



CCP Update



Wespath
BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS

July 2025

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Visits with Mozambique Pension Recipients Highlights Impact of CCP Program

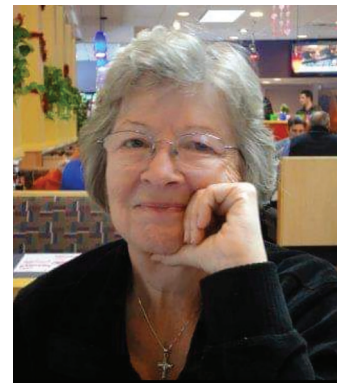
Wespath's Chief Operating Officer Bill Kavanaugh and CCP consultant Thomas Kemper traveled to Maputo, Mozambique to meet with Conference Benefits Officer Rev. Filimao Vilanculo of the Mozambique South Annual Conference and pension recipients, including retired pastors, surviving spouses and their families. Read some of these participants' stories on page 3.



Wespath's Bill Kavanaugh and Thomas Kemper with Rev. Filimao and pension recipients.

A Life of Ministry, Justice and Grace: Rev. Carol's Journey

Rev. Carol Tuck, a retired United Methodist minister, reflects on her life shaped by faith, resilience, and a deep commitment to justice. At 77, she speaks with warmth and candor about her journey from a fundamentalist upbringing in Indiana to becoming a progressive voice in The United Methodist Church.



Her call to ministry began during a spiritual retreat in Springfield, Illinois, where she first envisioned herself as both participant and celebrant. That moment sparked a theological journey that led her to seminary and decades of pastoral service across Illinois and New Mexico. Rev. Carol's ministry was marked by compassion and courage—whether comforting families during emergencies, navigating rural communities through drought, or officiating weddings with grace and humor.

She recalls her time as an emergency room clerk as formative, witnessing pastoral care in crisis and later applying those lessons in her own ministry.

In retirement, Rev. Carol remains active in her church and community, supporting interfaith initiatives, social justice causes and educational programs. Her generosity extends globally through her support of the Central Conference Pensions (CCP) program, which provides retirement benefits to clergy in Africa, the Philippines, Asia and Europe. She sees her donations as a way to honor the shared struggles and sacred responsibilities of ministry across cultures.

To the pastors supported by CCP, she offers blessings and solidarity: "Even though our contexts differ, the work is sacred. I'm grateful to support you."

Rev. Carol's story is one of enduring faith, fierce advocacy, and a heart open to the world—a testament to the transformative power of ministry lived fully.

CCP Financials as of 03/31/2025

\$28,331,950

Total donations received
Inception to date

\$26,258

Donations received
Year to date

\$899,351

Emergency grants
2006–2012

\$16,988,876

Pension funds distributed
(2007 to date)

\$265,799

Pension distributions
Year to date

Liberia Annual Conference Approves Revised Pension Plan

In February, Wespeth's Ross Lundstrom (manager, Church Relations) and Thomas Kemper (a consultant for the CCP program) traveled to Gbarnga, Liberia for the 192nd session of the Liberia Annual Conference. At the gathering, the Liberia pension plan—one of the largest and oldest plans supported by the CCP program with over 700 beneficiaries—reached an important milestone: a radical revision toward becoming more sustainable.

The conference pensions staff and Board of Pensions, with the support of Bishop Samuel Quire and Wespeth's CCP team, worked for over a year to redesign the pension plan. In the months leading to the gathering, Conference leadership visited local districts to explain the plan changes and address any questions and concerns. At the 192nd session, Conference leadership presented the proposed plan to the cabinet, clergy, laity and the rest of the conference. The new pension plan received unanimous approval and was passed at the gathering, with changes officially taking effect April 1, 2025.



Attendees of the 192nd session of the Liberia Annual Conference read the proposed revised pension plan.

Africa Central Conference Elects Four New Bishops and Splits Into Two

In March, Bill Kavanaugh and Thomas Kemper traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa for the 14th Quadrennial session of the Africa Central Conference. Four new bishops were elected during the session:

- Bishop Emmanuel Sinzohagera, Burundi-Rwanda Episcopal Area
- Bishop Moisés Bernardo Jungo, East Angola Episcopal Area
- Bishop Gift Kudakwashe Machinga, Zimbabwe Episcopal Area
- Bishop Filimone Sambo, Mozambique-South Africa Episcopal Area

The four new bishops now serve what was formerly the Africa Central Conference but has since split into two central conferences: Southern Africa and East Africa. The new East Africa Central Conference includes the new Burundi-Rwanda Episcopal Area, as well as the East Africa Episcopal Area (Kenya-Ethiopia and Uganda-South Sudan Conferences). During his presentation at the session, Kavanaugh assured attendees that Wespeth continues to stand in solidarity with the central conferences and their pension programs.



Bill Kavanaugh brings greetings from Wespeth to the Africa Central Conference.

Celebrating Leadership and Peace: Highlights from the Fall 2024 Philippines Visit

Last fall, Wespeth's CCP team visited the Philippines, marking a season of celebration, continuity and collaboration.

All three sitting bishops were re-elected, providing a strong sense of stability and ongoing leadership for The United Methodist Church in the region. The visit also coincided with a joyful celebration honoring Deaconess Norma Dollaga, recipient of the 2024 World Methodist Council Peace Award. A tireless peace advocate and human rights defender, Deaconess Dollaga's recognition was a proud moment for the entire community.

The CCP team was warmly received during their visit. A key highlight was the opportunity to engage with central conference leadership about hosting the upcoming CCP Central Conference Benefits Officers (CCBO) Forum in the Philippines for the first time—a significant step in deepening regional engagement and support.



Left: Norma Dollaga, 2024 World Methodist Peace award recipient from the Philippines. Right: Wespeth's Michelle Smart, Bishop Ruby-Nell M. Estrella and Thomas Kemper.

Participant Stories

LUCIA MACOME

Known by many as “Mama Linda,” Lucia Macome appreciates the continued financial support she receives from the CCP program after the death of her late husband Rev. Felisberto Manganhela in 2019. Before his passing, Rev. Manganhela served as a pastor of several United Methodist churches in Mozambique as well as an editor of church publications for many years. After losing her husband, Lucia moved to Maputo to live with her daughter Marta and her family. Now 84, she enjoys spending her free time with her grandchildren.



REV. VICTOR MAVULULE AND LOSADA NOMENDA

After 37 years of service in the UMC in Mozambique, Rev. Victor Mavulule retired in 2022, with his CCP pension fund enabling him to settle in the home he started building in 2010 along with his wife Losada Nomenda. Rev. Mavulule and his family endured difficult times during his ministry, particularly during the civil war in Mozambique, with one incident finding Losada and their then-four children narrowly escaping an attack on their car.



Rev. Mavulule served as chair of the pension board for several years, as well as district superintendent in Inhambane province, the Methodist heartland of Mozambique. One of his main goals as leader was to help every pastor in the area start building a house while in active service just like he did so they would have a place to live in retirement. What leaves him happy is seeing the young people he trained during his active service now carrying out his work. “We can see the fruits of our labor,” said Rev. Mavulule.

AVIORDA AND REV. AZARIAS ZEFULA

Rev. Azarias Zefula and his wife Aviorda have been living in the same apartment in Maputo for over 40 years, with the pension they have been receiving from the CCP program providing them with the financial support they need to stay after Rev. Zefula’s retirement in 2013. After marrying Aviorda, Rev. Zefula began his studies at the United Theological Seminary of Ricatla. “In the 1970s, you weren’t allowed to attend seminary unless you were married,” said Rev. Zefula. Following his ordination, he served numerous churches in the Maputo area as well as his alma mater as a chaplain. The couple has a loving family of four children and eleven grandchildren.



April Visit with African Council of Bishops Highlights Pension Progress and Mission

In April, key meetings by the CPP team with United Methodist bishops across Africa focused on strengthening clergy pension systems and exploring new mission frontiers. These conversations reflected the Church’s commitment to long-term sustainability and support for retired clergy.

EASTERN EUROPE AND UKRAINE

Bishop Refsdal shared updates on modest plans for Latvia and Lithuania. Discussions also explored how to begin pension benefits for Ukrainian pastors amid ongoing challenges.

ZIMBABWE AND ANGOLA

With Bishop Machinga, recent reforms to the Zimbabwe pension plan were reviewed, with thanks to Moss Kapumha for his leadership and support in Angola. Plans for new Board of Pensions leadership were also discussed.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Bishop Ande Emmanuel addressed staffing and sustainability issues in the pension plan and emphasized the importance of ensuring continued benefits for retired clergy.

SIERRA LEONE

Bishop Boye-Caulker provided insight into the historic funding challenges of the Sierra Leone plan and shared updates on current contributions and new leadership.

SOUTHERN AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR

Bishop Sambo discussed potential UMC mission expansion into Madagascar and shared updates on Mozambique and South Africa. Appreciation was extended to Filimao Vilanculo for his dedicated service.

BURUNDI AND RWANDA

With Bishop Sinzohagera, the team explored ways to improve the Burundi pension plan and addressed the complex church environment in Rwanda. The possibility of separating Burundi and Rwanda pensions from the East Africa plan was considered. Thanks were given to Marie Therese Nijimbere and Augustin Bahati for their dedicated work.











These visits reaffirm the Church’s global commitment to supporting clergy and expanding its mission in meaningful, sustainable ways.












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  | 268 | 3 | 37 |
| Liberia  | 1,129 | 202 | 559 |
| Mozambique  | 272 | 33 | 46 |
| West Angola  | 406 | 96 | 81 |
| East Angola  | 75 | 19 | 22 |
| Sierra Leone  | 80 | 17 | 19 |
| Zimbabwe  | 310 | 55 | 45 |
| Russia  | 54 | 22 | 0 |
| Philippines  | 1,545 | 234 | 223 |
| Nigeria  | 350 | 41 | 90 |

| Country | Active clergy | Retirees receiving payments | Surviving spouses/beneficiaries receiving payments |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------|--|
| East Africa  | 735 | 244 | 167 |
| East Congo  | 405 | 92 | 83 |
| Central Congo  | 750 | 229 | 116 |
| South Congo  | 815 | 139 | 211 |
| North Katanga  | 527 | 277 | 254 |
| South Africa  | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| Central and Southern Europe  | 68 | 21 | 7 |
| Lithuania  | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Latvia  | 6 | 5 | 0 |

Total CCP Statistics

- Active pastors covered—**7,804**
- Retirees and Surviving spouses receiving support—**3,698**
- Total of all pension support funds released to date—**\$17,888,227***

** Total of emergency grants and pension funds distributed*

Questions?

Central Conference Pensions: Wespath

1901 Chestnut Avenue
Glenview, Illinois 60025-1604

Phone: **847-866-4017**
E-mail: ccp@wespath.org
Website: wespath.org/ccp

Central Conference Pensions

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

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