



2022

Annual Donor Report

The background features a close-up of white cherry blossoms on a dark branch, set against a soft-focus green background. The bottom of the page is decorated with three overlapping, wavy bands in shades of light green, medium green, and blue.

THE UPPER ROOM®



The Upper Room invites people
to create daily life with God.



From the Executive Director

I read once that there are over 7,000 promises in the Bible, wonderful reminders of God's goodness and faithfulness. Reassurances that God is with us and we are God's beloved. My favorite promise is Proverbs 3:5–6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (ESV). Life can be rough at times, so a straight path, a smooth and easy way forward, sounds sweet and comforting.

As we all know and experienced together, the journey through 2022 was not so smooth. Church conflict, inflation, market drops, the war in Ukraine, lingering COVID concerns, and social unrest are ongoing challenges that impact our personal lives and create barriers for our global ministry.

When the path is rocky, I'm grateful for good traveling companions like you. Our donors are an amazing reflection of God's promises, a thousand lights guiding us forward, clearing the way. Your support and encouragement lift our spirits, sustain our work, and give us strength for the journey.

The Upper Room has a promise to keep too. Our mission is to invite people to create daily life with God through prayer and spiritual practices, acts of love toward God and neighbor. We are fully aware that we can't live out that promise without you and God's abundant grace.

Together, we have continued the publication of **The Upper Room** daily devotional guide in 36 languages and various formats. The devotional is at the core of our worldwide fellowship and helps us engage respectfully and faithfully with our global Christian family. I love the fact that millions are reading and praying the same meditation together each day.

Emmaus Ministries and **The Academy for Spiritual Formation**, our legacy programs, are hosting in-person events again while offering virtual online gatherings and retreats to those hungry for community and a spiritual encounter. The **online prayer wall** was recently redesigned and receives about 7,500 prayer requests each month. And you can always join us for weekly chapel services held Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. CT streamed on **Facebook Live** and posted on **The Upper Room's YouTube channel**.

There is much to share, so please take a moment to read through our annual donor report prepared especially for you. Thank you for believing in our ministry and for your ongoing generous support.

May the peace of Christ be with you,



Sherry Elliott

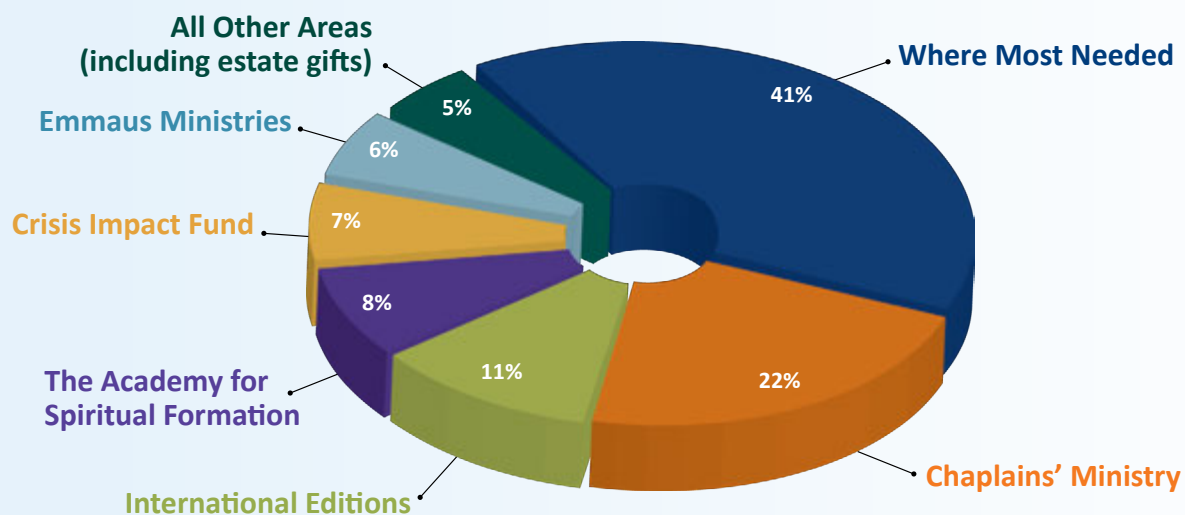
Executive Director
of Administration,
Interpretation,
and Development,
The Upper Room

*"Trust in the Lord
with all your
heart, and do not
lean on your own
understanding.
In all your ways
acknowledge him,
and he will make
straight your paths."*

—Proverbs 3:5–6

Donor Revenue for 2022

Total raised in 2022: **\$915,924**



100%

of every donated dollar goes directly to supporting our ministries.

The cost of our fund-raising efforts are covered by our administration budget.



Donor Revenue for 2022

THE UPPER ROOM CHAPLAINS' MINISTRY

Chaplain's Ministry: \$199,143

The Chaplains' Ministry Fund provides copies of *The Upper Room* daily devotional for military, VA hospital, and prison chaplains to use in their ministry with the people they serve.

Rich in history and connection, the Chaplains' Ministry started in the wake of World War II when staff began to work with military chaplains to provide copies of *The Upper Room* to our armed forces. Today, The Upper Room distributes 300,000 copies of the daily devotional each year to military, VA hospital, and prison chaplains.



"I would like to thank you for The Upper Room publication that has been a great resource, transforming my life. The Upper Room has taught me how to handle life experiences in a proper manner. It has been my go-to for years, and I appreciate the opportunity to share this brief testimony with you all. Thanks so much for the gift of The Upper Room so many of us veterans enjoy."

—U.S. Navy Veteran



Donor Revenue for 2022

The Upper Room

International Editions: **\$99,314**

The Upper Room daily devotional is available today in 36 languages and can be found in more than **100 countries**. This fund supports our international publishing coordinators in the translation, production, and distribution of many of the language editions. For our global readers, devotional material in their native tongue is often hard to come by and the daily devotional guide is considered a treasured resource.

The Upper Room daily devotional is available in these languages.

Armenian	English	Ilokano	Nepali	Swedish
British Sign Language	Estonian	Indonesian	Norwegian	Tagalog
Bulgarian	French	Italian	Odia	Tamil
Burmese (Myanmar)	Greek	Japanese	Polish	Telugu
Catalan	Gujarati	Kannada	Portuguese	Thai
Chinese	Hindi	Kiswahili	Russian	Urdu
	Hungarian	Korean	Sinhala	
	Iban	Malayalam	Spanish	



“One day, a group of women dressed in saris came to visit me. They were farm workers and had gotten my address from Dhyana Deepa, the Kannada edition of The Upper Room. One of our village pastors had given them copies of the devotional. The women told me that they gathered in small groups each day and that the one who was literate read the devotion to them. They explained how The Upper Room devotions were a great source of blessing to them.

I was amazed at their faith and commitment to gather and worship together. When it was time for them to leave, they gave me a donation for the ministry. They have been very active in promoting the devotional to other women in their village. I thank God for them.”

—Dr. Leena Vijaykumar, Dhyana Deepa editor, India



Donor Revenue for 2022

The Academy for Spiritual Formation: **\$72,587**

In 2022, The Academy began to shift back to in-person Academies while still maintaining online offerings. Sixteen in-person Academies (both Five-Day and Three-Day) were held throughout the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, South Korea, and Puerto Rico. Preparations were made for Academy #42, the first Two-Year program since the pandemic, which held its first session in January 2023. Cultivation of online community continued through **Day Apart Retreats**, the **Spirituality of Resilience within the Hispanic & Latinx Community**, and **Spiritual Formation in Today's World**.

The Academy continued to focus its fundraising endeavors on the operations budget and raised **\$49,009** for **The Academy General Fund**.

The Academy Scholarship Fund raised **\$20,278** to support participants who need assistance to attend a Two-Year Academy or the new one-year online Academy model. Half of all Two-Year Academy participants require scholarship assistance.

The John Mogabgab Leadership Endowment Fund raised **\$3,300**. It supports the recruitment and retainment of the best faculty possible and serves as a permanent fund to generate annual returns to sustain the ministry.

Be sure to check out the Academy's **award-winning podcast**.



The Academy
for spiritual formation®

"I'm grateful for the work The Academy does to invite us into practices consistently relevant to the most pressing issues and pain points in our world."

—Regina Laroche,
Academy Participant,
Team Leader, and Faculty





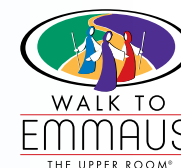
Donor Revenue for 2022

Emmaus Ministries: \$59,953

In-person events were back in 2022 after experiencing a pause due to the pandemic. Close to 700 events (Walks, Flights, and Encounters) took place. **Day Four Restore**, a one-day retreat that supports the spiritual growth of Fourth-Day-ers, was successfully launched in January. Seventeen retreats were held. **Village Encounter**, a virtual offering in six sessions that contributes to ongoing spiritual formation in adults, was tested in 2022 and will be launched in 2023. Both of these new programs have great flexibility and can be offered virtually or in person. More than 100 people attended the virtual International Gathering held in March.

Fundraising initiatives focused on the **Fourth Day Fund**, the operations fund. From September 23–December 31, Emmaus Ministries held a **100 Days of Giving** campaign and saw \$23,976 generated in revenue. The **Emmaus Ministries Wellness Walk** served as the principal component of this fundraising initiative and saw 106 pilgrims walking 15,254,041 steps and raising \$5,734 for Emmaus Ministries. The total amount raised for the **Fourth Day Fund** in 2022 was **\$48,504**.

The GIFT Fund for Emmaus Ministries raised **\$9,194**. This fund goes towards emerging Emmaus Ministries communities and their regional representatives. **The Youth Ministry Fund** raised **\$2,255** for Chrysalis and other Upper Room youth initiatives.



“Emmaus Ministries starts and supports new communities around the world so that Christians can experience God’s love in new ways and serve as the hands and feet of Christ in the world.”

—Sue Crane, member of the Heart of Carolina community





Donor Revenue for 2022

The Crisis Impact Fund: \$65,247

The Crisis Impact Fund is designed to help The Upper Room respond quickly and with relevance to urgent social needs and other crises. When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, The Upper Room worked with local publishing partners in Hungary, Poland, and Estonia to provide copies of *The Upper Room* and other resources of spiritual comfort to Ukrainians fleeing the war and to those who stayed behind. Extra copies of the Polish and Hungarian editions of *The Upper Room* were printed and distributed to relief workers. (To find out more, visit www.TURpeace.org.)

Funding from **The Crisis Impact Fund** was also used to provide copies of *El Aposento Alto*, the Spanish language edition of *The Upper Room*, to the local United Methodist Church in Uvalde, Texas, aiding their outreach to the school-shooting victims' families. Furthermore, the fund helped to support the creation of the *Confronting Whiteness* online experience, which offered a safe space for people to grapple deeply with the roots of systemic racism, and supported the partnership with Rev. Dr. Ron Bell, Jr. to create trauma recovery and resilience resources to care for spiritual leaders worn down by crises and the unique stress of ministry.



“Like many churches in Poland, we in the UMC have been hosting and helping the 10 million Ukrainian refugees who have entered our country. Working with the international office of The Upper Room, we printed copies of The Upper Room in Russian as many Ukrainians are Russian-speaking. Due to demand, we did two print runs. We also printed 1,250 copies of The Upper Room booklets—Prayers for Hope and Finding Our Way in Ukrainian. Copies were distributed every possible way, including in Ukraine by one of our pastors.”

— Rev. Andrzej Malicki, editor of *Wieczernick*, the Polish edition of *The Upper Room*, and District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church in Poland.





Donor Revenue for 2022

All Other Areas: \$43,631

Includes funding for *The Upper Room* braille digital edition, Prayer and Chapel, Youth, Web Ministries, Africa Upper Room, and The Stephen Bryant Prayer and Spiritual Formation Fund. Of special note, an estimated 90,000 prayer requests were posted on the prayer wall in 2022.

Where Most Needed: \$376,049

Donations designated as “Where Most Needed” are made available for Upper Room ministries that need additional funding to accomplish their ministry goals. Ministries that benefited from this fund because of 2022 generous giving include: *The Upper Room* braille digital edition, Prayer and Chapel ministries, and the work of our International Engagement team and partners for the various language editions.



“It is refreshing to know that the annual goals of the Prayer and Chapel ministries are supported by donor contributions. We diligently seek opportunities to create meaningful worship and prayer experiences with the hope that they offer refreshment, restoration, and renewal for persons and communities hungry for connection.”

— Rev. Dr. Amy E. Steele, Executive Director of Program and Dean of The Upper Room Chapel



Your Impact in 2022

36 language editions of *The Upper Room*, in more than **100** countries, reaching **4 million** readers globally.

60% increase in subscriptions to the digital version of the daily devotional.

1.6 million people visited The Upper Room website. **35.8 million** social media impressions.

More than **11,000** copies of *The Upper Room* and spiritual resources in Ukrainian and Russian were distributed to Ukrainian refugees displaced by the war and to those who stayed behind.

30,000 copies of *The Upper Room* were added to the Chaplains' Ministry, making **300,000** copies the annual distribution to military, VA hospital, and prison chaplains.

More than **1,297** people joined us for one of our six live, interactive eCourses offered in 2022. Additional participants worked through on-demand eCourses at their own pace.

17 in-person Academies (both Five-Day and Three-Day) were held throughout the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, South Korea, and Puerto Rico.

156 people attended one of The Academy's three Day Apart retreats. **30%** of participants were new to The Academy.

22 people completed the four sessions of the 2022 *Spiritual Formation in Today's World* (online one-year Academy). 59% were new to The Academy, one participated from the Philippines.

4,181 was the average reach for The Upper Room Chapel, a weekly service offered via Facebook Live.

More than **90,000** prayer requests were posted on The Upper Room Prayer.

Nearly **700** Emmaus Ministries events (Walks, Flights, and Encounters) took place.

Thank you for a great 2022!

Donors gave
\$915,924

93%

of all donations
were \$100 or less

323

donors are Fellowship Circle
members, people who make
a monthly contribution
to The Upper Room. We
send a special shout-out of
appreciation to you!

16%

of gifts were from
new donors

Donors came from

16
countries

Total gifts from **7,697** donors.
Average gift: **\$58**
Average gift per donor: **\$119**

15,752



Join Us!

Ways to Become More Involved

Join the Fellowship Circle

The Fellowship Circle is a giving circle of friends who make monthly contributions to The Upper Room. By selecting “recurring gift” on the donation form, you can set up an ongoing monthly gift of any amount and to any fund by using your bank account, credit card, or debit card. www.upperroom.org/fellowship.

Be a Legacy Giver

Planned giving or bequests make an impact for generations to come. For more information about including The Upper Room in your estate, please contact Sherry Elliott, Executive Director of Administration, Interpretation, and Development. **877-899-2781 ext. 7520** or selliott@upperroom.org.

Give a Tribute Gift

Any gift may be made in honor of or in memory of a loved one. If you provide us with the contact information, a tribute card will be mailed on your behalf.

Can Your Donation Be Matched?

Many companies match donations to The Upper Room when given by their employee. Please check with the Human Resources department at your employment to see if your company matches charitable contributions.

Make an In-kind Gift

If you are interested in donating an in-kind gift that is mission-aligned with our ministry, please contact Sherry Elliott at **877-899-2781 ext. 7520** or selliott@upperroom.org.

Make a Gift of Stock

The Upper Room is able to receive your gift of stock via transfer to our Wespath account. For more information, please contact Sherry Elliott at **877-899-2781 ext. 7520** or selliott@upperroom.org.

The Upper Room’s EIN# is 36-5019628.



Who We Are

Mission Statement

The Upper Room invites people to create daily life with God.

Vision

To foster an international community of people and congregations who are seeking God, building a vision of new life in Christ, nurturing one another by sharing experiences of God's love and guidance, and encouraging one another in Christian action to transform the world.

The Upper Room's Guiding Principles

- ▶ Honor God's presence that has shaped our past and guides our future.
- ▶ Create content that points to hope in Christ.
- ▶ Offer space to listen for the Spirit to form us.
- ▶ Embrace a spirit of abundance that gives witness to God's generosity.
- ▶ Engage the global community with love and respect.
- ▶ Commit to work that is relevant and accessible for all people.

Contact Us

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To learn more, please visit The Upper Room development website:
www.UpperRoom.org/donor

To make an online gift:
www.UpperRoom.org/gift