



CCPI Update



Micro-Business Thrives in Mozambique

Approximately four years ago, the retired clergy and surviving spouses who live in the Chicique mission compound in Mozambique began a farming cooperative. Earnings from selling crops and eggs enable them to contribute financially to the education of area children and supplement the pension income they receive.

When United Methodist clergy in Mozambique retire, many build homes on land they own. Those who do not own land sometimes are allowed to build their homes on Church-owned property. There are 21 families of retired United Methodist clergy or surviving spouses living in the Chicique mission compound. Led by the Reverend Lea Jotano Maswanganhe—a former district superintendent and the first woman ordained as a Methodist pastor in Mozambique—they began the Chicique retired pastors' association.



The association, a nonprofit organization, wrote two grant proposals to the local government and received sufficient funding to start a small farming cooperative. They purchased materials, seed and 341 hens, which produce 100 eggs daily. Proceeds from vegetable and egg sales are used to pay school fees and purchase uniforms for 200 children at the local school. Remaining proceeds are divided equally among the families.

This year, the association members began receiving payments from the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI) Mozambique pension pilot project, which brought pension support to all retired pastors and surviving spouses in the conference. Currently, 99 retired pastors and surviving spouses receive pensions of \$288 to \$384 quarterly; each retiree's pension is based on years of service.



GENERAL BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Caring For Those Who Serve

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

CCPI Committee Members

The Central Conference Pension Committee is made up of a bishop, a large church pastor and a layperson from each of the five Church jurisdictions. Recently, three committee members went the extra mile to encourage action from their conferences.



Dr. Neal Berte is the lay representative from the Southeast Jurisdiction. He previously served as the president of Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama, and continues to serve as president emeritus in retirement. Dr. Berte has been working mainly with larger churches, holding one-on-one meetings with pastors to develop special offerings and other giving opportunities in the North Alabama Conference. The total raised from the conference to date is \$304,098.



The **Reverend Greg McGarvey** is the clergy member from the North Central Jurisdiction. When the South Indiana and North Indiana conferences merged, the bishop chose CCPI as a uniting cause. Rev. McGarvey helped facilitate CCPI presentations and donation opportunities, including a display at the 2009 clergy joint session. To date, clergy support in Indiana

has returned \$361,775.



Bishop Cal McConnell, the bishop from the Western Jurisdiction, began working with CCPI to raise awareness in 2009. He has helped open doors in every conference in the jurisdiction. He also has spurred second-mile giving in the California-Pacific Conference (one of the first to provide significant funding to CCPI). We expect Bishop McConnell's efforts to again result

in contribution increases from the area over the coming months. To date, the Western Jurisdiction has returned \$1.15 million to the CCPI effort.

UMCOM Helps with Final Push

United Methodist Communications (UMCOM) has offered its global media network to help the CCPI reach or exceed its campaign goal, as it enters the final phase of the fundraising effort. UMCOM will provide opportunities for the CCPI team to reach additional audiences, help distribute CCPI materials and collaborate to generate print, video and social network coverage.

The Reverend Larry Hollon, UMCOM general secretary, said, "The generosity of the people of the United Methodist Church is remarkable. When they hear the story of the CCPI, they respond. It's our joy as United Methodist Communications staff to be part of this innovative, visionary and down-to-earth effort to bring a measure of economic support to our retired clergy in the most economically strapped parts of the world. It's a wonderful story to tell."



The Reverend Larry Hollon, general secretary of United Methodist Communications (left)

While we have highlighted only a few of our committee members' individual efforts, the CCPI campaign would not be possible without the dedication of the entire Central Conference Pension Committee. In addition to attending meetings, helping solicit major gifts, providing feedback and welcoming CCPI into their churches and conferences, all committee members have made financial gifts to the campaign. We appreciate the hard work, gifts of time and personal contributions of our committee, which supports CCPI's global efforts.

Rev. Dr. Brian K. Bauknight
Northeastern Jurisdiction

Neal Berte, Ed.D.
Southeastern Jurisdiction

Barbara A. Boigegrain
General Secretary,
General Board of Pension and
Health Benefits

Rev. Dr. Timothy K. Bruster
South Central Jurisdiction

Bishop Ben R. Chamness
South Central Jurisdiction

R. Earl Cox III
South Central Jurisdiction

Rev. Paul Dirdak
Director, Central Conference Pension
Administration, General Board of Pension
and Health Benefits

William Green, Ph.D.
Northeastern Jurisdiction

Rev. Larry Hollon
General Secretary, United Methodist
Communications

Rev. Dr. J. Gorman Houston
Southeastern Jurisdiction

Emmy Lou John
North Central Jurisdiction

Bishop Linda Lee
North Central Jurisdiction

Bishop Cal McConnell
Western Jurisdiction

Rev. Greg McGarvey
North Central Jurisdiction

Dan O'Neill
Managing Director, Central Conference
Pensions, General Board of Pension and
Health Benefits

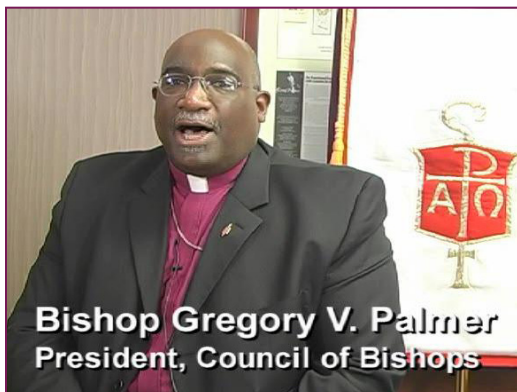
Bishop Ann Sherer-Simpson
South Central Jurisdiction

Bishop B. Michael Watson
Southeastern Jurisdiction

Bishop Peter D. Weaver
Northeastern Jurisdiction

Rev. Dr. J. Edsel White
Western Jurisdiction

Bishop Asks Denomination to Support CCPI



Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, the president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, recently asked all pastors to help the CCPI reach its fundraising goal in a letter distributed through the fall church leaders mailing—a coordinated, monthly mailing sent from UMCOM to more than 35,000 churches.

“Our [central conference] retirees are among the

world’s [most] vulnerable people,” wrote Bishop Palmer, “vulnerable to food shortage, lack of health care and economic insecurity. This should not be. And it need not be. We can make a difference. This is a human need that we can solve.”

Personal appeals like Bishop Palmer’s, coupled with the generosity of CCPI’s donors across the denomination, have been integral to the campaign’s success. As news of CCPI circulates, more and more individuals, churches, districts and conferences are providing support to this important effort and bringing it closer to its fundraising goal.

We thank Bishop Palmer, our bishops and our clergy for their personal contributions and appeals to churches and congregants in their episcopal areas, and laity who have been instrumental in spreading the word about CCPI in their conferences and throughout the denomination. We ask for your continued support as we enter the final stretch of our fundraising effort.

CAMPAIGN GOAL REFINED

CCPI now has met with bishops from every episcopal area in the central conferences and launched two pilot programs, which have taught us much about how these programs can best be administered.

“We have cause to celebrate as we close in on our goal of a minimum of \$20 million and donations continue to be received. The Church and all of its members have shown that they consider this initiative to be worthy and important, with \$19.1 million in donations and pledges to date,” said Dan O’Neill, managing director of Central Conference Pensions. “We anticipate exceeding this original campaign goal and hope to reach at least \$25 million in order to support the growth of The United Methodist Church in the central conferences, to offset the cost of the initial fundraising efforts, to facilitate the inclusion of Cote d’Ivoire and to handle specific conference needs discovered during the pilot projects.”

CCPI is now 76% of the way to meeting the refined fundraising mark—approximately \$6 million short of the amount needed to establish pension funds in every central conference. We appreciate your ongoing support!



Storms Delay Philippines Pension Plans

Philippine churches have been asking congregants for donations to augment their existing pension plans. However, recent tropical storms—which caused the worst flooding in Manila in more than 40 years, more than 900 deaths and displaced a half million people—have overshadowed that effort. The conference has postponed its fundraising campaign until January 2010 to allow congregants to focus on the relief efforts.

There are 24 annual conferences in the Philippines, with a total of 377 pensioners. While the pension plans are well-developed, they are underfunded. In February 2009, CCPI met with all three bishops in the episcopal area—Bishop Leo Soriano, Bishop Lito Tangomen and Bishop Rodolfo Juan—to discuss ways that CCPI can help.

Emergency Grants Address Urgent Needs

While the focus of CCPI’s efforts in the past year has been on developing sustainable pension plans for central conference countries, we remain aware that immediate assistance is needed by many retired United Methodist pastors and surviving spouses. Since 2006, CCPI has provided emergency grants to the most vulnerable retirees. CCPI distributed emergency grant money to 1,784 individuals worldwide in 2009—923 clergy and 861 surviving spouses. Of those grant recipients, 1,345 reside in Africa—664 clergy and 681 surviving spouses. Retirees and surviving spouses in Liberia and Mozambique are served by CCPI’s pension pilot projects and receive regular pension support. Therefore, they are not eligible for additional grant funds.

What Are the United Methodist Central Conferences?

- The central conferences are those 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 annual 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.

Continue to Support the CCPI Campaign

- Talk to your friends in the United Methodist community and share CCPI's story.
- Host a CCPI reception for friends or church members.
- Visit the CCPI Web site to download materials, or contact the CCPI office to request materials to share with those you know in other churches and conferences.
- Encourage interested individuals to support the campaign.
- Consider increasing your pledge or gift amount.

CCPI Sees Opportunity for Baltics



In August 2009, CCPI visited the Nordic/Baltic episcopal area to meet with the area bishop and district superintendents in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to learn about pension challenges faced by the Baltic countries. There is no common language spoken in these three countries; however, they are too small to become separate annual conferences, according to *The Book of Discipline*. There is currently a separate government pension system for each country, but few retired United Methodist clergy or surviving spouses. Lithuania has no retirees or surviving spouses, and the oldest of the six pastors in the country is 43 years old; Latvia has only one retiree, who recently left active service at the age of 80; and Estonia has seven retirees and seven surviving spouses.

CCPI believes that the small number of pensioners provides for a great opportunity to build a sustainable pension plan using active pastor contributions. It is hoped that the plan developed by CCPI in partnership with the conference office will cover all three countries through a single plan.

Russian Plan Progresses

In November 2008, CCPI visited Russia to evaluate its self-funded pension plan for United Methodist retirees and surviving spouses. Following that meeting, a pension plan document was finalized in consultation with the conference office, and some previously collected funds were invested with the General Board. However, there is still work to be done. CCPI will continue to work with Russia to improve its pension program, which currently supports seven retirees.

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Questions? Interested in Helping?

Central Conference Pension Initiative, 1201 Davis Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201-4118

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