



December 2017

CCP Update



All but one Central Conference was represented at the September Central Conference Forum in Johannesburg

Pictured left to right: David Baraza - Kenya, Suzanne Aduko - Cote d'Ivoire, Francois Lushima - East Congo, Shete Lukonde - South Congo, Didier Banza - North Katanga, Dale Jones - CCP, Joseph Tunda - Central Congo, Lydia Jalloh - Sierra Leone, Paul Dirdak - CCP, Mauricio Armando - West Angola, Alcides Martins - East Angola, Julius Sylvester - Nigeria, Filimao Vilanculo - Mozambique, Zhana Kim - Eurasia, Mills Maliwa - South Africa, Andre Tongi - Central/Southern Europe, Chit Larida - Philippines, Moss Kapumha - Zimbabwe

CCP Achievements

Retirees receiving support: **1,364 people**

Surviving spouses receiving support: **1,592 people**

Active pastors covered: **8,000 people**

Total pension amount distributed to date: **\$7.7 million**

CCBO Forum Highlights Conference Pension Sustainability

As the Central Conference Pensions program evolved, so too did the nature of the Central Conference Benefits Officer Forum. Held September 12–14, 2017, the fourth biennial event represented more conferences than ever before. Presentations were made by Conference Benefits Officers who shared success strategies—a testament to the success of the program based on your valuable contributions.

Benefit Officer Chit Larida from the Philippines Central Conference gave a presentation about how her conference builds support for the pension program, raises funds and gains commitments. *"We are building a sustainable fund of our own. We work hard to get all full-time clergy enrolled in this plan and provide education on retirement benefits. Our Board of Pension Chair, Ms. Liz Mariano, who has a big heart for the clergy, solicits contributions from within the UMC in the Philippines to help those struggling to meet their 3%. We now have software that was created in the Philippines to meet the specific requirements of pension management. It is a strong step toward maintaining a successful program. Without the CCP grants we received, we could not have gotten this far."*

At the Forum, Rev. Francois Wembo Lushima gave a vibrant presentation about the innovative ways he communicates benefits with his geographically widespread conferences. If it takes a two-day trip on a motorbike to reach remote clergy, he'll

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CCBO Forum Recap—Johannesburg (continued)

do it! But he also takes advantage of group meetings within the Episcopal Area, and any opportunity to make sure all participants understand the importance of their contributions.

The CCBO Forum was a nice opportunity for camaraderie among the conferences. Each morning, one of the benefits officers led a devotion. On the third day, Rev. Lushima led devotions, and started a song about the power of the name of Jesus. While all attendees spoke varying languages, the Methodist tune was familiar. By the second verse, all were singing along in their own language with the power of a rehearsed choir.

“This moving experience was a perfect reminder that we are united in a common goal through CCP.”



The staff at the Philippines Central Conference Pension Office

Your Support is Changing Lives

In 2017, CCP staff and consultants visited 11 programs/pension offices to provide support and training, review plan administration and confirm payments are being received. Following are a few highlights from the trips.

South Congo

In the South Congo Episcopal Area, CCP consultant Paul Dirdak met with benefits officers and treasurers of five conferences. The meeting was held at Jerusalem UMC, Lubumbashi. Also in attendance was retiree Rev. Nsany Mutab.

Rev. Nsany Mutab, Retiree

Rev. Mutab was ordained in 1964 and retired in 2009. His father and grandfather were both United Methodist pastors.

He served five congregations and was a campus pastor at the University of Lubumbashi. He and his wife had 10 children, five boys and five girls.

Once, he said that he was sent to a parish without a parsonage. He made the bricks for the new parsonage himself. It took years to raise the money to complete the construction. As soon as he completed the house, he was transferred –

“I never got to live in it.”



Rev. Nsany Mutab, Retiree

He is very grateful for his pension, which he receives regularly. Rev. Mutab still serves in retirement. He often organizes large worship events for the annual conference and works to train and inspire young people to ministry.

He was grateful for having met with Wespeth staff and said that he would organize young pastors to encourage their full participation in the UMC pension program.

Central Congo

Tshituka Ntumba, Surviving Spouse

Tshituka Ntumba is the surviving spouse of Rev. Tshamala Ntumba. Rev. Ntumba retired in 2011 after 36 years of ministry. The Ntumbas served in churches in several areas,



Surviving spouse Tshituka Ntumba, top, third from left, with several of her children and adopted children

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Your Support is Changing Lives (continued)

and Rev. Ntumba also served as a district superintendent. They raised 15 of their own children and adopted several more. Many of the children still reside with Tshituka, who has now lost her eyesight. Tshituka is grateful for the pension payments, as they make it possible to buy food for this large household.

Rev. Armano Koso Lenga, "second career" pastor



*Front: Madam Otemakoy Lenga, Pastor Armano Lenga
Back: Interpreter Nicolas Munongo, CCP representatives Dale Jones and Paul Dirdak*

Rev. Armano Koso Lenga is a "second career" pastor. He entered ministry in his 50's in 1997 after having worked in planning and management for a Kinshasa company.

Pastor Lenga served four congregations in Kinshasa over 14 years and also served as conference treasurer. In addition to sending his own 10 children to school, he paid the school fees for a young man from one of his congregations, who is a pastor today.

"...many pastors do not have a home when they retire and [we hope] the Congo pension program will grow strong enough to help with this need."

Pastor Lenga remembers times when church members provided meals because his salary was insufficient. He is grateful for the pension payments he receives that provide

him with regular income for food and other expenses. He realizes that many pastors do not have a home when they retire and hopes the Congo pension program will grow strong enough to help with this need.

East and West Angola

Mr. Moss Kapumha, the Conference Benefits Officer for the East and West Zimbabwe Annual Conferences, conducted the annual review of pension programs in the two Angola Conferences. In East Angola, Moss met with four retirees at the conference offices, Rev. Alberto Fernandes, Rev. Joaquim Domingos Joa, Rev. Branca Manuel Jacinto Antonio Martins and Rev. Joaquim Carlo. Each of them asked that we convey their appreciation to CCP and the people who donated to the fund. They said *"without CCP support we would be suffering."*

"...without CCP support we would be suffering."



Pictured, left to right: Helder Freddy (Communications Director), Rev. Martins, Rev. Joa, Mr. Moss Kapumha (CCP consultant), Rev. Carlo, Rev. Fernandes

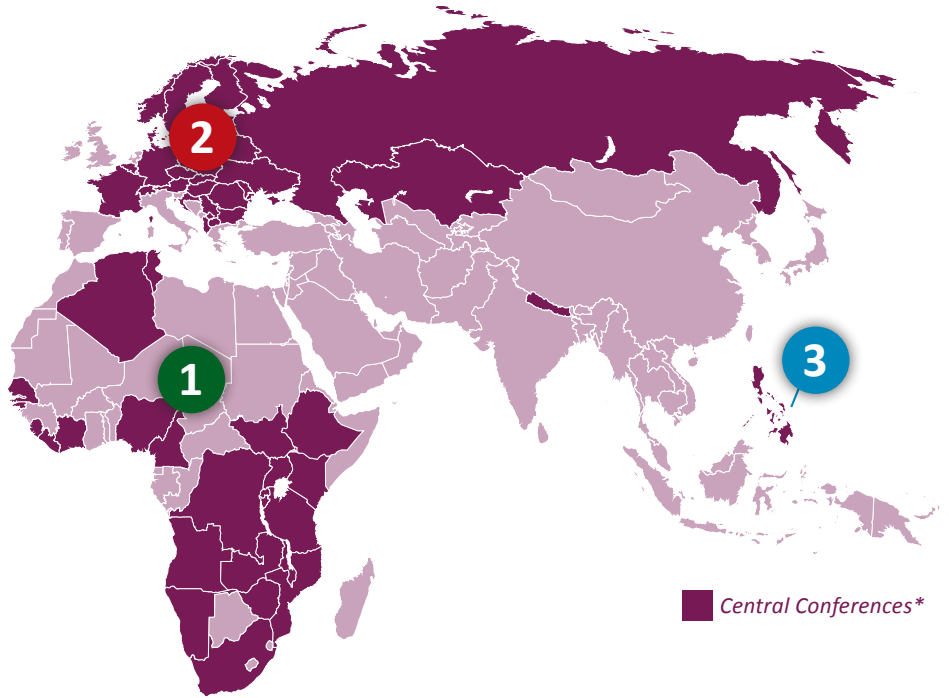
In West Angola, Moss met with 17 retirees whose tenures ranged from 20 to 35 years serving The United Methodist Church. They are very grateful for the funds provided to them by CCP, saying their counterparts at other denominations didn't have such a program.



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

Central Conferences

- 1 Central Conferences Africa**
Includes: Africa Central Conference, Congo Central Conference and West Africa Central Conference
- 2 Central Conferences Europe**
Includes four Episcopal Areas: Central and Southern Europe, Nordic-Baltic*, Eurasia and Germany*
- 3 Central Conference Philippines**
Includes three Episcopal Areas: Baguio, Davao and Manila



**Displayed map is an approximate representation of Central Conferences. Not all Central Conferences are part of Central Conference Pension programs. The German and some of the Nordic/Baltic conferences prefer to cover retirement income through their nations' public programs.*



If you would like to contribute to the funding of Central Conference Pension programs, please visit the donation page at wespath.org/ccp/donations/.

Please send Central Conference Pension pledge obligations to:
CCP: Wespath • 75 Remittance Drive, Suite 6714 • Chicago IL 60675-6714

Questions?

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