

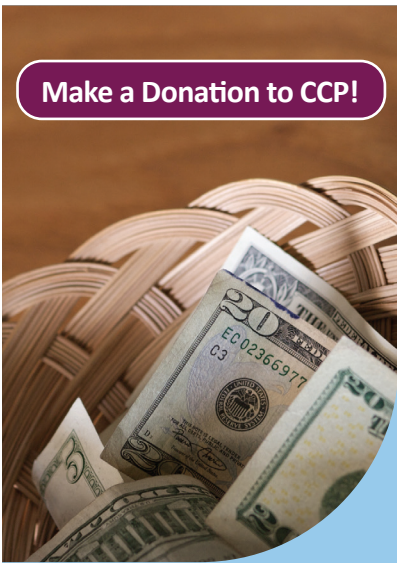


# CCP Update



**Wespath**  
BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS

December 2021



**Make a Donation to CCP!**

If you are able to give to any charitable causes this holiday season, we would greatly appreciate if you consider CCP.

Donation information is available on [wespath.org](http://wespath.org): in the website navigation, click **“About Wespath”** and then select **“Central Conference Pensions (CCP)”**.

Thank you!

## Spirit of Generosity Underpins Dakotas Board of Pensions

As a district superintendent and then executive director of the Methodist Foundation in South Dakota, the Reverend Lloyd Grinager often conducted one-on-one meetings with his fellow pastors over coffee. Grinager also would buy a donut. Then, Grinager would split the donut in two and give half to the pastor sitting on the other side of the table.

Grinager, who died in 1987, is still remembered fondly for sharing his donuts and that simple gesture may have had an outsized impact. One donut at a time, Grinager helped establish a spirit of generosity within the Dakotas Conference, according to retired Rev. Peary Wilson, who served alongside Grinager on the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (BOPHB).


Grinager’s philosophy also influenced his son, the retired Rev. Howard Grinager. When BOPHB found itself in a state of “overfundedness,” according to board chair Elaine Roberts, Howard Grinager saw an opportunity. He suggested the BOPHB tithed a portion of the surplus funds that resulted from strong investment returns and give to the Central Conference Pensions (CCP). The board agreed and the Dakotas Conference BOPHB has been a generous donor to CCP for the past several years.

*“My wife and I had been giving independently to the Central Conference Pensions funds, partially because I think of my dad,” Howard Grinager said. “My dad worked long and hard. He talked about building up resources for tired, (worn) out preachers. When I looked at the report coming out of the central conferences ... and the number of people that needed to be supported, I just thought about his concern.”*

Howard Grinager serves as ex officio on the BOPHB as a representative from the Board of Ordained Ministry. After he introduced the idea of giving to CCP at a board meeting, Wilson testified to the importance of CCP to his fellow board members.

“

My wife and I had been giving independently to the Central Conference Pensions funds, partially because I think of my dad (Rev. Lloyd Grinager).



**Rev. Howard Grinager**

(continued on next page)

## CCP Financials as of 10/31/2021

**\$27,417,272**

Total donations received  
Inception to date

**\$838,321**

Donations received  
Year to date

**\$899,351**

Emergency grants  
2006–2012

**\$12,721,412**

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

**\$1,282,405**

Pension distributions  
Year to date

# Dakotas Board of Pensions (continued)

Wilson served on the Central Conference Pension Initiative task force in the early 2000s. During that time, he heard from many individuals about the needs of clergy in other countries. In particular, the bishop of Russia had shared a story that still sparks a visceral reaction within Wilson.

*“One morning he came in and he said he’d just had a phone call early that morning from a pastor of his who lived in a log cabin, far away,”* Wilson said. *“I had the feeling that it was in the Siberian section of Russia. She was in her cabin, and there was a high window on her door. There was a wolf that was so big it was leaning against the outside of the door and its head was looking in the window at her. Its head filled that window. And he said, ‘This is what it’s like. And I’m here in part because I want to see that those pastors have something to sustain them in later years for these kinds of years of service.’”*

Wilson’s actions as he recounted this story over Zoom lent a heightened meaning to his words. When he spoke of the wolf leaning against the door, Wilson bent forward at the waist and leaned closer to the camera. A few seconds later as he repeated the bishop’s words, Wilson paused after he said “pastors” and raised his right hand to his mouth as he appeared to choke up. With his voice quivering, Wilson excused himself and then after a moment he finished his story.

In 1996, Wilson was an alternate delegate to General Conference and that experience also shaped his views on CCP. He recalled walking into the Colorado Convention Center in Denver and seeing interpreters for several languages and delegates dressed in a variety of clothing styles.

*“I realized both the challenge and the opportunity of what the United Methodist Church had,”* Wilson said. *“It made a deep, deep impression on me.”*

The Dakotas Conference BOPHB has been a generous donor to CPP for the past several years.



**Elaine Roberts**  
Board Chair

He added: *“We are an international body, and we need to respect that and to do what we could.”*

In addition to supporting CCP, the BOPHB also has donated to the pension fund for the Alaska United Methodist Conference, which is a missionary conference.

The BOPHB’s primary objective when it tithes is to support clergy wellness throughout their lives, Roberts said.

*“As a lay person, I have a commitment to the health and well-being of my pastor and other pastors,”* Roberts said. *“They are the persons who influence our lives, who bring us to the Christian faith, who bring us to Jesus. And their health and well-being and leadership really points to where the church is headed. And so I’ve always had a passion for making sure that pastors are supported wherever they are and wherever they are serving.”*

Roberts said she learned about generosity and the blessings that flow from generosity from Lloyd Grinager, who was the pastor at her church for a time.

*“We’ve talked about how, in some ways, my father impacted the lives of the three of us,”* said Howard Grinager, referencing himself, Roberts and Wilson. *“I just think about every pastor that we support through the Central Conference Pensions. How many peoples’ lives have they in their ministry impacted and blessed? And not only blessed, but then challenged them to then move into places of leadership either as new clergy or as laity within the life of the church? What we’re doing is we’re helping to support people who have impacted the lives of literally hundreds of thousands of people around the world.”*



*“I want to see that those pastors have something to sustain them in later years for these kinds of years of service.”*

— **Rev. Peary Wilson**

Recounts the bishop of Russia’s message

## Testimonial



*“Last year I could have faced serious problems in terms of food security if it were not for the money that we were receiving from the pension program.”*

**Mrs. Seraphine Nzinahora**

Surviving spouse of a UM pastor in Burundi Annual Conference in East Africa

# Driving Force Behind Launch of CCP Set to Retire

Barbara Boigegrain, one of the driving forces behind the formation of the Central Conference Pensions (CCP) program, is retiring as General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of Wespeth Benefits and Investments at the end of 2021. Boigegrain also currently serves as President of the Overseas Pension Corporation (OPC) Board, a subsidiary of Wespeth which has responsibility for oversight of CCP.

Prior to the creation of the CCP program, many pastors serving in the central conferences were not able to save much, if anything, for retirement, and the countries in which they lived didn't have robust social safety nets. General Conference 2004 authorized fundraising for what came to be CCP, and the late Bishop Ben Chamness led the campaign to achieve the \$25 million fundraising goal.

Together, through Chamness and Boigegrain's leadership, the fundraising goal was achieved in 2013.

Boigegrain, who has been Wespeth's chief executive for 27 years, said CCP is one of the things she is most proud of from her time at Wespeth: *"That has been such an important effort to provide hope and dignity to people who did not have any hope once they retired."*

Since 2007, almost \$13 in pension support funds have been distributed across Africa, the Philippines and Eurasia. CCP covers more than 3,400 retirees and surviving spouses.

*"In every place, we insisted the benefits go to surviving spouses,"* Boigegrain was quoted as saying in a 2015 UM News story about CCP. *"Because of the church's values, surviving spouses are now receiving benefits."*

Thomas Kemper, the retired General Secretary of Global Ministries, credited Boigegrain and his predecessor Randy Nugent for taking a risk and launching CCP.

*"At that time 20 years ago, it was a dream, it was a vision, it was something very risky because nobody had tried it,"* said Kemper, who is now a CCP consultant. He added: *"Some years ago we traveled together to East Congo on this very small plane—which is a risk in itself. We met with some of the pastors, retired pastors. Some of them had traveled for miles just to say, 'Thank You' to Barbara (and) to tell their story about how this is maintaining and sustaining their life in retirement. Barbara beamed upon hearing the stories."*

CCP has not just changed the lives of retired pastors and their spouses, it has also improved the fortunes of their offspring for generations to come.

*"That really was building something from nothing,"* Boigegrain was quoted as saying in the UM News story about her retirement. *"And now we have people who not only have food and access to medicine, but help for their grandchildren."*

**We thank Barbara for her years of service caring for those who serve in the both the U.S. and across the world!**



Barbara Boigegrain during a trip to the East Congo in 2014.



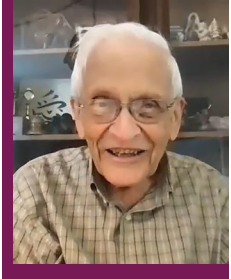
**Boigegrain said CCP is one of the things she is most proud of from her time at Wespeth:**

*“That has been such an important effort to provide hope and dignity to people who did not have any hope once they retired.”*

— Barbara Boigegrain



# A Life of Giving: How One Pastor's Generosity Has Been Central to His Story



The retired Reverend Ted Halsted has lived a life that many of us would find extraordinary.

Halsted, who is 94 years old, leads a life full of interests and passions. He is an author—if you search Amazon you can find his book. He has traveled to roughly 35 countries. He swims half a mile, three days a week. He and his spouse,

Marcy, had two daughters and were married for 52 years before her death in 2005. He also was a diligent saver and investor who has used money as a way to address inequities.

He epitomizes the American Dream and adheres to the John Wesley principle to “earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.” Halsted said he has donated the equivalent of his entire career earnings as a pastor in the Michigan Conference. He and his spouse donated to causes to address world hunger and endowed scholarships at multiple universities. Recently, he gave a generous donation of stock to the CCP. Halsted emphasized that he and Marcy embraced a simple lifestyle and that allowed them to be generous with their resources.

Halsted, who lives in a retirement community in Richmond, Indiana, spoke with Wespath to share his life story and appreciation for CCP.

## **Q: What prompted you to become a pastor?**

In terms of the course of my life and what I've done, I have to really begin with my parents, mom and dad, Florence and Alfred Halsted. Immediately after the end of World War I, they went to France as Methodist missionaries. ... And they were on the staff of a home for 80 boys who were war orphans. ... Now that was not part of my life because they went in 1919 and came back in '26. And I was born in '27, one year later. Still their experience greatly influenced me to the extent that I took the same steamer trunk to India for three years as a Methodist missionary immediately after World War II. Just as mom and dad were helping about 80 boys, while I was house father for 70 boys at a hostel. ... After that, when coming back to the states, dad became a Methodist minister. And a generation later, I became a Methodist minister.

## **Q: When you think about highlights of your time in ministry, all of those years. Are there one or two things that really stand out to you as the highlights?**

Of course a big one was going to India as a missionary. That really broadened my life in so many ways even though Marcy and I didn't have a chance to go back as missionaries, we did

go back different times. And by the way, I will say about Marcy, there in India she was superintendent of nursing at a Methodist-sponsored hospital. And had a role in the founding of a school of nursing there at the hospital, which since it opened in 1953 has graduated over 800 nurses.

## **Q: Why did you decide to donate to CCP? Why was this cause important to you?**

Well, that was out of personal life experience. In retirement I've been on many mission work projects. Once in Sierra Leone. A couple of times in Zambia. When Africa University was founded, Marcy and I endowed a theological scholarship there. And through the years I've had connections with Africa University. One thing it has meant to me is that I just became aware of the extreme poverty of a lot of retired pastors, and I wanted to do something about that.

Over the course of our marriage, particularly in the '60s and '70s, Marcy and I hosted eight different exchange students. Six of them continue to be a part of our family. Basically, I have “daughters” in Germany, Finland, Brazil and Japan. Six of them, they're part of the extended family. And actually, most of us got together in 2014 in Munich. Marcy and I had been in all of their homes. They had been in ours. ... But they hadn't met each other before, most of them. The reunion was a delight. Of course, for their husbands, too. That global family thing is a very important reality. It continues to be for me.

Well, I guess I have to start out (at the beginning). A couple of things: When I had just graduated from seminary and came to Michigan to be a pastor, our conference treasurer, Rev. Jewell Smoot, planted an idea that really bore fruit. He said, “Hey, when your monthly bill comes to make a payment to the pension fund. Instead of just paying that, pay double each month because it will really build up over the years.” And so we did that and that was an important thing. Another thing, and this would be right back in that same period, maybe late '20s, early '30s, Marcy and I decided to make a payment to ourselves each month for a nonexistent house. That worked out for us. Except when we retired, well, we could have paid cash for the house, but it was more profitable to leave the money invested and get a mortgage, a low interest rate, for the house. Those are some things along the way. And then we were the beneficiaries of what happened in the stock market, starting about 1967. ... Having lived this long and having had this many opportunities to give for all these years, I can say that over the years we have given away as much as the total that we received in pastor salaries over all my ministry.



# CCP Recipient Feels the Support of the UMC Family

The Reverend Zbigniew Kamiński's experiences as a pastor in Poland during and after communist rule demonstrate the value of an interconnected church and faith community.

Kamiński received his first appointment in 1978 in Krakow, Poland, meaning that he spent his first decade as a United Methodist Church pastor serving in a communist country. The experience of living and working for the Church under communist rule left Kamiński with a host of memories he won't soon forget.

*"There were always special visitors in our Sunday services and if something not politically accepted was said in the sermon there would be an invitation to the police on Monday,"* Kamiński said. *"Everything connected and associated with the West, and especially the U.S., was seen as dangerous."*

Kamiński, who retired in 2018 and receives support from the CCP, remembers with pride that the Methodists kept their independence from the government throughout these years. More and more Methodists became part of the opposition, he said, and the movement for freedom, which culminated with the dissolution of the communist government and the switch to a democratic government in 1989.

He also recalled with excitement how after the fall of the communist government he went out into the streets to share the gospel and openly invite people to church for the first time. Kamiński also printed brochures and distributed books to aid with evangelization. In addition, he helped shape the Christian message on national radio and TV. For over 20 years, Kamiński served as the ecumenical consultant for Christian programs on Polish TV and chaired the ecumenical commission for Christian broadcasting on radio and TV.

Kamiński was well-suited for the ecumenical roles. His parents were members of the Prussian Union of Churches. Kamiński was confirmed in the Lutheran church, but over time he was drawn more and more to the Methodist church. Kamiński studied theology at the ecumenical Christian Academy in Warsaw where Rev. Witold Benedyktowicz, superintendent of the Methodist Church of Poland, was one of the professors. At Benedyktowicz's urging, Kamiński spent his Sundays at a Methodist children's home working with the children while he was in college.

“

I'll never forget the big UMC effort in Western Europe to send parcels with clothing when we suffered a terrible economic crisis in Poland.

— Rev. Zbigniew Kamiński



The UMC's connectional nature proved to be a great source of support for Kamiński.

*"I'll never forget the big UMC effort in Western Europe to send parcels with clothing when we suffered a terrible economic crisis in Poland,"* Kamiński said. *"I still remember the name of the family in Nuremberg (Germany) who had sent parcels to my family."*

Kamiński sees CCP as having a similar collaborative, supportive mission.

The CCP is one of three sources of income for Kamiński in retirement. In 1960, the Church in Poland created a small social fund to support pastors in retirement and with health benefits that still exists today. At the time, there was no government-sponsored support for pastors in retirement. In addition, in 1989, clergy were added to the government's social security system. However, they are only able to contribute the minimum, so the creation of CCP was a great relief for pastors in Poland, according to Kamiński.

Kamiński hopes that the UMC in Poland will continue to be part of the Central Conference in Southern and Eastern Europe and the worldwide Methodist connection.











*"We need each other,"* Kamiński said. *"We are family."*












## 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 	242	4	31
Liberia 	1,188	214	545
Mozambique 	220	38	46
West Angola 	89	69	78
East Angola 	78	24	19
Sierra Leone 	85	20	16
Zimbabwe 	374	41	45
Russia 	66	24	0
Philippines 	1,556	216	199
Nigeria 	350	40	83

Country	Active clergy	Retirees receiving payments	Surviving spouses/beneficiaries receiving payments
East Africa 	703	167	157
East Congo 	413	82	83
Central Congo 	345	211	115
South Congo 	724	103	198
North Katanga 	917	267	239
South Africa 	8	3	2
Southern and Central Europe 	92	25	11
Lithuania 	4	0	0
Latvia 	11	2	0

### Total CCP Statistics

- Active pastors covered—**7,465**
- Retirees and Surviving spouses receiving support—**3,417**
- Total of all pension support funds released to date—**\$ 13,620,764\***

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

## Questions?

### Central Conference Pensions: Wespath

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Glenview, Illinois 60025-1604

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E-mail: [ccp@wespath.org](mailto:ccp@wespath.org)  
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### Central Conference Pensions

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