



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



TREASURY NOTES

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If you were to come to the Conference Center when the Ministry Cabinet is meeting, you would see a number of cars that look similar setting in the parking lot. In March, the Conference leased vehicles for staff that drive more than 9,000 miles per year. This includes the District Superintendents, Field Outreach Ministers and two Leadership Development Ministers.

At the 2009 Session of the Annual Conference, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration was given the authority to determine if there would be a cost savings for the Conference to lease vehicles rather than pay the IRS mileage rate. After a number of months of study, it was determined that leasing vehicles rather than reimbursing travel at the current IRS mileage rate could save the Conference about \$40,000 a year.

The Conference has entered into a lease agreement with Enterprise. The leased vehicles provide other benefits more so than just a cost savings. The staff will be able to drive vehicles that are maintained and insured by Enterprise. As a result, the liability exposure of the Conference will reduce. No longer, will the staff be required to track personal versus business mileage and they will not place undue wear and tear on their own automobiles. A card for gas purchases, maintenance and repair costs are also provided. Their out of pocket costs will be reduced as will the recordkeeping for reimbursements. The Conference will have better access to information about actual travel costs.

After reviewing a number of options, Enterprise was chosen for the reason that they purchase and maintain more vehicles than any other company in the United States. Their fleet is about 3.6% of cars and light trucks built and sold in this country. They have contracts for repairs and service in the communities in which our staff lives. Other not-for-profit agencies in the Des Moines area that lease with Enterprise

gave us favorable reports on their service and management of the fleets.

A number of vehicles were reviewed and finally, the decision was made to lease 2010 Toyota Prius. The reasons for this choice included the fact that some of our staff already drives this type of car, and reported favorable on its use. The carbon footprint for driving a Prius was very positive when compared to other vehicles. They helped the Iowa Conference meet the Bishop's challenge as described in the Pastoral Letter from the Council of Bishops entitled, "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action." In that letter, each Bishop pledges to "measure the 'carbon footprint' of our Episcopal and denominational offices, determine how to reduce it, and implement those changes. We will urge our congregations, schools, and settings of ministry to do the same."

Toyota, which had a very high safety rating in the past, has been besieged with recalls. Thus, we have received assurances that the issues with the Prius will be cared for before the ones we ordered reach the dealership. Of course, no new car can leave the dealership until the recalls are properly fixed.

So, when you see a member of the Conference staff driving a leased vehicle remember, the move to the fleet of cars was made to reduce costs, provide safe and eco friendly vehicles for those servants of Christ who travel within our state on behalf of you, the members of the United Methodist Church.

Moving Season

The first list of appointment changes has been announced; therefore, we know it is moving season for some United Methodist clergy and their families.

At the put-in, you will receive a move packet. The packet includes the list of mover's who have contracted with the Iowa Annual Conference to provide moves at a discounted rate.

There is information defining the parameters of the

Annual Conference's responsibility for the move and your responsibility. Please read over the Moving Policy and all material received in your packet.

Once you receive the packet, you will select a mover from the approved mover's list. If you choose a mover who is not on the list, you will be responsible for the entire cost of the move.

As soon as you have selected a mover, return the move authorization form to the Treasurer's office. Our office will notify the moving company that they are approved for your move. You do not need to get an estimate of the cost; however, you should have an estimate of the weight of the move. The Annual Conference will pay for up to 17,000 pounds and \$500 for packing and packing materials.

Even if you are under the 17,000 pounds, the Conference will not pay to move vehicles, motorcycles, canoes, firewood, lumber, potters clay, kilns and other oversized or over weight items. If you are over your poundage or packing and oversized items, you will need to arrange with the moving company.

In the rare occasions where damage is done during the move, report the damage to the mover and the Treasurer's office immediately. The Conference does insure the move at replacement value at \$5.00 per pound. The Conference will pay the \$500 deductible for damage, if reported in a timely fashion.

The IRS has issued a statement described as "Five Tips for Taxpayers Making a Move" (IRS Tax Tip 2010-37). Let me summarize some of the information.

1. If you change your home or business address make sure you update that information with the IRS to ensure you receive any refunds or correspondence from the IRS. The form to use for Change of Address is Form 8822 and can be sent to the IRS any time during the year. Of course, if you file a joint return be sure to include the information for both taxpayers on the form.
2. Notify your former church treasurer of your new address because you will need to receive a W-2 from that church.
3. Notify the Post Office of the change of address so mail can be forwarded.

4. If you estimate tax payments throughout the year, you should mail a completed Form 8822 to the IRS. You can continue to use your old pre-printed payment vouchers until the IRS sends you new ones with your new address. However, do not correct the address on the old voucher.
5. If your move is less than 50 miles from the door of the former parsonage to the door of the new parsonage, the Annual Conference will be required to send you a1099. The same is true if this is retirement move. In both instances, the move cost will be considered taxable income. To reduce the tax consequences of such a move keep the receipts for all of your personal move expenses.

The date for your move is set by the Appointive Cabinet. You will receive a letter stating your move date. The dates are chosen in such a way as to make it possible for a parsonage to be vacant for at least one full day to allow for cleaning and minor repairs.

February Receipts

It seems that I can never say "thank you" enough for the generous spirit shown by the gifts that come from our members. As you can see from the chart below our apportionment receipts for the current year are ahead of last year in both dollars and percentage. Your Conference office has also received as of this date \$216,171 in prior-year apportionments' paid. The ministries supported by these efforts are very thankful for your gifts. The outreach, disciple making and leadership ministries of the Conference and General Church are blessed by so many of our congregation's generosity. Thank you.

	2008	4 YR AVG	2009
General Church	355,425 13.07%	268,686 10.97%	349,627 13.43%
Conference Ministries	778,638 7.56%	846,339 8.39%	827,209 8.09%
Conference Missions	245,583 7.38%	238,033 7.83%	286,238 8.38%
Total Apportionments	1,379,646 8.44%	1,353,058 8.69%	1,463,074 9.00%

The Blessings of the Lord is Here!