

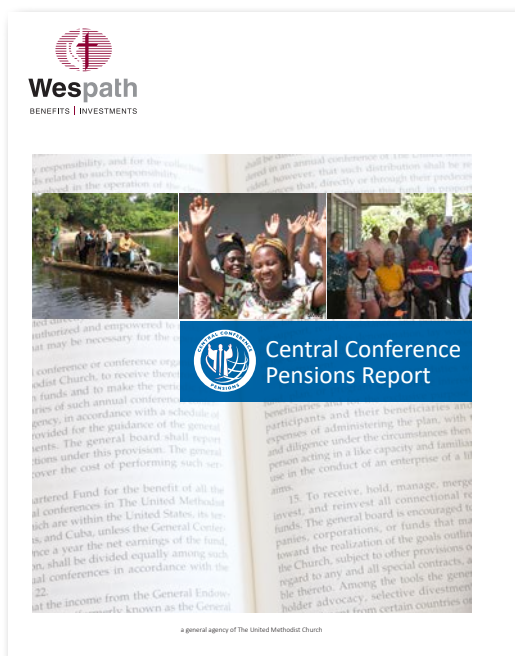


# CCP Update

*It has been an exceptionally challenging year for congregations and clergy of the central conferences of The United Methodist Church. Please continue to lift up the Central Conference Pension (CCP) program and the blessings it provides to clergy, as well as all those throughout the global Church who continue to endure hardship.*

*Donations to CCP from across the Connection help ensure ongoing support for overseas pastors—and their beneficiaries—who have faithfully served the Church yet have historically had minimal or no financial support in retirement. For more information on the Central Conference Pension program, please visit [www.wespath.org/about-wespath/ccp](http://www.wespath.org/about-wespath/ccp).*

## Wespath Releases First Biennial CCP Report



We are pleased to share Wespath’s **first biennial report** on the CCP program and pension plans around the world for which CCP provides funds. As the administrator of CCP, Wespath’s goal is to support self-funded, self-governed and self-sustaining plans. The report is available in **French** and **Portuguese** on the CCP webpage. It provides information about—and transparency into—the following:

- The history of the CCP program and stories of personal impact
- CCP program financials
- Individual CCP plan summaries, demographics, financial status and analysis

 <b>69 conferences covered</b> <small>CCP assists in administration of retirement funds for clergy in 69 of the 79 annual conferences in the central conferences</small>	 <b>More than 7,500 active clergy</b>	 <b>3,300 retirees and surviving spouses receiving support</b>
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## CCP Financials as of 10/31/2020

<b>\$26,564,905</b>	<b>\$161,578</b>	<b>\$899,351</b>	<b>\$11,439,007</b>	<b>\$1,277,839</b>
Total donations received Inception to date	Donations received Year to date	Emergency grants 2006–2012	Pension funds distributed (01/01/2007 to date)	Pension distributions Year to date



**Wespath**  
BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS



## Remembering Bishop John K. Yambasu

We join the Sierra Leone Conference and the entire UMC in mourning the untimely death of Bishop John K. Yambasu in August. Bishop Yambasu was a faithful advocate for Central Conference Pensions and worked with CCP staff to establish the Sierra Leone pension plan. Paul Dirdak, retired Central Conference Pension Administration Director and CCP consultant, knew Bishop Yambasu well and offered this reflection:

“Before John Yambasu was a Bishop, he was a child advocate ... He advocated for the children—those whose hands had been severed to ‘win’ a war and those who had been conscripted into armies to bear AK-47s about as tall as they were. John was a child advocate in the midst of that. What’s not to admire?”



Paul went on to say that while Bishop Yambasu was elected to important, public roles in the UMC and broader ecumenical community, “his greatest contributions were quiet, behind the scenes, for the sake of his church’s sustainability. He hired better lawyers, better treasurers, better staff supervisors and he cared for those who labored in his institution, for all of their basic health and safety and welfare. His public profile was still growing when he died, but his greater accomplishment was the stronger, more capable church that survives him.”

Bishop Yambasu’s own words and witness continue to remind us of the importance and impact of the CCP program:

“In my many years as clergy and a missionary in Africa, I have lived to see retired pastors die in abject poverty and without dignity. I have seen many young people shy away from full-time itinerant ministry because it was like intentionally signing on for a life of permanent poverty. Through the Central Conference Pensions, you and your colleagues restored dignity to ordained ministry. Today in Africa, we celebrate the lives of the many young people who now see ordained ministry as a vocation worth pursuing. And, we continue to see retired pastors live healthier and longer—and with dignity.”

## Experiencing Great Loss—Patience’s Story of Strength

In the midst of the global pandemic, we share with you a story of strength and survival from Kenya.

Patience Mbeyu Nguta-Kathengi, United Methodist pastor and mother of three, was already suffering loss when the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe. In 2012 she lost her eyesight while pregnant with her third child, and her world changed forever.

Although blindness left Patience unable to provide for her family in the same way, pension benefits from her years of service at the United Methodist Church—Tazama Christ, through the East Africa pension plan funded by CCP, allowed her some continued support.

Then in April, tragedy struck again when Patience’s husband passed away from COVID-19. Prior to his passing, he had worked as a night guard, helping to support the family. His death is yet another reminder that the impacts of COVID-19 are especially devastating for many already-disadvantaged populations across the globe.

While Patience is incredibly grateful for the benefits she continues to receive from the CCP program, her family’s loss is deep. She continues to look for support from her neighbors and others.



“Life took a painful twist in 2012 when I lost my sight while expectant. I had to depend on my husband for survival and my children for moral support. My church ... and Pastor Rev. Mudiri have been of great help too. I thank them for praying for me and my family. To date, I survive on the pension I receive from Wespeth. ”

PATIENCE MBEYU  
NGUTA-KATHENGI

Patience being guided by her son in Mombasa, Kenya. Photo courtesy of Tuko.



## Wespath Engages Thomas Kemper to Support CCP



Thomas Kemper

Wespath is pleased to announce that Thomas Kemper will be a consultant in support of CCP and central conference relationships effective January 1, 2021.

Thomas recently retired as general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries. He brings to Wespath's CCP team extensive experience with the central conferences, coupled with strong

relationships across the Church. Thomas's primary focus will be bolstering the long-term sustainability of pension plans in the central conferences. His work will include consulting with central conference bishops, conference leaders and boards of pensions to assist them in addressing pension program challenges and opportunities, including the systems and structures in which the plans operate.

"We are delighted to have Thomas join us in a consulting capacity," said Barbara Boigegrain, Wespath general secretary. "He will be a valuable resource as we continue to build and maintain critical relationships important for CCP success and effective support of non-U.S. pensions."

In October, Thomas spent three days at Wespath's headquarters with the CCP team getting oriented to central conference pensions work. We are extremely grateful Thomas will continue his long service to the Church by working as a consultant for the CCP program.

## Meetings Move Online During the Pandemic

As the pandemic continues to restrict travel and in-person gatherings, Central Conference benefits personnel are using virtual meetings to continue their work.

**Philippines**—In October, the Philippines central conference (PCC) Board of Pensions met via Zoom, allowing them to conduct an opening worship and address business matters. The Board learned that as a result of limited access to technology and internet, many congregations in the Philippines have been unable to worship virtually, resulting in pension plan contributions dropping off dramatically. This underscores the financial damage caused by the pandemic, and further highlights the importance of the Board's additional fund-raising efforts.

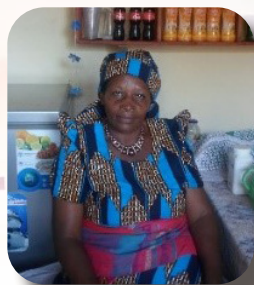
**East Africa**—Benefits officers from each of the four conferences in the East Africa Episcopal Area met by videoconference in August. Highlights of the discussion included:

- QuickBooks training progress and working through challenges for pension plan recordkeeping
- Updates regarding the transition of pension distributions from a third-party administrator to the UMC benefits officers
- Added administrative costs related to assuming responsibility for pension payment distributions
- Adverse impacts of COVID-19 on contributions to the pension program

**Wespath's CCP team**—We continue to use videoconferencing to connect with central conference benefits officers and expect this to continue well into 2021.

## Sustaining the Lives of Those Who Serve—Pensioners Tell Their Stories

Akuume Rose is a retired pastor and small business owner in the Jinja District of eastern Uganda. The benefits provided by CCP have enabled her to start and sustain a small business selling food and drinks.



Amangu Grant is a retired pastor in northern Uganda. He is grateful to the UMC pension program for improving his life spiritually, morally and physically, as well as for providing the means to contribute to the furnishings of his church.










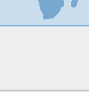













## Central Conference Facts:

The central conferences are located outside the United States and include annual conferences in Africa, the Philippines and Eurasia. Within the central conferences there are 79 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 	233	4	30
Liberia 	1,165	194	537
Mozambique 	222	40	48
West Angola 	267	75	75
East Angola 	79	25	20
Sierra Leone 	87	19	16
Zimbabwe 	381	39	49
Russia 	96	22	0
Philippines 	1,602	191	185
Nigeria 	350	40	79

Country	Active clergy	Retirees receiving payments	Surviving spouses/beneficiaries receiving payments
East Africa 	705	162	152
East Congo 	398	82	76
Central Congo 	349	202	112
South Congo 	724	92	189
North Katanga 	917	267	235
South Africa 	8	4	2
Southern and Central Europe 	96	24	11
Lithuania 	4	0	0
Latvia 	11	2	0

### Total CCP Statistics

- Active pastors covered—**7,694**
- Retirees and Surviving spouses receiving support—**3,300**
- Total of all pension support funds released to date—**\$ 12,338,359\***

*\*Total of emergency grants and pension funds distributed*

### Questions?

#### Central Conference Pensions: Wespath

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E-mail: [ccp@wespath.org](mailto:ccp@wespath.org)  
Website: [wespath.org/ccp](http://wespath.org/ccp)

#### Central Conference Pensions

c/o Wespath Benefits and Investments  
75 Remittance Drive, Suite 6714  
Chicago, IL 60675

Make checks payable to:  
Wespath Benefits and Investments  
Add "CCP" on the "memo" line