



CCPI Update



A team of Nigerian United Methodist pastors baptize 111 villagers in a river in the Gashaka forest land of Taraba State in Nigeria.

CCPI Achievements

Pensioners receiving support: **1,137**
(TO DATE)

Challenge goal: **\$25+ million**
 Raised to date: **\$23.6 million**
 Percentage of challenge goal raised: **94.4%**

Central Conference Facts and Figures

The central conferences are located outside the United States and include annual conferences in Africa, the Philippines and Europe.

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

- 4.4 million members, served by more than 8,900 active clergy
- More than 2,700 retirees and surviving spouses reside in the central conferences

Nigeria Pension Program Begins

In January 2012, the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI) launched its pension program in Nigeria. Funds will be distributed quarterly beginning in April. The plan will provide pension support to 41 retired pastors and 61 surviving spouses. Retirees and surviving spouses will receive payments through a combination of electronic funds transfer (EFT), checks or cash distributed by district superintendents and other conference office personnel. CCPI staff worked diligently with Bishop Arthur Kulah along with his conference officers, board of pensions and lay leaders to bring this program to fruition.

Active clergy in Nigeria will also contribute to their financial futures, making payroll contributions to the pension plan. This participation from active clergy helps ensure that the programs will remain sustainable and available to future generations of clergy who serve the central conferences. The Nigeria Annual Conference chose the General Board's Wespath Investment Division as its investment vehicle in appreciation of its sustainability and socially responsible investment philosophies.

With the launch of this new program, CCPI brings its total number of active pension programs to eight, with five additional plans currently in development throughout the central conferences.



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 documentation.

Prepare and adopt a conference pension plan description.

Provide and maintain accurate clergy records.

CCPI's Fundraising Efforts



Thanks to the generosity of donors around the world (including an anonymous donor who recently gave \$500,000); the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI) is now only \$1.4 million from achieving its \$25 million challenge goal.

Eight pension programs are now fully-funded and operational in Liberia, Mozambique, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Russia serving 492 retired pastors and 645 surviving spouses. Plans currently in development include: East Africa, the Congo, the Baltics, Central & Southern Europe and the Philippines. All pledges and gifts to CCPI are held and invested at the General Board.

The General Board again thanks the denomination for its continued support of the Central Conference Pension Initiative. This program will help assure lifetime pension support to central conference ministers and surviving spouses in retirement.

We hope that you will continue to support this worthy cause. Please visit www.ccpi-umc.org for details on how to donate.



Pension Administration and Training, Implementation of New Plans and Agency Delegation Presentations

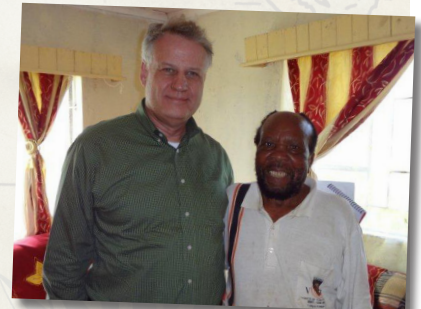
CCPI staff spent the first part of February traveling the African and Philippine conferences meeting pensioners to ensure they are receiving timely, accurate pension payments. They also met with conference staff to review pension plan criteria, presented seminars on sustainable pension support and helped move projects forward.

Paul Dirdak, CCPI Director, visited Mozambique and met with the new conference benefits officer to address any open issues regarding the country's CCPI pension plan as well as to review administrative processes and procedures. He then traveled to South Africa to see clergy and begin discussions of a new pension plan for this provisional annual conference. Zimbabwe was next on the agenda with a seminar on the importance of sustainable pension support for that region's clergy. And finally in Malawi, the first trip to that country, Dirdak held talks to start the implementation process for a CCPI-sponsored pension program in that region.



Dan O'Neill, CCPI Director, spent time in the East and West Angola conferences following up on that country's newly-adopted pension program. He met with retirees; learning about their lives in retirement and listening as they expressed gratitude for the pension funding they now receive from generous U.S. donors. O'Neill then guided both pension officers through the standards of a sustainable pension program, reinforcing the value of transparent administration and accurate record-keeping—essential functions to the ongoing success and integrity of CCPI pension programs. While there, he also presented a pension seminar to clergy attending the East Angola Annual Conference session.

General Board Chief Financial Officer Tim Koch traveled to the Philippines and Zimbabwe to present the agency's General Conference 2012 legislative petitions to the central conference delegations. In preparation for these meetings, a video featuring Barbara Boigegrain (General Secretary) and Dale Jones (Education and Plan Sponsor Relations) was created to outline and explain the rationale behind our proposed plan changes. In addition, Koch met with retirees, as well as financial and pension leadership to advance the pension process in both regions.



For more information on the General Board's General Conference 2012 legislation, visit www.gbophb.org/GC2012/index.asp. This site contains information about General Conference legislation, including news and background materials for delegates, attendees and interested Church members.



Please continue supporting CCPI by:

- Talking with your friends and sharing CCPI's story.
- Hosting a reception for friends and church members.
- Requesting CCPI materials and sharing it with those in other churches and conferences.
- Encouraging interested individuals to support the campaign.
- Increasing your pledge or gift.
- Extending your pledge or making an additional one-time gift.
- Visiting our website www.ccpi-umc.org.

**Feedback
please!**

Give Us Your Feedback:

www.gbophb.org/pubsurvey

Publication: 4376

Publication type: Newsletter

CCPI Pension Support Makes Life Better for Pensioners Around the World

During the winter 2012 visits to Africa and the Philippines, CCPI staff discovered first-hand how the lives of retired clergy and surviving spouses are made better thanks to sustainable pension support. The staff interviewed retirees and they continue to praise the good work of the Church and the CCPI.

A number of central conference pensioners have begun to save small amounts of their pension payments over several months to pay for larger expenditures, such as home improvements, medical care and tuition support for their children and grandchildren.



The Reverend Domingos Almeida Sobinho
Retiree, West Angola

Retired in 2009, Rev. Sobinho has served 17 churches during his 44-year career. He began his ministry during the War of Angolan Independence and was jailed for his efforts. Since he was also a teacher, the bishop was able to gain his release after three months imprisonment. *"I want to express my gratitude to both Bishop de Carvalho and Bishop Domingos because they talked me into staying in the ministry during my few times of doubt."*

Rev. Sobinho has 12 children—seven daughters, five sons and 14 grandchildren—many of whom live with him—and his CCPI pension helps pay for their medicine and tuition. He was a licensed local pastor and has proudly attended 46 consecutive annual conference sessions—every one since his first appointment in 1965. *"Visiting members and being an evangelist were the most enjoyable duties of my ministry."*



The Reverend Francisco Ferreira
Retiree, East Angola

Rev. Ferreria served 10 churches during his 41-year career in East Angola. He remembers moments of teaching, visitation and evangelism—but his fondest memories are of preaching. And he is grateful to still be called on to preach in some of the conference's United Methodist churches.

Rev. Ferreria is using some of his CCPI pension to purchase cement blocks to improve his home. He figures he needs about 4,000 blocks and has about 1,500 so far—neatly stacked in his yard, waiting for additional pension funds to begin his project.

He expressed appreciation and thanks for the pension he now regularly receives every quarter. *"When I first retired in 2003, we did not receive any pension but I was able to grow my own food. Now I am older and unable to grow my food, so I am very happy that pension payments started in 2010 and come every quarter to help me survive."*

Questions? Interested in Helping?

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