



# CCPI Update



*Pictured here are some of the retired pastors and surviving spouses in Liberia who are receiving CCPI pension support.*

## CCPI Performs Annual Evaluation of Liberia Pension Program

In March 2012, Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI) staff visited the Liberia Annual Conference to perform the fifth annual evaluation of its pension program. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the program, ensure full and timely distribution of all payments and identify any problems to be addressed and corrected.

During the seven-day trip, CCPI staff examined 2011 financial records, interviewed retired pastors and surviving spouses who are receiving benefits, met with the conference board of pensions to further develop best practices, and discussed plans for additional pension education with their board and Conference Benefits Officer, Rev. Dr. Solomon Gueh.

The Liberia program—the first CCPI pilot launched in 2007—is entering its sixth year and now covers 288 retired pastors and 409 surviving spouses. Most pensioners still receive quarterly payments in cash, but the process is starting to modernize and some payments are now made by wire transfer deposited directly into their personal bank accounts.

Church leaders in Liberia have expressed great appreciation to individuals and churches throughout the denomination for their gifts and donations. Donor generosity has made central conference pension support possible.

### CCPI Achievements

Pensioners receiving support: **1,188**  
(TO DATE)

Challenge goal: **\$25+ million**  
 Raised to date: **\$23.8 million**  
 Percentage of challenge goal raised: **95.2%**

### Central Conference Facts and Figures

The central conferences are located outside the United States and include annual conferences in Africa, Asia 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 2,900 retirees and surviving spouses reside in the central conferences



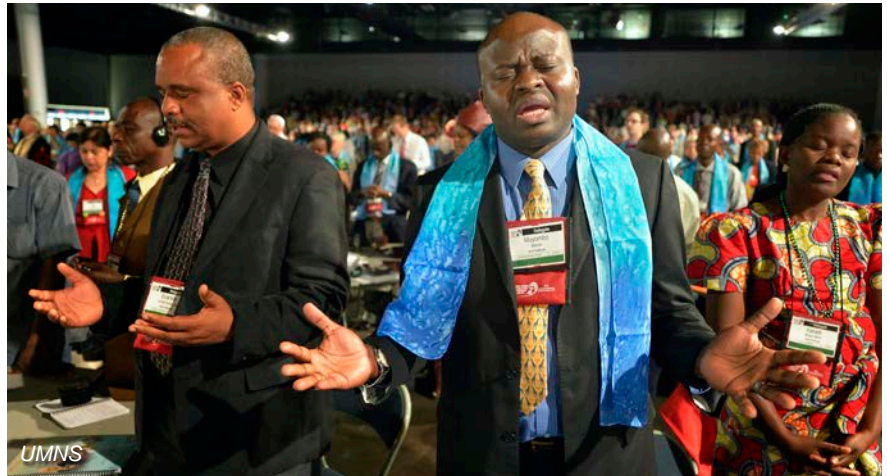
General Board

**Pension and Health Benefits**

*Caring For Those Who Serve*



## General Conference 2012 Recap— Important Central Conference Legislation



988 delegates from around the world and an estimated 2,500 visitors—including CCPI staff—gathered at the Tampa (Florida) Convention Center from April 24 to May 4 for the 2012 United Methodist General Conference.

As the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church, the General Conference meets once every four years to consider revisions to the *Book of Discipline*, as well as to adopt resolutions on current social, public policy and economic issues. The General Conference is the only body that speaks officially for the 12.1 million-member denomination.

During the 11-day event, delegates considered more than 1,200 legislative petitions; several related to the central conferences including:

- Creating a new Burundi Annual Conference
- Establishing a new episcopal area in the Congo Central Conference

General Conference 2012 provided an effective way for CCPI staff to engage with central conference delegates to work toward our goal of having pension plans in all central conferences by the end of this year, ending the need for emergency grants and partnering with current plan administrators to work toward plan self-sustainability. General Conference 2012 also offered an opportunity to share the success and impact of CCPI, as well as to receive additional donations.

For more information on General Conference 2012, visit [www.gc2012.umc.org](http://www.gc2012.umc.org).

### “Singing the Praises” of CCPI

Joyous voices from around the world filled the air in support of the Central Conference Pension Initiative.

The Kamana Family Choir, five siblings (pictured on page 3) from the Democratic Republic of Congo, performed during General Conference 2012 at lunch and the nightly worship service on April 30, as well as at the “Break Bread with Tampa—Ministry for the Poor” event on May 1. The talented children entertained

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the appreciative crowd, singing in both English and their primary language. CCPI pledge cards and brochures were distributed to help facilitate donation efforts.

The United Methodist Church in Glenview, Illinois, hosted a dinner and concert by the Granadosin Brothers (five siblings from the Philippines and sons of the country's now-deceased former bishop) on May 5, with proceeds benefiting CCPI Philippines conference pensioners. Attendees enjoyed dinner, fun and fellowship. The generous attendees donated more than \$6,000 to CCPI.



## Mid-Year CCPI Progress Report

In the first half of 2012, six plans (Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe) completed one or more years of operation and were visited by CCPI staff to conduct an annual evaluation. Staff members also traveled to Malawi, South Africa and the Philippines to provide recommendations to conference officers on meeting the six criteria for establishing a CCPI pension plan. Finally, Nigeria and Russia began CCPI-supported plans in 2012, and will be visited early next year for an annual review.

CCPI continues to meet its objective of providing reliable pension support to central conference clergy and surviving spouses. Pension boards and executives have learned proper pension administration procedures and continue to address any challenges in a timely manner. To date, 1,188 retired pastors and surviving spouses are now receiving pension payments that are on-time, delivered via secure transfer methods and in the correct amount.

## CCPI Featured in *Interpreter Magazine*



CCPI was featured prominently in the May/June 2012 issue of *Interpreter Magazine*. In the article, entitled "Transformation Through ... Pension Programs Easing Life for Central Conference Retirees," reporter Kathrin Chavez introduces readers to central conference retirees and surviving spouses who are benefiting from CCPI-sponsored pension support.

CCPI was created to provide a long-term solution and a foundation for retirement security for these dedicated servants who would have little or no pension support when their careers in ministry end. Because many of the geographical areas served by the UMC do not have government-funded pension systems, church plans are often the only source of retirement income. CCPI provides funding for immediate pension payments, as well as for education and training to help each conference develop its own self-funded pension program.

To read the complete article, visit [www.interpretermagazine.org](http://www.interpretermagazine.org).



## 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



Recent donations:

- Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (special offering) **\$4,500**
- Kansas East Annual Conference **\$40,000**
- Memphis Annual Conference (special offering) **\$7,300**
- Nebraska Annual Conference (special offering) **\$3,700**
- Peninsula–Delaware Annual Conference **\$14,300**
- Rio Grande Annual Conference **\$1,600**
- Susquehanna Annual Conference **\$75,000**
- Tennessee Annual Conference (special offering) **\$9,300**

The General Board thanks the denomination for its continued support of CCPI—helping assure pension support to central conference ministers and surviving spouses in retirement.

**Feedback please!**

**Give Us Your Feedback:**

[www.gbophb.org/pubsurvey](http://www.gbophb.org/pubsurvey)

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## Your Support is Changing Lives in Liberia

Staff members interviewed a number of retirees and surviving spouses who are receiving CCPI pension support. All reported receiving their payments on time and in the correct amount. Many are now using some of their payments to buy food and medicine for themselves and their families.



### The Reverend Judulo Daniel

*Retiree, Liberia*

Rev. Judulo Daniel remembers what it was like to be threatened for preaching during Liberia's war for independence, but remains proud of his 32 years in ministry, during which he served six different churches. Judulo appreciates that his pension is delivered every quarter by his district superintendent—it helps him stay connected!

*"I am very happy today. Thank you for this gesture, for taking care of us until we leave this world."*



### The Reverend Vormah Glaygbo-King

*Retiree, Liberia*

Rev. Vormah Glaygbo-King is a retired pastor and also a surviving spouse who is now blind and afflicted with Alzheimer's. She served 16 years and receives \$110 per quarter in pension support. Vormah lives in a concrete block home with her only daughter and three grandchildren. Her daughter is grateful for her mother's CCPI pension support, which helps her buy food and medicine. Her daughter said, *"We are very grateful for the funds which allow us to purchase medicine for my mother and also buy food for our family."*



### The Reverend James Gardea

*Retiree, Liberia*

Rev. James Gardea began his ministry in 1969 and retired in 2003 after serving two churches and holding a district superintendent position. For many years, he did not get paid and lived by growing his own food. If he had to do it over again, he would still be a pastor—but he would also be a better farmer! James still serves on a district committee, so he remains connected and admired. *"I want to thank the U.S. Church very much. It moves our hearts for them to be so generous."*

## Questions? Interested in Helping?

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