



# IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



## TREASURY NOTES

December 2008

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

### A Simple Christmas Thought

“Your Kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10) This verse from the Lord’s Prayer is a couplet: it states the same truth in two different ways. God’s kingdom comes whenever and wherever God’s will is done, in heaven or on earth....Many of us are used to equating the kingdom of God with heaven. And heaven is ‘up there’ in contrast to the earth, which is ‘down here.’ We think of the streets of gold being far away from our streets of concrete. But this verse from the Lord’s Prayer asks us to change our thinking. If heaven exists wherever and whenever the will of God is being done, the streets of gold and the streets of concrete can become one and the same.” (From Having the Mind of God, Abingdon Press, 1996)

To me that is one of the meanings of Jesus birth—heaven and earth became one. I believe that when we have faith in the child of the manger no matter how wretched the circumstances of our life maybe we are still within touch of heaven. When we practice our faith in loving others more than we love ourselves whatever that means in the daily decisions of our life, when we seek peace within ourselves and in our world then our concrete streets become the gold streets of heaven. It is the prayer of the staff of Administrative Services that in this season God’s kingdom will come for you as God’s will be done on earth and in heaven.

### IRS 2009 Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the standard mileage rates for 2009. They are 55 cents per mile for business miles driven, 24 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, and 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations. The new rates for business, medical and moving purposes are slightly lower than the rates for the second half of 2008 which were raised by a special adjustment mid-year in response to a spike in gasoline prices. The rate for charitable purposes is set by law and is unchanged from 2008.

### Churches Year End Reminder

Church remittance forms with 2008 gifts and apportionments must be received by our office or at the lockbox by Thursday, January 8, 2009. Any 2008 apportionments received after that date will still be credited to 2008 but will show on your January 2009 church statement as “prior-year apportionments paid.”

### Remittance Forms

The 2009 remittance forms will be mailed during the month of December. If your church is one of the congregations not sending money to the conference by E-service, you will receive twelve remittance forms and envelopes. If the packet comes to you and you are no longer the church treasurer, please forward this material to the new church treasurer. If you would like to be one of the growing number of churches that sends money to the conference by E-service (electronic payment) contact Jeremy Jolly at the conference office 515-974-8923 or e-mail [Jeremy.Jolly@iaumc.org](mailto:Jeremy.Jolly@iaumc.org).



## 2009 Church Statements

Each month the Church Statements will be accessible by visiting [www.iaumc.org/remits](http://www.iaumc.org/remits). To receive a paper copy you must contact Jeremy Jolly at 515-974-8923. The cost savings in postage alone was more than \$9,000 plus the cost of printing, paper, envelopes and staff time.

## 2008 Statistical Information

Near the end of December each pastor will receive information regarding the year-end statistical data. Many congregations used the website last year to input their data. That can be done again this year. You will also receive a letter explaining how to access the website for reporting your data. The paper forms will be on the website at [www.iaumc.org/stats](http://www.iaumc.org/stats). If you cannot download the forms or need to have a paper copy sent to you, please contact Cynthia Davis at the Conference Center at 515-974-8920 or e-mail her at [Cynthia.Davis@iaumc.org](mailto:Cynthia.Davis@iaumc.org). Thank you for your efforts in this data collection.

## W2 Forms

If you need help with completing W-2 forms, go to [www.iaumc.org/tax](http://www.iaumc.org/tax) and click on GCFA Clergy Tax Packet.

## Holiday Closings

The Conference offices are closed Wednesday through Friday; December 24 - 26 for Christmas. The offices are also closed on January 1 and 2 for New Years.

## Lay Members to Annual Conference

Just a reminder that as you are filling out your 2009 Church Officer Forms, please include the name(s) of your lay member(s) to annual conference. Names are needed for the annual conference registration mailing. If we don't have their name, that lay member may miss this important mailing. Please turn in your forms to Jill Stanton and to your charge conference. Thank you.

## Dell Offers UMC Additional Savings on Computer Purchases

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.:** United Methodist Communications announced today that Dell is offering an additional 7 percent off the already

low discounted prices available through the UMC Member Purchase Program, an exclusive discount program available to United Methodist churches, members, employees and volunteers.

The additional discount is available on Dell laptop or desktop computers—including featured systems, as well as those customized to fit your specific needs. It is not necessary that the computers be purchased for a church. They can be for home use or purchased as gifts by anyone who is affiliated with The United Methodist Church.

Through the UMC Member Purchase Program, discounts are also available on electronics, printers, digital cameras, televisions and other items that may be on your Christmas shopping list.

For more details on the 7% discount offer, go to [www.dell.com/umc](http://www.dell.com/umc) and follow the link for a home computer purchase.

## November Receipts

November is the month when many of us pause to give thanks to God for the many blessings we have received during the past year. I know that the people whose lives you have touched so far this year by your generous support of our connection are rejoicing with much thanksgiving. The money you have given has touched lives all around the globe. Each life that has been blessed thanks you in prayer and heart knowing that you and your congregation by your support is an instrument of God sharing Christ's good news. Thank you!

	2007	4YR AVG	2008 November
General Church	1,370,140 59.24%	1,311,800 57.09%	1,750,894 71.97%
Conference Ministries	6,797,330 67.18%	6,416,945 65.04%	6,436,575 63.66%
Conference Missions	1,770,689 59.63%	1,615,847 57.13%	1,805,572 57.62%
<b>Total Apportionments</b>	<b>9,938,159 64.53%</b>	<b>9,344,592 62.33%</b>	<b>9,993,041 63.74%</b>