



# IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



## TREASURY NOTES

**April 2008**

Publisher/Editor: Dr. Charles W. Smith; Telephone (515) 283-1991; [www.iaumc.org](http://www.iaumc.org)

### **Dependents Graduating in May**

Just a reminder to clergy and lay persons on the Conference health insurance plan, if you have a dependent who will be graduating from high school that is 19 or older and they are not going to continue their education in a college or trade school, their coverage will end June 1, 2008. If you have a dependent who is graduating from college their coverage will end June 1, 2008.

You may contact Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield directly at 1-800-944-2742 for information on short term health care for your graduate.

### **Benefit Packets for Moving Clergy**

Our office will be sending out the benefit packets for clergy moving as we are made aware of your new appointment in the Conference. It is important that the pension forms be completed. All moving Clergy must complete a new Before-Tax and After-Tax Contributions Agreement form for the UMPIP. Your salary paying unit needs to sign this form and keep the original for their file. There is also a change form which you will need to complete and send back to our office in the envelope provided to you. In order for your new church to be billed appropriately beginning July 1, we must have this information to submit to the General Board of Pensions. It is very important for you to complete any change forms for the HSA, HRA or Flex spending accounts so that Kabel Business can be notified of your new church and change amounts if applicable. Also, a group application for health insurance has been enclosed in the packets for our office to notify Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield of your new home address change. If you have questions regarding any of this information, please

contact Betty Palmer at (515)974-8921 or email her at [betty.palmer@iaumc.org](mailto:betty.palmer@iaumc.org).

### **More Clergy Moving Information**

Clergy who are moving this year are reminded to: 1) Return the yellow "Move Authorization Form" as soon as you have selected a mover. There is also a change of address form included and should be returned to our office. If you are scheduled to move, you should have received a move packet at your put-in containing these forms. Movers will not be at your residence to move you until they have an authorization letter from our office. 2) Remember, the move date for each pastor is set by the District Superintendent. Their office will notify you of your move date. If there is a complication, contact your District Office.

### **2008 Journal Orders**

When your 2008 Pre-Conference Mailing arrives in the mail be sure to look for the 2008 Journal Order Form. Journals are \$15.00 each and CDs are \$7.00 each.

The **deadline** for getting your order in is **June 8, 2008**, however, the process works best if you can mail in your order ahead of annual conference. All orders must be accompanied by payment. **Please DO NOT mail your orders to the lock box but use the address that's on the form.**

If you have questions please contact: Jill Stanton at [Jill.Stanton@iaumc.org](mailto:Jill.Stanton@iaumc.org) or call 515-974-8917.

### **Record Retention**

This information is available thru the General Council on Finance and Administration's website. It will give you a suggested guidelines

as to how long you should save important church documents. To view this information: <http://www.gcfa.org/PDFs/RecRetention.pdf>.

There is so much more information available to you by going to their website [www.gcfa.org](http://www.gcfa.org).

### March Receipts

	2007	4YR AVG	2008
General Church	303,898 13.14%	312,461 13.60%	540,407 22.21%
Conference Ministries	1,484,571 14.67%	1,515,883 15.36%	1,400,054 13.85%
Conference Missions	377,608 12.72%	367,029 12.98%	436,846 13.94%
<b>Total Apportionments</b>	<b>2,166,076 14.06%</b>	<b>2,195,373 14.64%</b>	<b>2,377,307 15.16%</b>

Thank you for your continued support of our shared ministry. You see that again our receipts for 2008 are greater than they were in 2007 and the four-year average. The ministry we do together is important and is a way of helping us make disciples for Jesus Christ not only in Iowa but around the world. Again, thank you for your dedicated support of our common mission.

### March Remittances

The March remittances are now closed and the church statements are available online. Please click on the attached link to view your March church statement <http://www.iaumc.org/remits>.

### Apportionment Formula

Over the last few years, the Iowa Conference at its Annual meeting in Ames has devoted much time in trying to decide how the common ministry of our church will be funded. If it is any consolation, the Iowa Conference has not been the only conference engaged in these conversations. Many Conferences have changed their formula over the last few years.

When I entered the ministry, the formula for a local church contained a membership component and an expense component. Then the Conference added a 20 member discount for the membership component. I remember

servicing a local congregation that had less than twenty members, and I remember quipping shouldn't the conference pay us proportional to our less than twenty members. A number of years ago the trend was to drop the membership component from the formula.

The rationale was that some congregations were not receiving new members because it would affect their apportionments, and so if that part of the formula changed maybe the church would grow in members. Thus, the formula was based on selected expenses of the local congregation.

The current trend in many conferences, Iowa included, is to base the formula on certain income items from a church. The assumption being that the income may be a better indicator of churches ability than what is spent. The last two annual conference sessions have debated this issue.

The Council on Finance and Administration that is given the responsibility by the Book of Discipline to recommend a formula to the Annual Conference has debated the merits of many alternatives and has tried to consider the words spoken during the Conference debate.

The formula they are recommending for the 2009 apportionment year is one based on income information provided on Table Three Part One of the Statistical information. The income would be based on a three-year average with an inflation adjustment. They are also recommending a four-year transition period in which congregations increase or decrease would be limited to 10%. Thus, hoping to avoid the major swings in a congregation's apportionments. When the pre-conference manual arrives you will want to review this legislation.

From the time of the first John Wesley class meetings and the first Christmas Conference on this continent, United Methodists have been expected to support ministry within their local community and beyond themselves into the larger world. The only change over the years is what formula has been used to determine how our common ministries are supported.