

# highpoint



ascending  
leaders

equipping churches for Christ-centered discipleship

## 2023

### 7,087

The number of people worldwide AL impacted.

### MARCH

We received a grant to serve 4 small churches with our coaching at little cost to them. See p. 2.

## Surpassing, Amidst Challenges

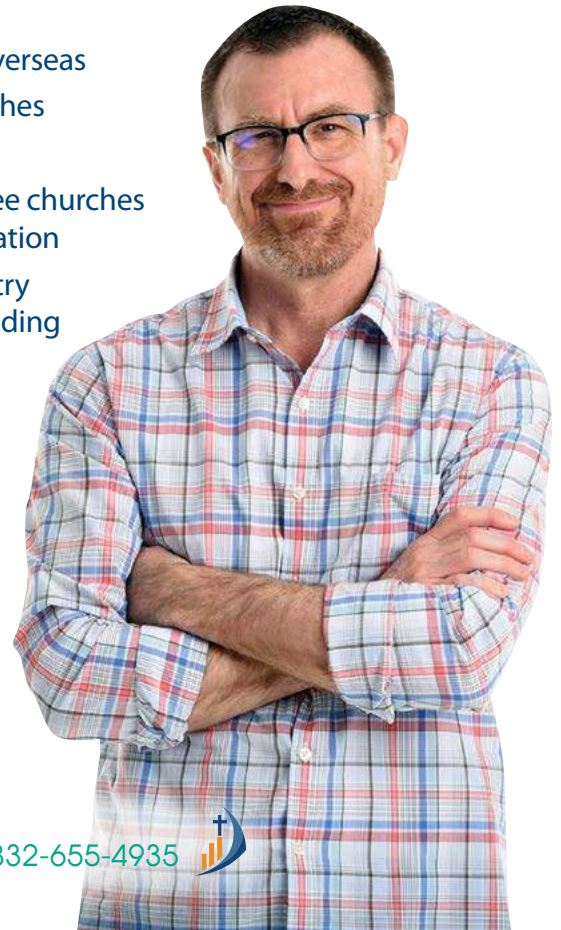
As I reflect on our discipleship ministry across 2023, the word that comes to mind is “surpassing.” It was a year in which we surpassed several goals amidst some operational challenges.

God was in all this “surpassing.” In this Highpoint, we are excited to share a variety of goal breakers and challenges which came about in 2023, all a result of God’s faithfulness and provision:

- An increase in churches we coached overseas
- Serving a record total number of churches
- A record year-end donor campaign
- Beginning a discipleship co-lab for three churches in the new Global Methodist denomination
- A reminder that his plans for our ministry sometimes surpass our own understanding

We go into 2024 trusting in God’s faithfulness and taking the next steps on the path He has put before us. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

*Mike*





# Surpassed to Serve 38 Churches



MAY

We released a [case study](#) of a large Texas church. "Ascending Leaders helped us think more broadly of discipleship." Listen to this insightful conversation here: <https://ascendingleaders.org/case-studies/>

Disciples UMC participated in an in-person seminar with AL. This was made possible by the Oldham Little Church grant for discipleship.

*"Ascending Leaders was an answer to prayer..."*

We needed to reimagine what a Christ-centered Discipleship ministry could look like. The resources Ascending Leaders provided allowed us to understand our strengths and areas for growth as a congregation seeking to reach out to our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Continue the wonderful work Ascending Leaders team! 🗨️

Rev. Virginia Wall, Disciples UMC, Houston, TX



# 20 of Those Churches Were International

SEPT

8

The record number of churches we began coaching in one quarter.



We need donations of \$11,000 for our international fund in 2024 to fund the opportunities.



## A quote from a pastor:

“When I sit and listen to this wonderful teaching, I am so grateful that God has lifted me from the garbage. He has brought me to this training that I do not even deserve. I want my congregation to drink sweet cold water and I want my congregation to eat green grass which can happen only when I will work hard to create a culture of discipleship. I am thankful that I learned about disciple, discipleship, and the stages of faith. It is helping me a lot.”

OCT

Our board met in person in Sugar Land, TX, along with staff, to plot out the next few years of direction.

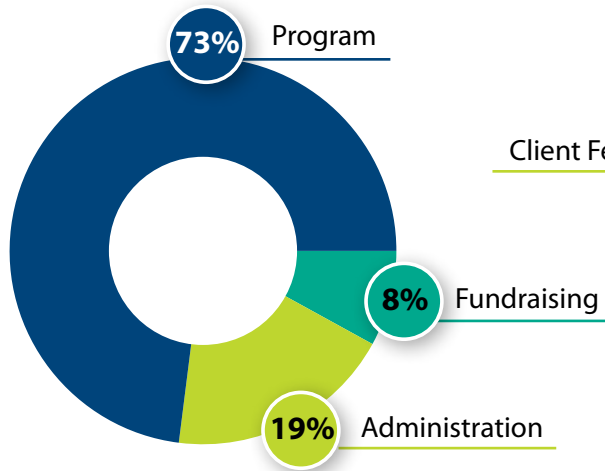
## Beginning with a New Denomination

The pastors of our new denomination discipleship co-lab and their discipleship coaches.

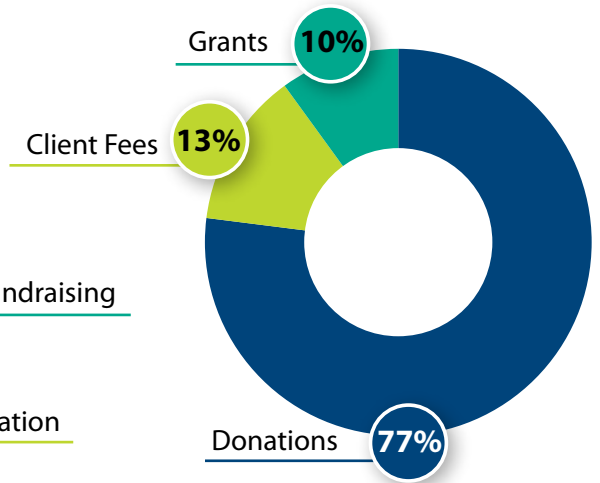




## Costs of 2023 Ministry



## 2023 Funding Sources



**44%**  
of our donor friends  
increased their  
donation in 2023.

## NOV

A good reminder  
in the face of a few  
losses over the year:

*As the heavens are  
higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher  
than your ways and  
my thoughts than your  
thoughts. Is. 55:9*



While we had a record-breaking year-end donor raising campaign, we did not do as well across the whole year. We ended the year \$16,000 short in donations. While we will continue to help churches this year, we are having to make some hard cuts.

## DEC

**\$120,000**

The record dollars  
donated in our  
year-end Matched &  
Multiplied campaign



**\$24 in '24**

Join the fifteen donors who support AL every month. You can do this by giving \$24, each of the coming months in 2024.

Go to [www.ascendingleaders.org/donate](http://www.ascendingleaders.org/donate) to set up monthly donations.

### Transparency is important:

Visit [ascendingleaders.org/transparency](http://ascendingleaders.org/transparency) to see our reviews and recommendations.

