment via this website link ^{See Note 2.}
greatlakesgmc.org/cf

If you are unable to remit your payment by the electronic link or are uncomfortable doing so, then:

Mail Annual Conference Payment to:

Great Lakes Annual Conference of the GMC
3100 West Stones Crossing Road
Greenwood, IN 46143

ANNUAL TOTAL
MONTHLY TOTAL

\$5,057.68
\$421.48

Connectional Funding Remittance Form for 2024

Click here for a fillable version: <https://greatlakesgmc.org/forms>



Great Lakes Annual Conference

Updated 11/27/23

Phone: (317) 501-5568 | Email: treasurer@greatlakesgmc.org

Conference Remittance Form

Church Name	Contact Name
Phone # (used if we have a question)	Email (used for acknowledging receipt of remittance.)

Check which month(s) this remittance is for:

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

<u>Conference Connectional Funding Amount*</u>	\$ _____
<i>Other Giving? Please describe</i>	\$ _____
Total Amount	\$ <u>0.00</u>

**Conference 2024 Connectional Funding is 3% of 2023's Operating Income.*

Make checks payable to Great Lakes Annual Conference
Send the top half of this form with the check to: Great Lakes Annual Conference
3100 W Stones Crossing Rd
Greenwood, IN 46143

Save a stamp by giving online at:
www.greatlakesgmc.org/cf



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

Updated 10/23/23

Phone: (540)898-4960 | Email: finance@globalmethodist.org

General Church Remittance Form

Church Name	Contact Name
Church #	Contact Phone or Email (used if we have a question)

Check which month(s) this remittance is for:

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

<u>General Church Connectional Funding Amount*</u>	\$ _____
<i>Other Giving? Please describe</i>	\$ _____
Total Amount	\$ <u>0.00</u>

**General Church 2024 Connectional Funding is 1% of 2023's Operating Income.*

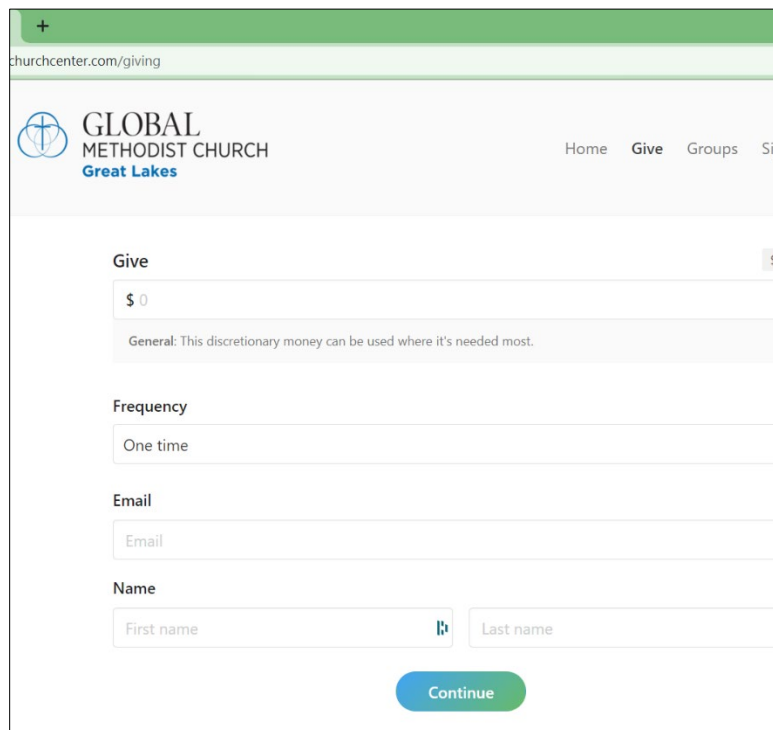
Make checks payable to Global Methodist Church
Send the bottom half of this form with the check to: Global Methodist Church
11905 Bowman Dr, Suite 501A
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Save a stamp by giving online at:
www.GlobalMethodist.org

Instructions for setting up Connectional Funding payments electronically via Planning Center's "Giving" program.

*** Important Note before starting ***

To use this payment method, you must be able to access your church bank account online with a username and password.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL churchcenter.com/giving. The page header includes the logo for GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH Great Lakes and navigation links for Home, Give, Groups, and Sign In. The main content area is titled 'Give' and contains a form with the following fields: a text input for the amount (currently \$0), a dropdown menu for frequency (currently 'One time'), an email input field, and a name input field split into 'First name' and 'Last name' sections. A blue 'Continue' button is located at the bottom of the form. A note below the amount field states: 'General: This discretionary money can be used where it's needed most.'

Step 1

Open this web link:
greatlakesgmc.org/cf

Step 2

- Enter your payment amount and select "Monthly" frequency.
- If you prefer, you can choose "One time" and then initiate the payment each month.
- A popup box will ask you to select your desired payment date.
- Enter your treasurer's email address (the one used for church business). A receipt for each payment will be sent to this email address.
- Enter your church name, splitting it between the "first name" box and the "last name box". For example:

Church of the

Risen Lord

or

Mount

Bethel Church

or

Community Church of

Greenville

or

First Methodist of

Lincoln

- Then click "Continue."

Instructions for setting up Connectional Funding payments electronically via Planning Center's "Giving" program.

The screenshot shows the 'churchcenter.com/giving' page for Global Methodist Church Great Lakes. It includes a 'My first donation will be:' section with a date of 6/20/2023, a 'My information' section with a profile icon and a redacted email address, and a 'Select payment method' section with options to 'Add bank account (requires login)' and 'Add debit/credit card'. A footer note states: 'Payment information is TLS encrypted and stored at Stripe - a Level 1 PCI compliant payment processor by Stripe.'

Step 3

The information you entered in steps 1 and 2 will be displayed on the next screen.

Step 4

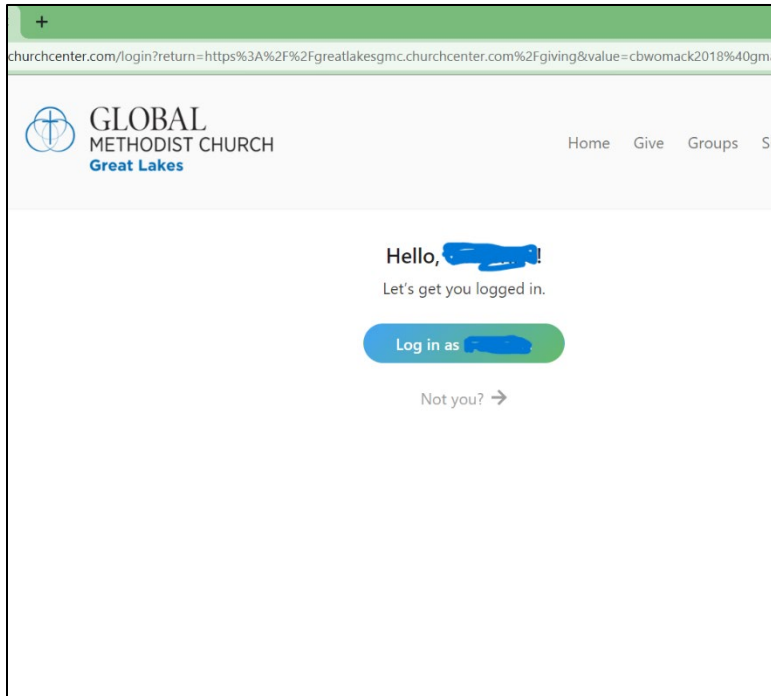
- Select the option "Add bank account (requires login)".
- **DO NOT** select the debit/credit card option. This will lead to large processing fees for the Conference.

The screenshot shows the 'churchcenter.com/login' page. It prompts the user to 'To get started, enter your email address. We'll send you a code you can use to log in or create an account.' There is a text input field containing a redacted email address. Below the field is a checkbox for 'By continuing, you agree to Planning Center's Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.' and a green 'Next' button. A link at the bottom says 'Use mobile number instead'.

Step 5

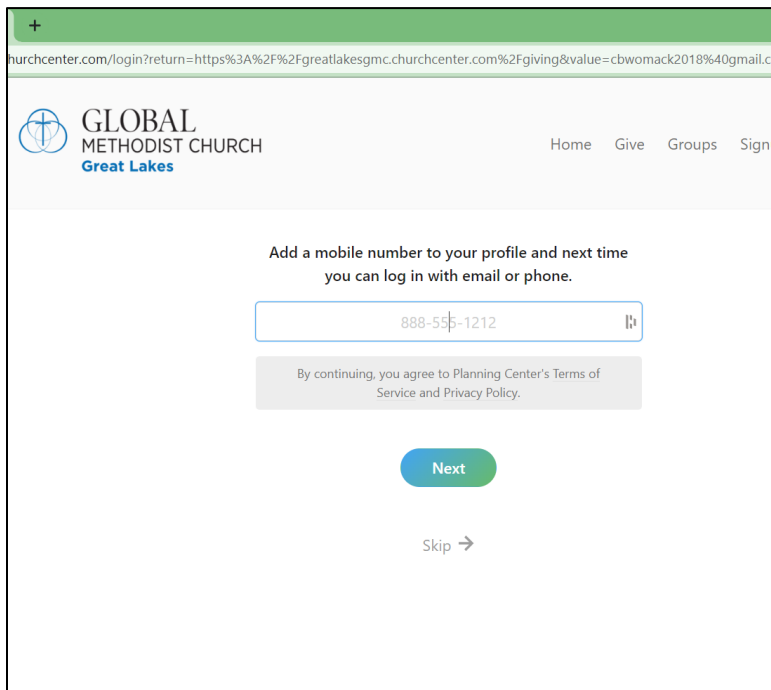
- The email address you entered in step 2 will be displayed on the next screen.
- If not, please enter your treasurer's email address here.
- Click "Next".
- A verification code will be sent to the email address you entered.
- A field will open in this screen for you to enter the code received in your email.

Instructions for setting up Connectional Funding payments electronically via Planning Center's "Giving" program.



Step 6

- After successfully verifying that you have access to the email address you entered, you will see this welcome screen.
- Click on "Log in as _____".



Step 7

- On this screen you will be prompted to enter a phone number. This information is optional, but will be helpful to in the future.

Instructions for setting up Connectional Funding payments electronically via Planning Center's "Giving" program.

The screenshot shows the 'Verify your account' screen in the Planning Center Giving program. The page header includes the URL 'com/giving' and the logo for 'GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH Great Lakes'. The main content area is titled 'Select payment method' and features a button labeled 'Add bank account'. Below this button, a message states: 'We'll need to verify your bank account before it can be used for giving.' At the bottom of the screen, there is a prominent green button labeled 'Verify your account'. The background is slightly dimmed to highlight the verification step.

Step 8

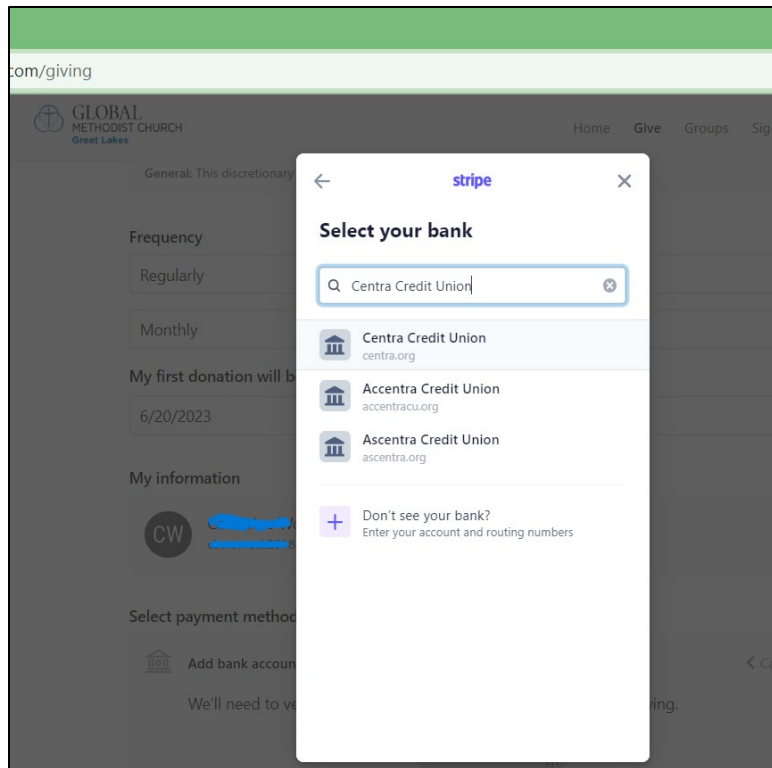
- You will be taken to a screen that looks very similar to the screen from steps 3 and 4.
- Click on "Verify your account".

The screenshot shows the 'Agree and continue' screen in the Planning Center Giving program. A modal window is displayed in the center, featuring the Stripe logo and the text: 'Great Lakes Provisional Annual Conference uses Stripe to connect your accounts'. The modal contains three bullet points: 'Great Lakes Provisional Annual Conference partners with Church Center. They can access requested data', 'Data is encrypted for your protection. Stripe never shares your login details with Great Lakes Provisional Annual Conference or Church Center', and 'You can disconnect at any time'. At the bottom of the modal, there is a blue button labeled 'Agree and continue' and a link for 'Manually verify instead (takes 1-2 business days)'. The background of the page is dimmed, showing the same 'Add bank account' button and verification message as in the previous screenshot.

Step 9

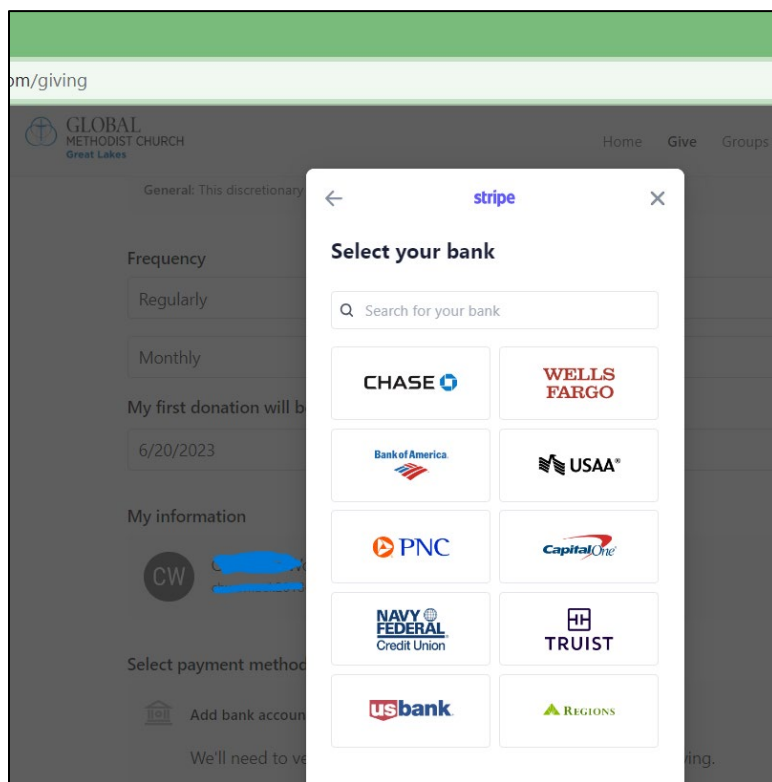
- You will be prompted to create a link to "Stripe", the ACH processing company that partners with Planning Center to process your Connectional Funding payments. Planning Center and Stripe process millions of payments monthly and can be trusted to keep all of your church and bank information confidential.
- Click on "Agree and continue" to start linking your bank information.

Instructions for setting up Connectional Funding payments electronically via Planning Center's "Giving" program.



Step 10

- You will be prompted to create a link to "Stripe", the ACH processing company partnered with Planning Center. Planning Center and Stripe process millions of payments monthly and can be trusted to keep all of your church and bank information confidential.
- Click on "Agree and continue" to start linking your bank information.
- Select or search for your bank.
- If your bank is not in their database, go back to step 9 and select "Manually verify instead".



Step 11

- If there is more than one bank with similar names, you may be prompted to select from a list.

Instructions for setting up Connectional Funding payments electronically via Planning Center's "Giving" program.

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for the Giving program. A modal window titled "Sign in via Stripe and its trusted partners" is open, displaying the Centra Credit Union logo and the URL www.centra.org. Below the logo, the text "Enter your credentials" is followed by two input fields: "Username" and "Password". A blue "Continue" button is positioned below the password field, with a link "Go to institution's website" underneath it. The background of the app shows a "Frequency" dropdown set to "Regularly", a date "6/20/2023", and a profile icon with the initials "CW".

Step 12

- Enter the Username and Password you normally use to access your church bank account online.
- Click "Continue".

The screenshot shows the same mobile application interface as the previous step. The modal window now displays "Verify identity" and prompts the user to "Please select a verification method". There are six radio button options, each with a phone number: "(*) (*)-932", "(*) (*)-932", "(*) (*)-568", "(*) (*)-568", "(*) (*)-568", and "(*) (*)-568". The third option, "(*) (*)-568", is selected with a blue dot. A blue "Continue" button is at the bottom of the modal. The background of the app remains the same as in the previous screenshot.

Step 13

- If you use two-factor identification to access your church bank account on-line, you will be prompted here to select a method (email, text, phone call) to receive a verification code.
- Click on "continue".

Instructions for setting up Connectional Funding payments electronically via Planning Center's "Giving" program.

The screenshot shows the Giving Center interface for Global Methodist Church Great Lakes. A pop-up window titled "Sign in via Stripe and its trusted partners" is displayed. The pop-up is for Centra Credit Union (www.centra.org) and prompts the user to "Verify identity" by providing a one-time passcode. The passcode "348332" is entered in a text field, and a blue "Continue" button is visible below it. The background interface shows options for donation frequency (Regularly, Monthly) and a "Select payment method" section.

Step 14

- Enter the verification code you will receive by whatever method you chose in step 13.
- Click "Continue".

The screenshot shows the Giving Center interface with a Stripe pop-up window titled "Save account with Link". The pop-up prompts the user to connect their account faster on Church Center and everywhere Link is accepted. It includes a checkbox for "Link encrypts your data and never shares your login details." which is checked. The user's email address is entered as " [redacted]@gmail.com" and the mobile number is "(201) 555-0123". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Save with Link" (highlighted in purple) and "Not now". The background interface is the same as in the previous screenshot.

Step 15

- Once your bank account is verified, you will be prompted to enter a phone number again to use "Link", an encryption service.
- Once again, this step is optional, but will be helpful in the future.
- Click either "Save with Link" or "Not Now".

Instructions for setting up Connectional Funding payments electronically via Planning Center's "Giving" program.

The screenshot shows the 'Giving' page for Global Methodist Church Great Lakes. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Give', 'Groups', and 'Signups'. Below the header, a general note states: 'General: This discretionary money can be used where it's needed most.' The 'Frequency' section is set to 'Regularly' with a dropdown menu showing 'Monthly' selected and 'on the 20th'. The 'My first donation will be:' field is set to '6/20/2023'. Under 'My information', there is a profile picture with initials 'CW' and a redacted email address ending in '@gmail.com'. The 'Select payment method' section shows 'ACH' selected for 'CENTRA CREDIT UNION' with a 'Verified' status. At the bottom, a large green button reads 'Start giving \$325 monthly'.

Step 16

- You are nearing the finish line.
- Review all the information on the screen.
- If the information is correct, Click on "Start giving \$___ monthly".
- You have successfully set up your automatic electronic Connectional Funding payments.
- Congratulations and thank you!

The screenshot shows the 'me/profile/contact-and-info/edit' page. It features a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Give', 'Groups', 'Signups', and a notification bell. The 'Address' section includes a 'Home' dropdown, a redacted address line, an 'Apt/Unit/Box' field, a redacted city field, 'IN' for the state, and a redacted zip code. A '+ Add mailing address' button is at the bottom right of the address section. The 'Personal Information' section includes a 'Gender' dropdown set to 'Select gender', a 'Birthdate' section with 'Month', 'Day', and 'Year' dropdowns, a 'Marital status' dropdown set to 'Select...', and a 'Medical notes' text area with a placeholder: 'Please use a comma-separated list for brevity. Ex: Pollen, nuts, and dairy.'

Step 17

- On the final screen you will be prompted to enter more account information. Please enter your church's mailing address.
- There is no reason to enter any personal information. This is intended for individual contributors, not for churches.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Mike Womack

Transitional Conference
Treasurer

317-501-5568

treasurer@greatlakesgmc.org