



CCPI Update



September 2011, Johannesburg—CBOs and CCPI staff gathered for a comprehensive learning and training workshop, sharing best practices.

CBOs Gather in Johannesburg for Education and Training

In September, 12 central conference benefits officers traveled to Johannesburg for the first-ever Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI) training event. During the three-day workshop, attendees from 12 Episcopal areas in Asia, Africa and Eurasia discussed the CCPI central conference pension plans and shared best practices for improving them.

Building on the group's already successful track record of pension management, CCPI staff guided the CBOs through the pension process, reinforcing the value of transparent administration and accurate record-keeping—essential functions for the ongoing success and integrity of the pension programs. *"This comprehensive training will help CBOs become better-skilled in pension administration by providing the understanding and materials necessary to more successfully manage their pension programs,"* said Dan O'Neill, Managing Director of the Central Conference Pension Initiative.

The first day began with introductions and a video-welcome from Barbara Boigegrain, general secretary of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (General Board), who set the stage by providing the "big picture" of CCPI—its history, sponsors and mission. She encouraged attendees to get to know one another by sharing ideas and questions saying, *"this a time for*

(continued on page 2)

Challenge goal: **\$25.0 million**
 Raised to date: **\$22.6 million**
 Percentage of challenge goal raised: **90.4%**

What are the United Methodist central conferences?

- Conferences outside the United States
- Made up of seven central conferences in three regions (Asia, Africa and Eurasia), with 72 annual conferences and provisional conferences in 47 countries
- Includes more than 6,900 organized churches with more than 4.4 million lay members
- More than 9,300 active clergy serve this rapidly increasing population in our Church



GENERAL BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Caring For Those Who Serve



Six Criteria for Establishing Central Conference Pension Plans

Elect and train a conference board of pensions.

Select and train a conference benefits officer and orient the assigned bishop(s).

Establish a separate pension account.

Provide the necessary conference legal documents.

Prepare and adopt a conference pension plan description.

Provide and maintain accurate clergy records.

CBOs Gather in Johannesburg... (continued from page 1)



fellowship, collaboration and connection, knowing we are working together to continue the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Attendees defined the duties of a conference benefits officer, confirmed details for fund transfers and discussed the various methods for distributing those funds.

The primary topic for the second day was what is needed to successfully fund a sustainable pension program. Actuarial projections, investment information and audits also were discussed. And on the third day, attendees learned more about funding administration costs and the CBO's conference role.

The spirit of sharing and camaraderie was evident throughout the training workshops, with attendees offering solutions to common problems and forming new friendships—all while finding better ways to serve their pensioner communities.



“It was so gratifying to see these central conference CBOs building on their already-proven success as pension officers,” said Tim Koch, Chief Financial Officer of the General Board. *“The duties they perform—administering benefits and pension payments—are critical to the CCPI pension program and its future for so many. We are proud of their accomplishments thus far and look forward to even greater success in the future.”*

No donor contributions funded this training meeting. A separate administrative fund created after General Conference 2000 paid all expenses.

CCPI Pensioners Share Their Stories of Hope

The personal stories of central conference clergy and surviving spouses who are benefitting from CCPI's pension support illustrate CCPI's mission. In addition to using their payments for daily needs, several have begun to save for larger purchases. All expressed deep thanks for their pension payments and the good work of the General Board, CCPI staff and CCPI donors.



The Reverend Naftal Taimo Nhavotso was born in 1934 and married Marta Joao in 1955. He served many appointments during his career, including district superintendent of the North Mozambique Annual Conference. Naftal used a portion of his CCPI pension to paint his traditional reed house to keep it from rotting like so many unpainted homes do. He and his wife recently discovered a destitute old man living in the wild nearby. Not wanting the man to live without shelter, they built a small house for him behind their own, and now care for the man and all his needs.

“The pension program is excellent because it is so dependable. We have never missed a payment. We totally renovated and painted our house, and installed a cistern to capture the rain water from our roof.”—Rev. Naftal Taimo Nhavotso



“God bless you and your friends who have made this pension program work so well for us. I have been so blessed to have been in service among God’s people.”—Mrs. Salida Jamela, surviving spouse

Salida Jamela was born in 1930. Her husband, the Reverend Gideon Jamela, died in 1974 while he was still an active member of the UMC clergy. Salida, a nurse all her life, always took care of the sick regardless of their condition or tribal affiliation. Her faith allowed her to carry on when so many of her co-workers and patients were killed in their hospital during her country’s war.



“I painted my house with my pension payment. Please convey our gratitude and remember us in your prayers.”—Ms. Luisa Chilambe, surviving spouse

Ms. Luisa Chilambe is very thankful for her pension. She receives \$14.60 USD from social security and \$96.15 from the CCPI-sponsored program of the UMC in Mozambique. She is very active in her church as are her seven children, who all live in Maputo. She has always had a bank account and goes to the bank herself to withdraw her pensions.

To read more inspiring stories, visit the CCPI website at www.ccpi-umc.org.



Please continue your support for CCPI:

- Talk with your friends and share CCPI's story.
- Host a reception for friends and church members.
- Visit the CCPI website or contact the CCPI office to request materials and share them with those in other churches and conferences.
- Encourage interested individuals to support the campaign.
- Think about increasing your pledge or gift.
- If your previous pledge is already paid-in-full, consider extending it or making an additional one-time gift.

Feedback please!

Give Us Your Feedback:

www.gbophb.org/pubsurvey

Publication: 4319

Publication type: Newsletter

Central and Southern Europe Conference Update

In early September, CCPI staff met with the newly formed Board of Pensions of the Central and Southern European Central Conference. The group, along with Bishop Patrick Streiff, discussed the ways in which CCPI could provide assistance to the pensioners and surviving spouses of this central conference.

After learning that the clergy of Switzerland, France and Austria already received pension support through their government-funded pension programs, preliminary discussions were held regarding the creation of a central conference-wide pension program that would cover active and retired clergy in the remaining areas of the conference, including the newer church starts of Eastern Europe.



(left to right) Bishop Patrick Streiff; Thomas Rodemeyer, CBO; and CBOP members Stefan Hafner, Adrian Wenziker, and Marcel Rüeegger

During the meeting in Zurich, CCPI staff worked with the board to understand, review and finalize compliance with the six criteria needed to establish a CCPI-sponsored pension plan in their conference. The conference is already on its way to satisfying the majority of criteria, including developing the final plan document.

Throughout the fall, CCPI staff will continue to monitor the board's progress and assist in plan development and writing. The conference expects to complete its draft plan by year-end.

CCPI Website Updated (www.ccpi-umc.org): Visit the CCPI website. CCPI's Communications staff has updated the site with the latest information, resources and pensioner testimonials.



The site has a variety of materials, including donor newsletters, brochures, program history, frequently-asked questions and much more. Photos and testimonials from central conference clergy and surviving spouses also are available, along with the **CCPI 2011 video** to view and share. "Bookmark" the site and check back often to see our progress and download new resource materials.

Questions? Interested in Helping?

Central Conference Pension Initiative, 1901 Chestnut Avenue, Glenview, Illinois 60025-1604

Phone: 847-866-4230, E-mail: ccpi@gbophb.org, Website: www.ccpi-umc.org