

## **GOLDEN CROSS**

**A mission and ministry of the  
Western North Carolina Conference – The United Methodist Church**

### **WHAT IS GOLDEN CROSS?**

Following the example of Jesus, the United Methodist Church is concerned with the whole person. As an expression of that concern, Golden Cross was established as a mission and ministry through which United Methodists can reach out with a caring financial grant to other United Methodists who are burdened with overwhelming medical costs. This is the only ministry of the Conference through which financial aid is given directly to individuals or families.

With medical costs continuing to rise, many people find themselves in need of financial help, even after tapping all other sources available. This is where Golden Cross comes in.

### **WHO MAY APPLY FOR HELP?**

Any United Methodist of this Conference, lay or clergy, is eligible for a grant when the need is there. People do not have to be destitute to receive help, and receiving insurance payments, Medicare, or Medicaid does not disqualify a person. Also, an “overwhelming” medical burden does not necessarily mean thousands of dollars of unpaid bills. For some, where income is limited, overwhelming medical costs may be only a few hundred dollars.

### **HOW DOES ONE APPLY FOR HELP FROM GOLDEN CROSS?**

Pastors and every church member should feel a responsibility to recognize when people are in need and to make them aware that help is available from Golden Cross. The pastor is a key person in processing the request. From his or her District Director of Golden Cross the pastor obtains simple application forms and, with information supplied by the individual or family, files the application with the Conference Director of Golden Cross. All information given is kept in strict confidence.

Upon approval of the application, a grant check is sent to the pastor who, in turn, presents the check to applicant on behalf of the Conference.

### **WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF A GRANT?**

The amount varies according to the need and the amount of money available.

### **FROM WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME?**

The Golden Cross ministry is supported through the Conference Benevolences and from special financial offerings and gifts from churches, church groups, and individuals. These extra gifts are the major support and strength of this ministry. Every dollar of every extra gift goes to assist an individual or family of our Conference.

Churches are requested to observe Golden Cross Sunday as an opportunity to celebrate the ministry of Golden Cross and to receive an offering for this special ministry. Gifts are also welcome anytime of the year.

### **WHERE ARE GIFTS SENT?**

The Golden Cross Fund is managed through the Conference Treasurer’s office. Gifts should be sent by the local Church Treasurer to the Conference Treasurer and clearly marked “for Golden Cross.” A person wishing to do so may also mail a gift directly to the Conference Office using the following address:

The Golden Cross Fund  
WNC Conference Treasurer  
P O Box 18005  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28218

### **YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOMED!**

As we share the abundance of good health and prosperity, we are inspired to help those who face overwhelming medical costs. In recent years, a large number of people facing large medical costs have also faced factory closings or job down-sizing and the loss of income and/or work benefits. Thank you letters from many who have received grants from golden Cross remind us that this is a ministry of our Church with a very human touch. Golden Cross is United Methodists caring about and sharing with one another. In recent years, this wonderful ministry touched 60-70 families in our churches each year. A person in your own Church could be a recipient when the need is there.

Thank you for each and every person whose gifts enable this ministry to happen.

A. Gayle Ford  
Conference Golden Cross Director

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Please contact the Director of Golden Cross of your District or the Conference Director at 704-882-7640.