

Central Conferences: Facts and Figures

- **There are seven central conferences:**
 - Africa Central Conference
 - West Africa Central Conference
 - Congo Central Conference
 - Philippines Central Conference
 - Northern Europe Central Conference
 - Germany Central Conference
 - Central and Southern Europe Central Conference
- **The central conferences are located in 41 countries.**
- **Within the central conferences there are 67 annual and provisional annual conferences.***
 - There are approximately 6,900 United Methodist congregations
 - 3.5 million members are served by 9,300 clergy
 - 2,000 retirees and surviving spouses reside in the central conferences

**There are 63 annual conferences in the five jurisdictional conferences in the United States.*

United Methodist tradition: A brief history of pension support

- In **1774**, John Wesley designated part of the first Easter Offering “to relieve preachers in want.”
- In **1784**, Wesley created a “Preachers Fund” for the benefit of both “worn out preachers,” and the “widows and children of those that are dead.”
- In **1796** the practice was formalized even further with the creation of the Chartered Fund, from which earnings are distributed even today, and which became the predecessor of all Methodist pension systems and plans.

Modern conditions challenge our growing, global church

- The **2000** General Conference received a report from the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits which signaled the beginning of a “global pensions task force.”
- The current Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI) grew from the work of that task force after General Conference **2004**.
- In **2008**, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits celebrated its centennial. The agency believes it is “a matter of justice for all of us to secure a retirement with dignity for all of them.”

Pilot programs: CCPI implementation

- In January **2007**, the Liberia Annual Conference initiated the first CCPI pilot project.
- Two Mozambican annual conferences began CCPI pilots in January **2009**.
- **Our goal**—if key fundraising benchmarks are achieved, the CCPI will be fully operational by **2014** in all the central conferences that currently need support.

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