



Central Conference Pension Initiative



Facts and Figures

There are seven central conferences:

- Africa Central Conference
- West Africa Central Conference
- Congo Central Conference
- Philippines Central Conference
- Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference
- Germany Central Conference
- Central and Southern Europe Central Conference

Within the central conferences there are 72 annual and provisional annual conferences.

- 4.4 million members are served by more than 8,900 active clergy
- More than 2,600 retirees and surviving spouses reside in the central conferences

CCPI program implementation:

- In January 2007, the Liberia Annual Conference initiated the first CCPI pilot project, establishing reliable, ongoing distribution of retirement funds to retired clergy and surviving spouses.
- To date, more than \$23.1 million has been raised and \$1.3 million has been distributed (from earnings on the donations) to plan participants. This seed money provides greatly needed support to current retirees while giving the central conferences time to build their own contribution base for future retirees, ensuring self-sustaining programs over time.
- CCPI now has seven pension programs—in operation and fully funded—in Liberia, Mozambique, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone and Russia. Together, these pension plans serve 429 retired pastors and 547 surviving spouses.
- The last six plans are currently in development in the remaining areas of the central conferences (Africa, the Baltics, Central & Southern Europe and the Philippines). Full funding will enable us to complete the pension plan implementation.
- In September 2011, the first meeting of Central Conference Benefits Officers was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The event featured training, best practices and problem-solving for all participants.
- By the end of 2011, new plans are expected to have been voted upon by the sixteen annual conferences in Nigeria, East Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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

Caring For Those Who Serve

- As key fundraising benchmarks are achieved, CCPI expects to have all 13 plans fully operational by December 31, 2012 in all the central conferences that currently need support. When this milestone is achieved, 2,631 presently-retired pastors and surviving spouses will be receiving dependable pensions, and 8,914 active pastors will remain in service knowing their retirement funding is protected.

CCPI pension philosophy:

- CCPI-developed pension programs include required contributions from active clergy in the central conferences. Similar to U.S. plans, these programs use a deferred compensation model—setting aside money from today’s earnings for the participant’s future retirement needs. All have been written by their own boards of pensions with the help of CCPI staff, and have been adopted by their annual conference sessions.
- The United Methodist Church’s goal continues to be establishing self-funded, self-governed and self-sustained pension programs for all United Methodist conferences throughout the world. It is hoped that these plans will combine with their social security systems to provide adequate retirement. CCPI assures that clergy, in those conferences whose government systems are not adequate for retirement protection, are protected by the church-based programs.
- As part of every program review, CCPI annually interviews retired pastors and surviving spouses in their homes to ensure they are receiving timely, reliable pension payments in full. Not only are these funds providing for daily needs, but many pensioners also have begun to save for larger purchases, including:
 - Renovating their homes
 - Building cisterns so they no longer have to carry water from distant community wells
 - Securing the deed to their land so their children can inherit it
 - Creating entrepreneurial businesses to help support themselves and their families
 - Providing medical care
 - Paying for children’s and grandchildren’s school fees
 - Contributing tithes to their local churches
- Please visit www.ccpi-umc.org for brief personal stories that demonstrate the ongoing efficacy of the Central Conference Pension Initiative—but only with your valued assistance.

CCPI resources and information:

- The CCPI website provides a variety of resource materials, including donor newsletters, brochures, program history, frequently-asked questions and much more.
- Photos and testimonials from central conference clergy and surviving spouses are also available on the site, along with the CCPI 2011 video for you to view and share.

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