



CCP Update



Members of the Messengers Choir sing during a choral concert at Mangobo United Methodist Church in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS

The Central Conference Pension (CCP) Program is a Success—Thanks to You!

Wespath Benefits and Investments—on behalf of those who serve in the Central Conferences—thanks the denomination for the establishment, success and continued support of the Central Conference Pensions. The program’s success will help ensure sustainable lifetime pension support to central conference ministers and surviving spouses responsible for the growth of the Kingdom in the Central Conferences.

Central Conference Pension Sustainability

To date, more than \$7 million in pension distributions have been made through the Central Conference Pension program. This has been done solely with investment returns produced by your generous donations and continued pledge payments.

The program is designed for sustainability, with current success affirmed by field visits done by CCP program evaluators who review the conference pension records and visit with retirees to ensure pensions are being paid in full and on time. Those who work on the CCP program continue to be fueled by the feedback received from those touched by the program.

Important steps for sustaining the program are ongoing contribution commitments from new appointees and current clergy and their local churches

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CCP Achievements

Retirees receiving support:	1,353
Surviving spouses receiving support:	1,593
Active pastors covered:	6,521
Total pension amount distributed to date:	More than \$7 million

The Central Conferences are growing!

General Conference 2016 approved efforts to add up to five bishops in Africa over time, when financing and plans for effective ministry are in place. We look forward to seeing the continued growth of the Central Conference Pension program.



The Importance of Pensions

“In my many years as clergy and a missionary in Africa, I have lived to see retired pastors die in abject poverty and without dignity. I have seen many young people shy away from full-time ministry because it was like intentionally signing on for a life of permanent poverty. Through the Central Conference Pensions, you and your colleagues restored dignity to ordained ministry. Today in Africa, we celebrate the lives of the many young people who now see ordained ministry as a vocation worth pursuing. And we continue to see retired pastors live healthier and longer—and with dignity.”

—BISHOP JOHN K. YAMBASU,
SIERRA LEONE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Central Conference Pension Sustainability (continued)

in the Central Conferences. At the forefront of future CCP efforts is the continuing education of those in the Central Conferences of the importance of the sustainability of the program. In East Congo, one of the largest areas of Central Conference pensions, we met with the President of the Retired Clergy Association. He said he urges younger pastors to make their contributions, saying *“You will both offset payouts as they potentially increase, and because there will be a time when the conference’s pension funds will support you.”*



Central Conference Pensions are supported by three strong legs as represented by this stool. The CCP Evaluation Team uses this tool to help inform Central Conferences about their role in the program’s sustainability.

Your Support is Changing Lives

During 2016 evaluation trips, CCP program evaluators interviewed retirees and surviving spouses who are receiving pension support. Each is thankful to donors around the world for the continued generosity that helps improve their lives. For instance, CCP and the pensions allow recipients to pay for medicine and food, which allows their children and grandchildren to go to school instead of having to perform subsistence farming. In addition to helping these individual families, this also helps the greater communities prosper.

Russia

Irina Mukhacheva, Retiree



Irina Mukhacheva (left) and Tim Koch, Wespath CFO and CCP Program Evaluator

While participating in General Conference delegate training in Russia, a member of the CCP evaluation team kept good stewardship in mind and used the opportunity to perform a financial review and check in on recipient Irina Mukhacheva. Once an unchurched woman in the Soviet Union, Irina had a near-death experience. While on the operating table, she heard the doctor say *“She’s gone.”* She then

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Your Support is Changing Lives (continued)

heard another voice say “I’m not done with you yet. Go and serve me.” Irina fought to stay alive, accepted Christ as her savior and went on to serve as a Minister in the Russian Episcopal Area for more than 30 years. She is grateful for the Central Conference Pension to sustain her in her continued ministry and retirement.

Mozambique

The Mozambique conference has nearly 200,000 members in 999 churches across three conferences. Instead of travelling to some of the homes of the retirees in the region, retirees and widows convened at the conference retreat center in Chicuque. As a result, CCP was able to meet with 32 retirees at one time.

In this atmosphere, the CCP program evaluator was able to have a thorough discussion with participants about their quarterly distributions. Meeting with so many at once provided an opportunity to explain the current pension plan and the way retired pastors can encourage the current active pastors and their local churches to contribute for their own future. Most in attendance rely solely upon CCP for their retirement income.

More than 1,024 years of building the Kingdom had been accumulated by the people in the room!



Some of the Mozambique attendees

South Congo

Rev. Numbi Nwweleenyoka (left) and his wife, Ngoy Ntanda Justin



Rev. Numbi retired in 2009 after a long career serving Methodist organizations. He was a leader in the Church, the CEO of the Methodist Hospital as well as the Central Africa conference District Superintendent.

At one point the government nationalized the hospital, but after discovering that it did not have the capacity to run it, the state pleaded with the church to “take it back.” Rev. Numbi restored it to full operational status.

Rev. Numbi and his wife operate a family farm outside the city. They use the pension funds to buy seed for the farm and support their children’s education. Two children and five grandchildren live with them. One of their children has graduated from the local university and the other will soon.

East Angola

In East Angola, CCP met with Rev. Branca Manuel Jacinto Antonio Martins.

She is grateful for the consistent income, which she didn’t always have during her years of service.

Rev. Branca appreciates the need for young pastors and local churches to contribute to the pension fund for sustainability of future payments.



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Your Support is Changing Lives (continued)

Retirees and surviving spouses are profoundly thankful to donors around the world for the continued generosity that helps improve their lives.

Whenever she has the opportunity she encourages them to make contributions to their pension plan.

Her father was also a pastor. She recalled that during the war a bomb was dropped near the church. The people who were congregating all ran out and she remained in the Church praying. She acknowledges that *"God is good all the time."*

Cote D'Ivoire



Madame Boni (left) and Adele M'Bouke

In Cote D'Ivoire, the bishop's wife Madame Boni accompanied the CCP evaluation team to visit the widows of three clergy recipients of CCP, including Adele M'Bouke. And while they were grateful for the visit from CCP, they were especially honored by the presence of the bishop's wife.

Adele thanks everyone connected with the program that has made such a wonderful difference in her life. Her husband served from 1967 until his death in 1996, serving 14 appointments and over 100 churches/preaching points. His favorite parts of ministry were preaching, teaching and music; and her favorite part was ministry with the poor. They have five children and she now has ten grandchildren. Two of her children serve as lay pastors in the conference.

Adele M'Bouke thanks everyone connected with the program that has made such a wonderful difference in her life.

East Congo



A meeting in East Congo was flush with energy, as CCP program evaluator Paul Dirdak met with eight members of the Retired Clergy Association, four surviving spouses, two District Superintendents, the pastor of the host church, the assistant to Bishop Unda, and the conference communications director, as well as several members of the congregation and the boys' choir who were there to provide entertainment.

Please send Central Conference Pension pledge obligations to:
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Questions?

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