



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



TREASURY NOTES

September 2007

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2008 Health Insurance Rates for Churches/ Clergy

GOOD NEWS! The health insurance rates for the Conference have been unchanged for nearly 48 months. There will be only a slight increase for the year 2008 and there will be no changes in the Insurance Plan, deductibles, co-pays and choices. The Conference will once again put into each qualified HSA (Health Savings Account) the amount of 208.33/ month for \$2,500/year.

The rates for 2008 are as follows:

The appointment fee that is direct billed to every charge for each clergy will be \$694/month totaling \$8,328 per year.

Clergy Share:

Traditional Health Insurance Plan (PPO)

Single:	\$109/ month	\$1,308/year
Family:	\$412/month	\$4,944/year

High Deductible Health Insurance Plan

Single:	\$0/month	\$0/year
Family:	\$328/month	\$3,936/year

In November, each clergy will receive information about both plans. At that time if the clergy wishes to go from one plan to another they may elect to make that change. If a clergy makes no response they will remain on their current plan.

The retired health insurance premiums will be available in November.

Notice of Change

When a congregation changes treasurers during the calendar year, it is important to notify the Conference Office of that change. You may do so by providing the new treasurers name and mailing address to Jill Stanton at jill.stanton@iaumc.org or calling her at 515 974-8917.

Property Insurance Coverage

In August, the Conference Board of Trustees voted to change the insurance company for the property insurance program that is offered to all congregations. The current program is with Zurich. Over the last few years Zurich has become difficult because they will no longer offer the \$100,000 coverage for sexual misconduct and will not offer coverage for church owned vehicles. Also, their billing system has become cumbersome.

The Trustees have selected Employers Mutual Companies (EMC) to provide our insurance. They are an Iowa based company that insures many public schools and municipalities in Iowa. This company is experienced in providing coverage for organizations like the United Methodist Church. They also have a large network of independent agents in Iowa who can be local agents.

The President of the Board of Trustees and each pastor will be sent more information about the insurance program within the next few weeks. Also, your church may be contacted by an EMC agent to discuss your insurance needs. When your insurance program comes up for renewal we suggest you consider this program. The more congregations we have in the Conference program, the better is our risk and exposure distribution.

Prohibited Political Activities

As the Iowa presidential caucus draws near, it is time once again to be reminded of the activities that are prohibited for tax exempt organizations. Prohibited items includes:

- Contributions to political campaign funds by the church to a candidate.
- Public statements in favor or in opposition of candidates for office in official church publications or at official church functions including sermons.
- Distributing a voter's guide that demonstrates a bias on certain issues.

- Endorsement of candidates using the person's position in the church or titles during the endorsement.
- Engaging in fundraising on behalf of a candidate.
- Newspaper ads urging voters to vote for or against a candidate and again using a position or title in the ad.
- Use of church facilities for some political function without allowing the opposing party or candidate the same opportunity.

The IRS rules state that if a church inadvertently diverts funds to a candidate without "apparent authorization" from the church, it has engaged in a prohibited political activity. The church must disavow these activities by repudiating those acts in a timely manner equal to the original activities and must take steps to ensure that such unauthorized actions do not recur.

Church Statements now available On-Line!

Your local church monthly remit statement may now be accessed via the conference website at www.iaumc.org/remits. Select your church, the month, and the year from the dropdown boxes and click "submit". You will then be given a link to view that particular statement. Use of this feature requires the Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free of charge at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Debit Authorization

Since the pension and health insurance bill remains the same throughout the year, the Treasurers office is interested in knowing if any churches would consider authorizing an ACH withdrawal from a church account for these items. The church would not need to write or send a check to the lock box. The debit would occur on the same day each month. This could save postage, printing and time for the both the church treasurer and conference staff. If your church would be interested in the possibility, please contact chuck.smith@iaumc.org. If there is enough interest to make it worthwhile our office will pursue the possibility for use beginning no earlier than January 2008.

Thank You for Receipts

I would like to thank each of you for helping the Conference treasury avoid the traditional summer slump. Receipts from local congregations have been very good this summer. Not only have we maintained our normal percentage of apportionment income but over the summer we have actually improved that percentage. Thanks to all of you who are so faithful and supportive of the United Methodist Church connection and our world-wide missions.

August Apportionment Receipts

	2006	4 YR AVG	2007
Ministerial Support	2,957,341 50.95%	3,037,903 50.37%	2,986,266 52.80%
Administration	1,283,459 41.30%	1,139,991 40.78%	1,438,521 42.90%
World Service & Conf Benev	2,101,276 36.55%	2,065,173 36.29%	2,348,933 37.96%
Other Ministries	87,259 40.87%	89,145 40.71%	85,532 42.06%
Total	6,429,335 43.22%	6,332,212 42.97%	6,859,251 44.54%

Also, this year we have received \$736,131 in prior-year apportionments paid. This is significantly higher than in past years. Again, the Conference and the ministries your dollars support cannot thank you enough for this effort. It really is a joy to see congregations who have struggled financially and have not been able to pay 100% of their apportionments in past years to improve the financial position in such a way that they can make up for previous years shortfalls. It is a blessing for all United Methodists when each church is strengthened in ministry to its community and to the state and world.

Again, thank you for your efforts and for the blessings that you have received from God in which you share with so many others through your apportionments.

2007 Journal/Book of Resolutions

The 2007 Journal and Book of Resolutions are now at the printer. They should be available sometime the first part of October. If you have questions concerning your order please call or email Jill Stanton at 515-974-8917 – Jill.Stanton@iaumc.org