Mozambique Update (continued from page 3)

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The $500,000 Challenge

In May, an anonymous supporter in Georgia donated $500,000 to the CCPI effort and issued a challenge to churches in the state to match the gift. It didn’t take long for North Georgia to answer the call during annual conference—more than $600,000 was raised. South Georgia also kicked off its support campaign, distributing pledge forms during annual conference, with hopes of meeting the goal early this fall. Join us in thanking the anonymous benefactor and the churches who met the challenge!

Conferences Answer Cokesbury Call

For many years, annual conferences have received a share of the United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH) proceeds during their annual conference sessions. Since 2002, many conferences have forwarded their “Cokesbury checks” to CCPI. These donations have amounted to well over $600,000 in gifts during each of the past three years.

In this year’s economic climate, UMPI is unable to provide Cokesbury checks. Instead, CCPI encouraged each annual conference to consider a gift or matching grant equal to their 2008 Cokesbury gift for the initiative. Thirty-two U.S. annual conferences have done so, despite their own financial struggles.

Neil Alexander, president and publisher of UMPI, told the United Methodist News Service that the “actions by some conferences this year to give sacrificially in order to continue that practice in a time of unprecedented worldwide economic hardship demonstrates that the commitment to central conference pastors and church workers runs deep and is abiding. This outpouring of love and support is a tremendous witness of fellowship and hope for our Church’s future around the world.”

DOE Oil Refunds Donated

In June, the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) informed conferences that the Church would receive a $45,000 Department of Energy (DOE) crude oil refund, of which each conference would receive an equal share. GCFA also provided an opportunity to donate this refund directly to CCPI. As a result, 12 conferences across the United States donated their refunds.

Mozambique Pilot Project Update

CCPI visited Mozambique in July to evaluate its pension pilot project, which has been in effect since January 2009. This visit allowed a pilot program evaluation—verifying fund distributions and identifying challenges that may need to be addressed.

At the end of July, 99 retired clergy and surviving spouses in the two Mozambique annual conferences received a quarterly pension payment of $288 to $384, based on years of service. They use the funds for food, housing, necessary medications and school fees for their children and grandchildren. Those who have been participating since the project’s inception have now received three quarterly payments.

The CCPI campaign would not be possible without our dedicated committee—clergy and laity from each jurisdiction. They attend meetings, help solicit major gifts, provide feedback and welcome CCPI into their churches and conferences—and all have made financial gifts to the campaign. Thank you to our hard-working committee members!

Have you been on CCPI’s Web site lately? If not, you may have missed the nine new personal stories we recently added. Also, the 2009 annual conference video is now available on the site.

Take a minute, take a look and tell a friend. We depend on our supporters to spread the word about CCPI’s work on behalf of central conference pastors and their families.

Campaign goal: $20 M
Raised to date: $18.1 M
Percentage of goal raised: 90.5%
Bishop’s Day Apart
On March 24, the North Georgia annual conference held a Bishop’s Day Apart, during which many clergy learned about their pension, disability and health benefits, and were challenged to share with those less fortunate through gifts to CCPI. Approximately 630 people attended the event, which brought in $319 gifts and pledges totaling more than $340,000.

Bishops Vote Unanimous Support for CCPI
At its May meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, The United Methodist Church’s Council of Bishops unanimously approved a Call to Action. Among other matters, the group collectively decided that “Working with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (General Board), the Council of Bishops, individually and collectively, commits to complete the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI) goal of at least $20 million.”

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Many of the council members have already fulfilled their pledges by making individual donations, spearheading efforts in their conference to organize church campaigns and spreading the word about CCPI.

We are grateful to bishops who have provided the opportunity for others to participate by calling attention to this important need.

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- Desert Southwest
- Florida
- Kansas West
- Minnesota
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- Tennessee
- West Ohio
- West Virginia
- Western North Carolina
- Western Pennsylvania

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Updates to www.ccpi-umc.org

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What are the United Methodist Central Conferences?

• The central conferences are conferences in countries outside the United States.
• There are currently seven central conferences in three regions (Asia, Africa, and Europe). They are composed of 72 annual and provisional conferences in 42 countries.
• The central conferences include more than 6,900 organized churches with more than 3.5 million lay members.
• More than 9,300 clergy members minister to this rapidly increasing population in our Church.

Sierra Leone and Angola

CCPI visited Sierra Leone to meet with the new bishop, John Yambasu, and Angola, where there are two Episcopal areas. CCPI gathered data in preparation for planning pension systems in both countries. Both countries previously had pension plans, but they were unsustainable during wartime. CCPI is using its experience in Liberia to help Sierra Leone and Angola rebuild their pension plans.

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Questions? Interested in Helping?

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Phone: 847-866-4230, Fax: 847-866-4003, E-mail: ccpi@gbophb.org, Web site: www.ccpi-umc.org

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