



CCP Update

Surviving Spouses Grateful to Central Conference Pensions

With six children to take care of, the youngest at nine-years-old, Nyirantezayabo Antoinette was unsure of the future when her husband, Pastor Nukwanumva Fidele passed away in 2018. However, pension benefits from the East Africa Episcopal Area pension plan, funded by Central Conference Pensions have allowed her to keep her family together and now life has improved dramatically. She is grateful for the support she receives via benefits from the Central Conference Pensions.

Redempter Akinyi Oduory, a surviving spouse in the Kenya-Ethiopia conference, expressed her gratitude for the pension program that started in East Africa in early 2018. She now has regular quarterly income which helps pay for rent, school fees and medical care for her four children ages 11 to 17. Her husband, Pastor Jamlux Edward Okello, was tragically killed in a robbery in 2015.

...pension benefits have allowed surviving spouse, Nyirantezayabo Antoinette to keep her family together and now life has improved dramatically.



(top) Redempter Akinyi Oduory, a surviving spouse, with daughter Faith and son Lucastrol (two of four children).

(inset) Nyirantezayabo Antoinette, a surviving spouse

CCP Financials as of 10/31/19

\$26,377,553

Total donations received
Inception to date

\$97,600

Donations received
Year to date

\$899,351

Emergency grants
2006-2012

\$10,154,918

Pension funds distributed
(1/1/2007 to date)

\$1,252,113

Pension distributions
Year to date



Wespath
BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS

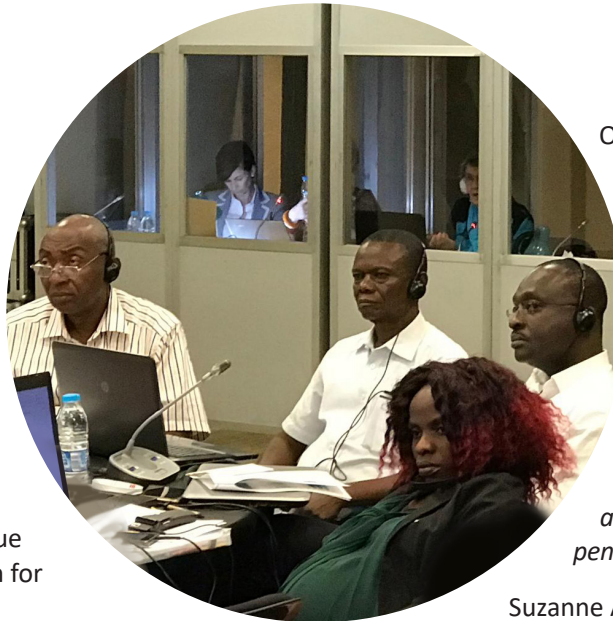


Central Conference Benefits Officers (CCBOs) Gather from Around the Globe

CBOs and Wespeth staff recently traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa from around the globe to attend the bi-annual Central Conference Benefits Officers Forum.

The purpose of the Forum was to provide training to CBOs, share challenges and ideas, and determine best practices in order to help The United Methodist Church continue administering a pension program for its Central Conferences clergy.

Attendees viewed and discussed more than a dozen presentations. These included *Accurate Data*, *Actuarial Valuations*, *The Miracle of Compound Interest*, *Collecting Contributions* and *Investment of Pension Funds* to name a few. Also on the agenda was a video message from Barbara Boigegrain, General Secretary of Wespeth and individual and group exercises that allowed attendees to put the principles they learned in presentations into practice.



Of particular value to Didier Banza Banze, CBO for North Katanga, was the presentation on *The Miracle of Compound Interest*. “*What I learned from this session will change our work and our contribution system significantly,*” he stated. “*I will focus my time now on helping active pastors understand the benefits for them to invest now. I am even more committed to working for our retirees and helping my Episcopal area to meet pension costs for the coming years.*”

Suzanne Adouko, CBO for Cote d’Ivoire summed up the learning experience when she said, “*All the sessions have been good for me. Attending the Forum will allow me to more easily solve some problems.*”

Pictured from left to right: Joseph Tunda (Central Congo), Francois Lushima (East Congo), Didier Banza Banze (North Katanga), Florence Nakamya (East Africa Episcopal Area—Uganda/South Sudan)

“I am even more committed to working for our retirees and helping my Episcopal area to meet pension costs for the coming years.”

—DIDIER BANZA BANZE, CBO FOR NORTH KATANGA





East Africa Clergy Learning Value of Pension Program

Taking a central conference from having no formal pensions for clergy to having a self-sustaining pension program is a journey of sorts. Along the way, the importance of educating potential participants of the value of such a program is critical to its success.

The East Africa Episcopal Area is on such a journey now.

On the surface, it would seem elementary that a pension program is a benefit well worth having to those who will receive the actual pension payments. But the issue is not always clear-cut.

Benefits officers in the annual conferences of East Africa are seeking to educate pastors about the pension Program and encourage their participation. Pastor Bahati Augustin, conference benefits officer in Rwanda, made a concerted



effort to have all arrears paid in full during a district meeting. Among his many other duties, Pastor Augustin has taken on the responsibility of educating Rwandan clergy on the intricacies of a pension program, specifically of making contributions on a regular basis so that they do not lose out on the maximum payment they could receive for their eligible service. Benefit officers in the Burundi, Kenya-Ethiopia and Uganda-South Sudan conferences are engaging in similar education.

And though the recent arrearages have been paid up, Pastor Augustin will continue to hold meetings with clergy to make sure everyone understands not only how the program works, but most importantly, how it works for their benefit.

Pictured: Rwanda district meeting

Meetings in Africa Fill Third Quarter Docket for CCP Staff



The third quarter began with CCP staff members Dale Jones (top) and Paul Dirdak travelling to Nairobi, Kenya to meet with conference staff from Kenya–Ethiopia. The purpose of the meeting was to hear an update on progress with the East Africa plan and to conduct training exercises.



A meeting was also held with Minet Kenya, the third party vendor whom CCP has

contracted with to make pension payments for all four conferences, to discuss delays and other challenges and to determine how the process can be improved.

Paul Dirdak also visited Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

In Mozambique, Paul met with CBO Rev. Filimao Vilanculo to help him resolve some unusual situations with pension plan participants. He also received an update on recent changes in number and boundaries of annual conferences and learned how concerns with Mozambique's

social security system are increasing the importance of and interest in the Church pension plan.

In the DRC, he met with the South Congo and North Katanga CBOs and the South Congo bishop, as well as meeting with the Central Congo and East Congo benefits officers and Central Congo bishop. In each stop, he answered questions, received updates on methods and attainment levels in collecting pension plan contributions, and, assessed overall sustainability.






















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 CCP) with 5.4 million members.

Statistics

Country	Active clergy	Retirees receiving payments	Surviving spouses/beneficiaries receiving payments
Cote D'Ivoire 	224	3	28
Liberia 	1179	210	52
Mozambique 	227	43	48
West Angola 	267	88	68
East Angola 	80	24	18
Sierra Leone 	97	19	11
Zimbabwe 	384	36	48
Russia 	82	20	0
Philippines 	1,643	184	183
Nigeria 	350	42	75

Country	Active clergy	Retirees receiving payments	Surviving spouses/beneficiaries receiving payments
East Africa 	723	149	143
East Congo 	327	86	63
Central Congo 	342	203	115
South Congo 	593	98	174
North Katanga 	917	274	241
South Africa 	7	5	2
Southern and Central Europe 	94	24	12
Lithuania 	11	0	0
Latvia 	12	2	0

Total CCP Statistics

- Active pastors covered—**more than 7,500**
- Retirees and Surviving spouses receiving support—**3,263**
- Total of all pension support funds released to date—**\$11,054,269***

**Total of emergency grants and pension funds distributed*

Questions?

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