



CCPI Update



■ Countries where CCPI is active.

CCPI Achievements

Pensioners receiving support: **2,759**
(TO DATE)

Challenge goal:	\$25+ million
Raised to date:	\$24.7 million
Percentage of challenge goal raised:	98.8%

Central Conference Facts and Figures

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

Within the central conferences, there are 74 annual and provisional annual conferences.

- 4.4 million members, served by more than 8,900 active clergy
- More than 2,900 retirees and surviving spouses reside in the central conferences

All Pension Plans Now Implemented

Great news: all central conferences seeking pension support through the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI) have met the necessary project start-up criteria, and now have their own pension plans in place—two years ahead of schedule. Thanks to the generosity of donors around the world, the Initiative can now focus on raising the remaining \$300,000 of its \$25+ million challenge goal.

With the achievement of this milestone, every eligible central conference pastor now has reliable pension support through their conference and/or a government program!

Plans adopted by each central or annual conference are now in operation throughout Africa, Europe and Asia, covering 2,759 retirees and surviving spouses.

Church leaders in the central conferences have expressed great appreciation to individuals and churches across the denomination for their gifts. Donor generosity is providing worldwide pension support where it never existed before.

Thank you!

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General Board

Pension and Health Benefits

Caring For Those Who Serve

CCPI's Sustainability Standards

measure each conference's progress toward the goal of attaining and maintaining a sustainable pension program. Criteria are divided into two categories—*funding* and *administration*—and cover such topics as legal review, plan compliance and benefits education.

As defined by CCPI, "sustainability" is achieved by a program that generates the resources to supply its own needs. A sustainable pension program is:

- Well-funded
- Carefully administered
- Well-written, with funds distributed in a fair and equitable manner



The Importance of Self-Sustaining Pension Programs



The Central Conference Pension Initiative establishes and funds pension programs for retirees and surviving spouses in the central conferences who, without Church support, would have little or nothing in retirement.

The Initiative has two goals:

1. to provide pension support to those in or near retirement and;
2. to define and establish long-term, self-funded pension programs so all future retirees will be supported.

CCPI helps the central conferences create pension plans they will fund themselves so that, over time, all plans will be self-funded and self-sustaining. To help achieve full sustainability, CCPI uses Sustainability Standards to measure each conference's progress toward the goal of attaining and maintaining sustainable pension payments. A *Sustainability Standards Scorecard* is used to help conference personnel track their plan's progress against each standard with measurable benchmarks to be met along the way.

Pension plan establishment in the central conferences is a careful and thoughtful process, with CCPI staff educating stakeholders on why saving for retirement is important, outlining the various plan options, and communicating the value of a self-sustaining model. Plans written by each conference also take local economies, cultures and capabilities into consideration.

CCPI's ultimate goal is for every central conference pension program to be self-funded and self-sustaining—a principle that distinguishes CCPI plans from the unsustainable charity programs that many retired clergy have depended on in the past. However, achieving self-sustainability requires steady progress over time, and there is still more work to be done.

Annual Evaluation—An Important Step in the CCPI Pension Process

An important step in assuring the continued success and operation of central conference pension programs is the annual evaluation process. CCPI staff visits each conference to evaluate its pension program, review financial records, ensure full and timely distribution of payments, identify any problems that should be corrected, and help implement improvements to the process.

Conference personnel are also educated about the importance of self-sustaining pension programs as well as how to develop best practices for their own country's program. Finally, CCPI staff meet with retired pastors and surviving spouses who are receiving benefits to verify that they received their pensions in full and on time as well as to see how the payments are impacting their lives.

To learn about the annual evaluation process, read the Nigeria article.

Baltic Pension Program Adopted



CCPI Director Dan O'Neill met with Latvian clergy in fall 2012.

CCPI Director Dan O'Neill traveled to Riga, Latvia, and Birzai, Lithuania, in the fall of 2012 to present the final pension plans to area clergy for their approval. As in the United States, a church pension is seen as a supplement to the local government's pension system in these countries.

Because of the unique nature of young churches and their clergy, it was important to manage conference expectations, specifically about the level of pension support provided and the continued commitment from clergy to fund the plans. Under each plan, clergy will contribute a portion of their salary to the CCPI pension program.

During the visit, O'Neill met with conference benefits officers and district superintendents from Latvia and Lithuania. All expressed gratitude for the continued help and support of donors during the plan development process. Funding begins this month for retirees in Latvia, and active clergy in both Latvia and Lithuania.

CCPI Performs Annual Evaluation of Nigeria Pension Program

In December 2012, CCPI Director Paul Dirdak visited the Nigeria Annual Conference to perform the first annual evaluation of its pension program. During the trip, he examined financial records, interviewed retired pastors and surviving spouses who are receiving benefits, and discussed plans for additional pension education efforts for their conference personnel.



*Nigerian retiree,
The Rev. Edan Gani*

The Nigeria program, launched in 2012, covers 44 retired pastors and 62 surviving spouses. Pensioners still receive quarterly payments in cash, but there is a desire to make all payments via bank transfer deposited directly into their personal bank accounts. Nigeria recently elected to divide its single annual conference into three conferences, but pension administration will continue to be handled by a single board of pensions and a single benefits officer.



Detroit Conference Walks for CCPI

The Detroit Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits registered 62,410 HealthMiles during their Third Annual Virgin HealthMiles Thanksgiving CCPI Challenge. This year, 195 people accepted the challenge and 178 registered at least once for a total contribution to CCPI of \$12,482, while improving their own health with exercise.

This gift brings their total contributions to \$2,190,000.

Thank you to all who continue to support CCPI!

*The Rev. Donald J. Emmert,
Conference Benefits Officer*



195 people

62,410 HealthMiles

\$12,482 contributed



CCPI's Fund Update

Thanks to the generosity of donors around the world (including an anonymous donor who recently gave \$500,000); **the Central Conference Pension Initiative is now less than \$300,000 from achieving its \$25+ million challenge goal.**

To help raise the remaining monies needed to establish pension plans throughout the central conferences, a mailing to more than 46,000 active and retired clergy was sent out in November. The response to this outreach effort has been very positive; adding \$235,000 (as of publication) to CCPI's donation total. However, we still need \$300,000—with your ongoing generosity, we can finish this important connectional success story.

On behalf of those who serve in the central conferences, the General Board thanks the denomination for its continued support of the Central Conference Pension Initiative. This program will help assure lifetime pension support to central conference ministers and surviving spouses in retirement. **We thank each of you for your gifts and prayers, and hope that you will continue to help us reach our fundraising goal! Please visit www.ccpi-umc.org for details on how to donate online.**

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Publication: **4500**

Publication type: **Newsletter**

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Your Support is Changing Lives

During their 2012 trips to Russia and Nigeria, CCPI staff interviewed retirees who are now receiving pension support. Many Russian retirees are of Korean ancestry and were instrumental in establishing a United Methodist religious presence in their communities. Read on to learn more about them and their inspirational stories.



The Reverend Taisiya Sergunina

Retiree, Russia

Rev. Sergunina helped establish one of the first United Methodist churches after the fall of Communism when many were afraid to join a religion that wasn't Russian Orthodox. She attended seminary in 1995 and after graduation, converted an assembly hall into a make-shift house of worship. As the new church grew, Taisiya and her fellow parishioners traveled on mission trips to preach the Gospel to those outside her town. Retired in 2004, Rev. Sergunina is still active in the church and always takes the opportunity to tell others about Christ.



The Reverend Tezei Yugai

Retiree, Russia

Retired in 2007, Rev. Yugai was a second-career pastor who holds a degree in physics from Moscow University and worked for many years in the nuclear power industry. He came to Christ after first reading the Bible in 1993 and translating church services into Korean. These duties soon transitioned into preaching and eventually a seminary education. Rev. Yugai was instrumental in starting a new church and baptizing many new parishioners.



The Reverend Jonah Tobivo

Retiree, Nigeria

Rev. Tobivo retired in 2003, spending much of his ministry traveling to remote areas to build churches and preach the Word of God. Before CCPI pension support started in Nigeria, he received a small stipend from episcopal funds. But upon the bishop's death in 2006, that support stopped, and the Reverend had to wait several years to receive another pension payment. He now

uses his CCPI pension to buy food and medicine for his wife and six children.

Questions? Interested in Helping?

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