

Benevolence Calculator Worksheet Instructions

Updated 2025

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Purpose

The Benevolence Calculator Worksheet estimates the value of your church's building usage given freely for benevolent purposes. This promotes missional outreach and partnership with community ministries while relieving some of the burden of operational expenses that are included in the apportionment calculation.

Use it only for spaces provided **without any rental fees or funds received**.

Important Parameters

- **No funds** of any kind may be exchanged for the use of the space.
- If a group or ministry **pays rent or fees** (even nominally), it **does not qualify** as benevolent usage.
- **United Methodist-related activities** (district, conference, or charge conference meetings) **do not qualify**.
- **Internal church ministries** (such as worship, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, preschool, afterschool, senior ministry) **are not included**.

Examples of Qualifying Benevolence Usage:

- Hosting a local AA group without any rental charge.
 - Providing space for a nonprofit food pantry without compensation.
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Preparing for Benevolence Reporting

Before calculating benevolence usage, gather the following information:

- **Total square footage** of all ministry-used buildings.
(Do not include parsonages or non-ministry spaces; check architectural plans or insurance documents.)
 - **Square footage of each individual space** used for benevolent purposes (e.g., classrooms, fellowship halls, offices).
(Maintain a record for annual reference.)
 - **Total hours** each group used the space during the year.
 - **Total Operating Expenses**, reported on **Line 72b** of your Statistical Table II.
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Calculating Benevolent Usage

Follow these steps:

1. **Identify the Space:**
 - Confirm the specific room(s) or area(s) used and their square footage.
 2. **Track the Time:**
 - Record weekly meeting hours and total them across the year.
 3. **Separate Different Usages:**
 - If multiple groups or events use different areas or days, calculate separately.
 - *Example:* A Community ESL group uses classrooms three days a week; a Girl Scout troop uses the fellowship hall once a month.
 4. **Input the Data:**
 - Enter the collected information into the Excel Benevolence Calculator.
 - The worksheet will automatically generate the estimated benevolent value.
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Special Note


If your church hosted a United Methodist agency (such as the Conference Disaster Response Team, UMCOR, or UMVIM) for disaster relief, a specialized worksheet is available. Please contact the Conference Statistician to request it.

Need Help?

Contact:

Dennis C. Peay

Conference Statistician

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