



# CCP Update



United Methodist clergy across the globe are being served by pension programs undergirded by the Central Conference Pension program.

*Pictured above: Philippines Central Conference Board of Pensions, including Bill Kavanaugh and Dale Jones, Wespath Benefits and Investments*

## CCP Financials as of 10/31/2018

\$ 26,267,476	Total donations received— Inception to date
\$ 411,440	Donations received— Year to date
\$ 899,351	Emergency grants 2006–2012
\$ 8,902,805	Pension funds distributed (1/1/2007 to date)
\$ 1,190,421	Pension distributions— Year to date

## Caring for Retirees—Not Just a Domestic Concern

While some retired clergy in the United States may stretch their budgets to pay for vacations and entertainment, many retired clergy in the central conferences (conferences outside of the United States) often struggle to pay for their next meals. Historically, most of the central conferences provided little or no pension support for pastors or their families. However, the tides are turning. United Methodist clergy across the globe are now being served by pension programs. Program assistance and education through the Central Conference Pension program is helping these pension plans progress toward becoming self-sustaining.

CCP was launched via a task force established by General Conference 2000 to initiate a “pension support plan for the central conferences.” At General Conference 2004, *The Book of Discipline* was amended to authorize an effort to raise funds. The entire UMC worked together to reach the funding goal and in 2007, the first pension payments were made.

Since then, the CCP initiative has grown to a full-fledged program that assists in the administration of retirement funds for clergy in 69 annual conferences. Retirement funds are now reaching nearly 3,000 pensioners amid some challenges that include serving those who can only be reached on foot by walking six or seven hours.

As evidence of progress, North Katanga and the South Congo, for example, now have full-time pension officers.

CCP assists in the administration of retirement funds for clergy in 69 of the 78 annual conferences in the Central Conferences.



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In 2018, Wespath staff and CCP representatives visited 10 programs/pension offices to provide support and training and confirm payments are being received.

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

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Central Conference Pension donations can also be mailed to:

**CCP: Wespath**  
**75 Remittance Drive, Suite 6714**  
**Chicago, IL 60675-6714**

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If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically instead of on paper, please send your name and e-mail address to [CCP@wespath.org](mailto:CCP@wespath.org).

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In 2018, CCP representatives visited Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Philippines, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and East and West Angola, as well as four episcopal areas in the DRC (Congo).

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On each trip, CCP representatives met with both those who administer the pensions in the Central Conferences, and those receiving support.

In Cote D'Ivoire, Wespath COO Bill Kavanaugh and CCP representative Paul Dirdak met with the Bishop's representative, Isaac Bodje, and other conference staff. They also attended a "Widows and Orphans" celebration sponsored by the conference.



*Surviving spouses, sisters Albertine Soukpou and Jaqueline Agre*

They then traveled to Sierra Leone, where they met with the Board of Pensions, Bishop Yambasu and pension recipients and attended a weekly worship service.



*Bill Kavanaugh; Lydia Jalloh, Conference Benefits Officer; Winston Ashcroft, Director of Connectional Ministries and Paul Dirdak, CCP Consultant*



Retirement funds are now reaching more than 3,000 pensioners amid some challenges that include serving those who can only be reached on foot by walking six or seven hours.



*Wespith representatives met with surviving spouses, the Conference Treasurer and Conference Benefits Officer in Cote d'Ivoire*

CCP representative Moss Kapumha conducted plan reviews in East and West Angola, and spent time with retirees and surviving spouses. He guided retirees to use their experiences to help educate active clergy on the importance of contributing to their pension plans.

The retired pastors expressed abundant gratitude to all who help support CCP.

Moss visited two retirees separately at their homes in Luanda, West Angola.

Rev. Bento Francisco Pedro served as a pastor of The United Methodist Church from 1983 to 2002. He expressed his gratitude for CCP, stating it gives him hope for the future of the Church.

In a visit to the Congo, Paul Dirdak met with cabinets, conference leaders, the Congo Central Conference Board of Pensions of the area, and several retired clergy and spouses.



*Pictured from left to right: Rev. Pedro and his wife, Moss Kapumha and Timoteo*



Surviving spouse Charlotte Okoko (Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo), shown here with son Robert, uses money from the Central Conference Pension program to obtain medicine and therapy. During 44 years of ministry with Rev. Okoko, Charlotte served as Women's Coordinator and Orphans Coordinator, taught in Methodist schools and led various women's groups.

**Money from the Central Conference Pension program helps Charlotte Okoko obtain medicine and therapy.**



















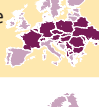


## Central Conference Facts

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

Within the central conferences there are 78 provisional and annual conferences (of which 69 are assisted by CPP) with 5.4 million members.

## Statistics

Country		Active clergy	Retirees receiving payments	Surviving spouses/ beneficiaries receiving payments
Cote D'Ivoire		219	2	26
Liberia		999	236	511
Mozambique		216	42	46
West Angola		267	81	68
East Angola		80	23	18
Sierra Leone		128	17	10
Zimbabwe		404	34	47
Russia		148	18	0
Philippines		1,773	191	186
Nigeria		350	42	75

Country		Active clergy	Retirees receiving payments	Surviving spouses/ beneficiaries receiving payments
East Africa		567	124	89
East Congo		297	87	59
Central Congo		366	175	122
South Congo		242	70	166
North Katanga		917	274	235
South Africa		14	7	0
Southern and Central Europe		216	20	13
Lithuania		11	0	0
Latvia		12	2	0

### Total CCP Statistics

- Active pastors covered—**more than 7,000**
- Retirees and Surviving spouses receiving support—**3,116**
- Total of all pension support funds released to date—**\$9.8\* million**

*\* Total of emergency grants and pension funds distributed*

### Questions?

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