



CCP Update



Wespath
BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS

July 2022

Make a Donation to CCP!

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

Thank you!



Scan the QR code to see the homes Ajiambo Joyida Egesa and Dolphine Abangi built with their pensions, and to hear from some of the other pension recipients highlighted in this issue.

Pension Recipients’ Stories

The Uganda-South Sudan and Burundi pension officers passed along the stories of several pension recipients. Their stories touched our hearts—we hope they touch yours as well.



Dolphine Abangi, a surviving spouse in Uganda, has used her Central Conference Pensions (CCP) program benefit for three primary purposes:

1. She built a permanent home for her and her family. She previously lived in a house with a grass thatched roof.
2. She opened a kiosk where she sells vegetables and tomatoes.
3. She supports her children.

Abangi thanks God for the support she has received from the CCP program.

Dolphine Abangi

Uganda-South Sudan Annual Conference



Ajiambo Joyida Egesa is a surviving spouse in Uganda who said her life as a widow was difficult prior to receiving CCP program benefits. She is thankful for The United Methodist Church (UMC), and the individuals who helped her enroll in the CCP program. She used her pension to build a permanent home. She also used her benefit to purchase weaving materials because she is good at making crafts.

Ajiambo Joyida Egesa

Uganda-South Sudan Annual Conference

(continued on third page)

CCP Financials as of 4/30/2022

\$27,489,583

Total donations received
Inception to date

\$50,497

Donations received
Year to date

\$899,351

Emergency grants
2006–2012

\$13,370,658

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

\$649,246

Pension distributions
Year to date



Central conference pension officers and Wespath staff visited a scenic overlook during the recent forum in Germany.

In-person Forum Helps Strengthen Bonds with Pension Officers

In May, Wespath’s CCP team hosted its first in-person, post-pandemic event for central conference pension officers, bringing together individuals from the European and Asian central conferences in Königswinter, Germany.

Representatives from five UMC pension plans supported by CCP—Central and Southern Europe, Eurasia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Philippines—took part. Prior to the event, several of the pension officers had only met the Wespath CCP team virtually, via Zoom.

“The opportunity for Wespath employees and central conference pension officers to meet and collaborate in person helps to foster relationships,” said Michelle Robinson, a senior church relations specialist on the CCP team at Wespath.

Robinson noted over the course of the four-day event, attendees became more open and comfortable sharing their challenges, opportunities, ideas and other information with one another.

A similar forum is scheduled for pension officers from the African central conferences in October in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Resident Bishop Harald Rückert spoke at the forum about the work being done within the Germany Central Conference to live and co-exist within a potentially changing UMC.

Wespath’s New CEO Committed to CCP Program



While Wespath has a new general secretary and CEO, Andrew (Andy) Hendren is anything but new to the pension agency and the inner workings of the UMC.

Hendren became general secretary in January 2022 after previously serving as the agency’s general counsel/chief legal and governance officer. He replaces Barbara Boige grain, who retired in December 2021 and was one of the driving forces behind the formation of the CCP program. Hendren has been with Wespath since 2004, and has spearheaded Wespath legislation for the UMC’s General Conferences in 2016, 2019 and 2020, which was postponed.

In the forthcoming CCP Report Hendren wrote, “[Wespath is] committed to serving as a bridge-builder throughout the world and we look forward to continuing this mission of caring for those who serve globally through the CCP program. As Wespath’s new general secretary, I pledge to continue our work with 69 annual and provisional conferences to build sustainability of your pension programs for future generations.”

Auditor Provides Assurances to Pensioners

Participants in the CCP program have a new service provider to offer added assurance that their funds are secure. Wespath selected Holbrook Global Limited as the new internal auditing firm for the CCP program.

Holbrook Global will review the procedures and controls that are in place and look to determine and verify how funds are received, disbursed and recorded. These reviews will provide conferences with practical recommendations and workable solutions to help improve the accountability and transparency of the programs. These audits will also allow Wespath to identify “best practices,” so that the good work of one conference can be shared with others.

This is made available at no cost to each central conference in the CCP program.

Pension Recipients' Stories (continued)



Being a child beneficiary is itself a monumental challenge, but then on top of that, Nabwire Harriet suffered a stroke in August 2018. Nabwire, who lives in Uganda, paid her hospital bills with money she received from the CCP program. Nabwire says she thanks God for the CCP program.

Nabwire Harriet
Uganda-South Sudan Annual Conference



Kagoya Loy Kadoko, a retired pastor in Uganda, expressed gratitude for the CCP program because it allows her to run a small business. She uses her pension to buy the materials she needs to weave mats, which she then sells to support herself. She also uses her pension to buy food and to help support her grandchildren.

Rev. Kagoya Loy Kadoko
Uganda-South Sudan Annual Conference



A surviving spouse in the Burundi Annual Conference, Miriam Ndayiragije no longer has the energy to grow crops on her land, so she used her pension, in part, to pay workers to farm it. She also used her benefits to pay for medical bills and to purchase a cow. The cow's manure helps to boost her crop production. Ndayiragije expresses thanks to God for his support of the surviving spouses in Burundi. She noted that prior to the CCP program, widows had often struggled to support themselves in her East African nation.

Miriam Ndayiragije
Burundi Annual Conference



Ester Nkwirikiye is a surviving spouse in the Burundi Annual Conference who purchased two goats with her pension to assist her with farming. Nkwirikiye uses the goat manure to fertilize crops. She also uses her benefits to purchase clothes and food, and to tithe at her church. Nkwirikiye said she thanks God for the financial assistance she has received.

Ester Nkwirikiye
Burundi Annual Conference



Baligeya Tito has an entrepreneurial spirit. The retired pastor, who is pictured on the left alongside his wife in 2019, used the money he received from the CCP program to begin laying bricks for rental houses. The rental properties then generate income. Tito resides in Uganda and he says he is thankful for the UMC's pension program.











Rev. Baligeya Tito
Uganda-South Sudan Annual Conference












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 	240	3	31
Liberia 	1,174	214	546
Mozambique 	236	38	44
West Angola 	88	66	79
East Angola 	78	22	21
Sierra Leone 	85	19	17
Zimbabwe 	369	41	48
Russia 	65	23	0
Philippines 	1,546	210	204
Nigeria 	350	38	86

Country	Active clergy	Retirees receiving payments	Surviving spouses/beneficiaries receiving payments
East Africa 	764	174	160
East Congo 	426	79	82
Central Congo 	356	217	114
South Congo 	721	103	201
North Katanga 	917	267	239
South Africa 	8	3	2
Southern and Central Europe 	92	25	11
Lithuania 	2	0	0
Latvia 	11	2	0

Total CCP Statistics

- Active pastors covered—**7,528**
- Retirees and Surviving spouses receiving support—**3,431**
- Total of all pension support funds released to date—**\$ 14,270,009***

**Total of emergency grants and pension funds distributed*

Questions?

Central Conference Pensions: Wespath

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