



# IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



## TREASURY NOTES

### November/December 2009

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**D. James Kennedy**, *Christmas Stories for the Heart*. The star of Bethlehem was a star of hope that led the wise men to the fulfillment of their expectations, the success of their expedition. Nothing in this world is more fundamental for success in life than hope, and this star pointed to our only source for true hope: Jesus Christ. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:15-17) May these words from St. Paul guide our thoughts, words and actions during the advent season and into the year 2010. The staff of Administrative Services wishes for all you a hopeful and blessed Christmas season.

*Maggie Kristina*  
*Roland Jill Barb*  
*Dave Jeremy Chuck*  
*Alex Cynthia*

**Software Conversion** five syllables that roll off the tongue so easily and yet the when it comes time to implement can be so complicated. For the most part, the conversion process went very well, especially when one considers that more than 901,438 pieces of data was transferred. However, two areas did present a problem and of course both areas affected local congregations.

First, the conversion of our direct bill system was much more complicated that our software consultants expected. Because of the multiple options in our health insurance, and the transferring of two years of data where the bill amount changed at least twice, meant that all transactions had to be manually verified and corrected. This was a slow process. Thus, the November and December direct bill for pension and health insurance has been combined into one bill. You may pay the bill at two different times, just make a copy of the bill and make sure to include the return coupon with the amount you are paying.

Second, the transfer of data in our church remittance system was somewhat complicated. The data for ten years of apportionment history, and then the multitude of special gifts that our conference receives and passes on to other agencies made for some difficulty. Thus, again our office had to manually confirm each total which of course took time. It also meant that we could not enter October transactions until balances from previous months were verified. Therefore, sending out the November and December remit statements have been delayed. Please when sending in funds copy the blank statement from our web page or use previous statements if necessary so that all receipts may be recorded in the correct month and year.

**Since 2010 is an elections year remember the following:**

**IRS rules state the following:**

“...a section 501(c)(3) organization may not make a contribution to a political organization....(such as a candidate segregated fund under section 527.”

IRS rules are very clear that a church as a 501(c)(3) organizations cannot make any contributions described above. Neither can a church endorse or support in any way a political candidate. This prohibition includes the pastor endorsing a political candidate from the pulpit.

**According to additional IRS rules:** “Violating the above ban may result in denial or revocation of the organization’s tax-exempt status and the imposition of an excise tax on the amount of money spent on the activity.”

It is the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church’s position that the law in this regard must strictly be followed.

**Holiday Closing**

Just a reminder the Conference offices are closed December 24 and 25 and January 1, 2010 for the Christmas Holiday and for New Years.

**October Receipts**

The words “Thank You” seems so inadequate when it comes to expressing the gratitude so many in the Annual Conference feel for the magnificent effort so many of you have given in support of making disciples and transforming the world. A comparison of the current year receipts indicates that for the three apportioned funds we have received \$543,816 more than the four year average. However, we have received \$69,463 less in 2009 than in 2008. Yet, to date for 2009 we have received \$607,051 in prior-year apportionments received compared to \$439,200 for all of last year. So when we combine current and prior year

apportionments in 2009, we have received \$98,388 more money than in 2008. Thank you for your continued support of the United Methodist connection.

	<b>2008</b>	<b>4 YR AVG</b>	<b>2009</b>
General Church	1,625,790 66.83%	1,276,083 54.42%	1,679,822 61.79%
Conference Ministries	5,806,954 57.43%	5,705,092 57.18%	5,667,802 55.03%
Conference Missions	1,614,332 51.52%	1,452,622 50.37%	1,629,988 48.97%
<b>Total Apportionments</b>	<b>9,047,076</b> <b>57.71%</b>	<b>8,433,797</b> <b>55.46%</b>	<b>8,977,613</b> <b>54.92%</b>

**Remittance Dates**

It does not seem possible but the year 2009 is coming to a conclusion. The last day for your congregation to receive credit for paying 2009 apportionments is January 8, 2010. The remittances must be in our office by that date. After January 8, you may still pay your 2009 apportionments and they will be reported on your church statements as prior-year apportionments paid.

The 2010 Remittance form will be sent to the churches the first week of January. We will send one copy of a single sheet form along with 12 envelopes. You may make copies of the remittance form for your use each month. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Administrative Services Mission Statement**

Administrative Services is dedicated to serving the Iowa Annual Conference with our gifts of knowledge, integrity, and caring as we assist persons with the business and operational aspects of our shared mission. Our ministry supports the Annual Conference in developing leaders who proclaim the gospel and transform the world.

**Reminder...** If you have not sent in the Church Officer’s list for 2010, please do so immediately.