



# IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



## TREASURY NOTES

**January 2008**

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### **Special Sunday Offerings**

Our office is often asked about the special Sunday offerings that the Conference and General Church receive each year. The following is information about each of the offerings.

**Human Relations Day** (*usually the Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday*) strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. Encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** (*usually the fourth Sunday of Lent*) enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through world wide ministries of food, shelter, health and peace.

**Native American Ministries Sunday** (*usually the third Sunday of Easter*) nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. One half of this offering stays in Iowa for Iowa Conference Ministries with Native Americans.

**Peace With Justice Sunday** (*usually the first Sunday of Pentecost*) enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a board spectrum of global programs. One half of this offering stays in Iowa for Iowa Conference justice ministries.

**World Communion Sunday** (*usually the first Sunday of October*) provides scholarships for U.S. racial and ethnic-minority students and international students on both undergraduate and graduate levels.

**United Methodist Student Day** (*usually the last Sunday of November*) furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist related and other accredited colleges and universities.

The Iowa Conference has also approved four other special Sunday offerings. This would include:

**Golden Cross Sunday** (*usually the first Sunday in May*) offerings are used for health and welfare ministries in the Iowa Annual Conference.

**Rural Life Sunday** (*usually the third Sunday in May*) celebrates the rural heritage of the United Methodist Church and recognizes the ongoing crisis occurring in rural areas of the nations and the world today.

**Christian Education Sunday** (*any Sunday in September*) calls the church as the people of God to be open to growth and learning as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Disability Awareness Sunday** (*any Sunday in the fall*) celebrates the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and calls the church and society to full inclusion of persons with disability in the community.

In additions to the Special Sundays where an offering is received, there are three special Sundays designated to focus the attention of a specific aspect of the churches ministry. There is no offering taken. These Sundays are:

**Heritage Sunday** (*May 24 or the Sunday preceding*) is a day for United Methodist congregations to reflect on our heritage, to celebrate where the church has been, how it understands itself as it shapes us today and the meaning of Christian Conferencing.

**Laity Sunday** (*usually the third Sunday in October*) celebrates the ministry of all lay Christians.

**Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday** (*usually the second Sunday in November*) celebrates organ donations as an action of love and ministry to others in need.

**Men's Ministry Sunday** (*any Sunday designated by the congregation*) celebrates men's ministry in the church and the community.

## **Making Checks Payable To**

Just a reminder that when you are sending money to the Conference, it is important to make checks payable to the proper account so credit can be given correctly. When writing checks for the Direct Bill Pensions and Health Insurance, make them payable to the *Board of Pensions, Inc.* at PO Box 8086, Des Moines, IA 50301-8086. The pension check should be returned in the blue envelope provided. In order to reduce errors, when returning the stub for the pension and health insurance, please list the amounts you are paying in the proper places. Also, each month, please check to insure that the last payment was credited correctly. It is much easier to correct an error when it occurs than to wait for multiple errors to happen.

Also, we are currently working with our bank to begin a monthly direct withdrawal transfer for accounts. This will help churches save on postage and check writing costs. There will be more information sent to you on this possibility.

All other checks to the Conference should be made payable to the *Iowa Annual Conference* and mailed in the green envelope which is addressed Church Remittance, Iowa Annual Conference United Methodist Church, PO Box 4564, Des Moines, IA 50306-4564. Also, you may select to pay on line by contacting [Jeremy.Jolly@iaumc.org](mailto:Jeremy.Jolly@iaumc.org). He will help you avoid the cost of check writing and mailing. Also, be sure to check your records each month for accuracy. Our office makes every effort to record receipts correctly but occasionally errors occur. It is much easier to correct errors as they occur rather than later in the year. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Taxable Value of the Group Term Death Benefit**

A portion of the money that you send with the Pension Direct Bill is for group term death benefit that is provided to your clergy, spouse and family. The IRS has determined that such benefits are taxable to the clergy person. You may go to the following website address to calculate this taxable value <http://www.iaumc.org/tax> and click on the Taxable Value of Group Term Life link

Just provide answers to the questions and this "calculator" will calculate the taxable value that must be added as additional taxable income for box 1-Federal Wages and box 17 – State Wages on your pastor's W-2 form.

## **2007 Receipts**

The receipts for 2007 will be reported in the February Notes. This will give our office time to make necessary year-end adjustments.

## **W-2 Helps**

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

Packet. Hopefully, this will answer many of your questions.

## **2007 Statistical Information**

By now you should have received information regarding the year-end statistical data. We are asking that each church go to the web site to input your statistical data. Go to [www.iaumc.org/stats](http://www.iaumc.org/stats). If you cannot download the forms, please contact Cynthia Davis at the Conference Center and she will send you a paper copy. We are hoping to save printing costs and reduce data errors in the statistics. In May you will receive the copy of the statistical data and be asked to make any corrections. Remember, the deadline to have statistical information to the Conference office is **Friday, February 15.**

## **Church Officer Forms**

A **BIG** thank you to all of the churches who have returned their Church Officer Forms. If you have not returned them, please do so as soon as possible. They are very important in helping us get information to the correct officers. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **2008 IRS Mileage Rate**

The IRS mileage rate for 2008 has been set at 50.5 cents per mile. This is a two cent per mile increase from 2007. The charitable contribution mileage rate remains at 14 cents per mile.

## **Offices Closed**

All Conference Offices will be closed on Monday, January 21, 2008 in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

## **2008 Annual Conference Notice**

If you are eligible to attend the 2008 Annual Conference, the 166<sup>th</sup> Session of the Iowa Annual Conference will be held June 5-8, 2008. The Clergy Session will be held June 5.

**There have been some changes** regarding registration for the 2008 Annual Conference Session. The registration letter, registration form, and special seating for the physically challenged **form will be mailed out on Monday, March 3 to members.** Please open promptly and read the materials carefully. The **deadline to return your registration form(s) is Tuesday, March 25.**

**If you have not yet turned in the name of your lay member(s) for 2008, please send it to Jill Stanton, [Jill.Stanton@iaumc.org](mailto:Jill.Stanton@iaumc.org) no later than February 15, 2008.** This will ensure that the persons going to Annual Conference will receive the Registration Mailing.

The pre-conference manual will be mailed out on Friday, April 4.

If you have any questions/concerns, please contact: Linda Remster at 515-974-8904 or email her at [Linda.Remster@iaumc.org](mailto:Linda.Remster@iaumc.org).