



CCP Update

East Africa Saving Time and Money with New Implementations

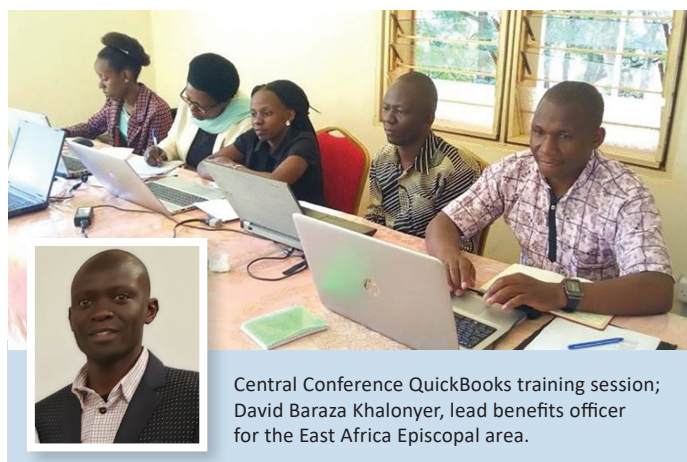
With pension distributions beginning in 2018, the East Africa pension plan is the most recent CCP-supported program to begin making pension payments. The program continues to evolve and improve.

For the first two years, East Africa pensions were distributed through a third party vendor based in Nairobi. This year pension payments began to be wired directly to the conference pension fund accounts for the conferences in East Africa. This has reduced country-to-country bank transfer charges and will also save the fees that were paid to the third party administrator.

“We believe the new process will also get the money into pensioners accounts more quickly than was sometimes the case when it was paid through the third party vendor,” said Dale Jones, Managing Director, Church Relations.

In addition, the lead benefits officer for the East Africa Episcopal area, David Baraza Khalonyere, held a training session on QuickBooks accounting software for the other East Africa benefits officers.

David, who is a CPA and is proficient in QuickBooks, helped them set up the application for their participants and continues to answer questions from his colleagues as they begin to use the application.



Central Conference QuickBooks training session; David Baraza Khalonyere, lead benefits officer for the East Africa Episcopal area.

QuickBooks provides an effective means for tracking all the church and clergy pension program contributions by participant, which will become increasingly unwieldy over time in Excel, the program they have been using.

Following the QuickBooks training in East Africa, David went to the Congo at the request of the South Congo and North Katanga benefits officers and provided similar training and set up assistance for them.

CCP Financials as of 04/30/2020

\$26,494,983

Total donations received
Inception to date

\$91,256

Donations received
Year to date

\$899,351

Emergency grants
2006–2012

\$10,797,011

Pension funds distributed
(01/01/2007 to date)

\$635,843

Pension distributions
Year to date



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COVID-19 Affecting Central Conferences

COVID-19 is a global challenge, affecting the central conferences similarly to the United States and other parts of the world. In some cases, it has caused worse hardships than we have seen due to a lack of medicine and other vital resources. Lives have been lost, livelihoods have been affected and worship has ceased to exist or been forced to move to new online formats just as it has here.

As a result, local church income is down, human need and suffering is up. Thankfully, the pension programs have been able to make their distributions to retirees and spouses, whether they be via electronic transfers or delivered in person.

Following are some accounts on what central conference pension officers have been experiencing—both the hardships and the examples of hope and faith—during these last few, difficult months.

“On Easter day, my family and some members of neighboring families, celebrated a worship in memory of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ in my house.”

— **East Congo Episcopal Area**

“In Mozambique the government decreed a state of emergency, so the church is unable to have services in chapels. The work of the church is being greatly affected because all programs are stopped. We only use social networks to communicate. I had to cancel the visit I was supposed to make at the conference in northern Mozambique to meet with the pastors and talk about our pension plan. The situation at the Northern Conference is difficult, their hope for the future lies in the pension plan so I wanted to travel there to work with pastors and conference leaders. Another problem is that people remain crowded in the informal markets buying and selling to get something for their survival. There are no conditions for observing quarantine rules. Continue to pray for us because our health system is precarious.”

— **Mozambique**

“By the grace of God, we are very healthy. The number of cases is increasing day by day. A curfew has been established and being in the city of Abidjan, we are in isolation. I come to the office; employees are doing double shifts. God the Savior of humanity will one day stop this pandemic.”

— **Cote d’Ivoire**

“In partnership with Center for Health and Hope (from Denver), I have been working with how we can feed the most vulnerable families. Yesterday, we provided food to 36 vulnerable families.”

— **Rwanda**

“The effects of the virus is everywhere. The numbers are increasing by the day. Social distancing is a very hard thing for people here. I fear we are in for a long challenge managing this ‘bomb’. All schools and churches are closed and most non-essential work is discouraged. It is very hard for many of us to work from home. We need to get out more to fend for the family.”

— **Kenya**

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Andre Gomes—A Pastor’s Son’s Story

Andre Gomes is 39-years-old, but because of learning challenges he never went to school and is unable to work. He was wholly dependent on his parents until their death and now lives alone in the house that his parents left for him.

Andres’s parents were Rev. Simon Gomes, who served the church for 50 years and, following his retirement, passed away at age 78, and Domingos Gomes, who passed away in 2013.

Andre remembers many harrowing experiences as the son of a pastor growing up in Angola.

In 1993, during that country’s civil war, he witnessed the death of a church leader, one of his father’s contemporaries. Another time, when he was traveling on a motorbike with his father, they hit a landmine which exploded. Fortunately, they were not injured. When a soldier asked his father what his profession was, he said he was a pastor. The soldier said his God had served him well, because the type of mine they hit was very dangerous.

In 2002, the opposition political leader Jonas Savimbi died. Jonas was hated by the community for his cruelty during the war and no church wanted to be associated with him, let alone bury him. Andre’s father was the District Superintendent at the time of Jonas’ death. Against all odds, his father conducted Jonas Savimbi’s funeral service after the Government requested that the United Methodist Church conduct the service.



Andres Gomes (center) with central conference representatives Moss Kapumha (left) and Alcides Martinez (right).

Andre has been receiving his CCP benefits in cash because he did not have an ID. However, he has managed to get the ID so he will start receiving electronic payments. He expressed gratitude to donors to CCP. He uses the pension money for food, clothing, medicine and utility bills. He does not have any other income. He loves to sing and is quite good, and would one day like to record some of the gospel songs he has composed.

COVID-19 Affecting Central Conferences (continued)

“Life has come to a standstill. In the administration of the Swiss Methodist Church, most people, except me, work from home. I have made the office my home, working and sleeping here in the office for three days a week. It would be too complicated for me to do all the bookkeeping from home.”

— Switzerland

“People are told to stay home to avoid contamination but, we still having people that have no income to support their families so they are in disobedience. Some of them sell things on the streets, because of this many of them have been taken to jail. The churches are closed and Bishops and Pastors are sending their Sunday messages through Facebook and others platforms. Related to pensions, two years ago I developed a way of working and paying online, so I am able to pay the pensioners without difficulties. What I am not able to do is visit them and find out how they are.”











— East Angola Conference












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 	226	4	28
Liberia 	1,149	198	531
Mozambique 	223	41	45
West Angola 	267	83	74
East Angola 	80	26	19
Sierra Leone 	89	20	14
Zimbabwe 	382	39	47
Russia 	92	20	0
Philippines 	1,611	190	184
Nigeria 	350	41	79

Country	Active clergy	Retirees receiving payments	Surviving spouses/beneficiaries receiving payments
East Africa 	705	162	151
East Congo 	399	88	69
Central Congo 	349	203	112
South Congo 	593	97	183
North Katanga 	917	268	231
South Africa 	8	5	2
Southern and Central Europe 	95	23	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—**3,291**
- Total of all pension support funds released to date—**\$ 11,696,362***

**Total of emergency grants and pension funds distributed*

Questions?

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Wespath Benefits and Investments
Add "CCP" on the "memo" line