



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



TREASURY NOTES

September 2009

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2010 Health Insurance Rates

At its August meeting, the Conference Board of Pensions set the 2010 Health Insurance Rates. The Insurance Committee has been in negotiation with Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Iowa since last spring. The original rate increase proposed by Wellmark was a 17.8%. Because of the negotiations carried out by the committee and with a few minor changes in the PPO plan, the rates will have an overall increase of 14%.

Rates

The *church appointment fee* will be billed to each charge for each clergy who is $\frac{3}{4}$ time or more:

\$864 per month, \$10,368 per year

Traditional Health Insurance Plan (PPO) Clergy Share

Single \$143 per month, \$1,716 per year

Family \$539 per month, \$6,468 per year

High Deductible Health Insurance Plan (HDHP) Clergy Share

Single \$ 0 per month, \$0 per year

Family \$349 per month, \$4,188 per year

There is a change in the PPO deductible for 2010. Instead of \$500 (single) and \$1,000 (family), the deductible will be \$750 (single); and \$1,500 (family). The co-pay for an office visit will be \$25. The maximum out of pocket cost for any year remains the same at \$2,500 (single) and \$5,000 (family). The co-pay for prescriptions will remain the same as 2009.

The HDHP deductible remains the same for 2010 (\$2,500 single or \$5,000 per family).

There is no change in our Health Savings Account or our Flexible Spending Account (125 Cafeteria) Plans for 2010.

We have reviewed why our health insurance rates continue to be higher than other groups and each time we have the same issues show up such as (1) the average age of clergy in Iowa is older than most other groups, and they are at the age when health problems begin to surface; (2) our clergy have higher than average incidents of the following:

- Heart related issues such as, high blood pressure and high colorectal, etc.
- Diabetes and its related illnesses
- Digestive issues requiring medications

- Anxiety related symptoms

Retiree Rates

The rates for our Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage will be announced in the November *Treasury Notes*.

Conference Center Hours

Beginning the week of September 6, the Center will return to its regular hours. The Center will be opened Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The Conference offices are closed Monday, September 7 for the Labor Day Holiday.

Apportionments

In last month's issue I described the General Church Apportionments. For this issue I will briefly describe the apportionments that are listed in our Conference Budget as **Conference Ministries**. The funds are for the following:

Board of Ordained Ministry which enlists, recruits, credentials, supports continuing education efforts, and monitors the progress of clergy within the conference from the time of candidacy to retirement. *The 2010 apportionment is \$44,150.*

Board of Pensions uses most of its apportioned funds to pay the conference share of retired clergy Medicare supplements and the appointment share for clergy on disability. The Board also manages the health insurance program, administers billing and enrollment for the active clergy pension program. *The 2010 apportionment is \$1,175,000.*

Board of Trustees maintains the conference owned property including the district parsonages and offices as well as the Conference Center. They are also responsible for the Conference property and casualty insurance in addition to maintaining a conference-wide program for worker's compensation and sexual misconduct insurance. *The 2010 apportionment is \$988,000.*

Commission on Equitable Compensation sets minimum clergy compensation amounts each year and provides grants to local congregations who for missional reasons need a full-time clergy but cannot pay the entire salary cost. *The 2010 apportionment is \$274,000.*

District Funds pay the cost related to District offices, salaries, benefits and other expenses for the District Superintendents, Field Outreach Ministers and District Administrative Secretaries. *The 2010 apportionment is \$3,101,944.*

Support of Clergy which the largest expense is the clergy moving fund. Other support is in emergency sustentation grants, and support for specialized ministry needs within congregations. *The 2010 apportionment is \$627,454.*

Episcopal Office Fund supports the staff within this office including the Assistant to the Bishop for Administration, Administrative Secretaries, the Office of Communications for the conference and other initiatives that may be directed by the Bishop. **(Special note: the Bishop's salary, benefits, reimbursement expense and other cost are paid by the General Church).** *The 2010 apportionment is \$837,835.*

Office of Pastoral Care and Counseling helps clergy who have specific counseling needs and directs spiritual formation groups including leading retreats for spiritual directors. *The 2010 apportionment is \$191,573.*

Conference Administrative Committees which the largest expense of this fund is the cost of holding the Annual Conference Session each summer. The other cost are related to the committees necessary to have the Conference functions and includes Rules of Order, Resolutions, and Conference Secretary, etc. *The 2010 apportionment is \$515,200.*

Council on Finance and Administration includes the salaries and benefits for the staff in the Conference Treasurer and Administrative Service's office as well as the expense of the annual audit and income to maintain a conference reserve fund. *The 2010 apportionment is \$991,462.*

Iowa United Methodist Foundation receives funds to support its operating budget. Their office provides many fundraising and investment services for the churches of the Conference. *The 2010 apportionment is \$50,000.*

The Connectional Ministries Council which funds the salary and benefits for the Assistant to the Bishop for Programming, the Leadership Development Ministers and the support staff. It also includes the administrative costs for all Conference program boards, agencies, and provides grants to ecumenical endeavors in Iowa including Iowa Resource Media Services. *The 2010 apportionment is \$1,334,000.*

Pre Retirement Seminars

The Storm Lake UMC on September 29 and Willard Street UMC in Ottumwa on September 30 are hosting pre retirement seminars for clergy. The day will include someone from the Social Security Administration and an educator from the General Board of Pensions. If you plan to retire sometime in the future, these seminars will provide you with valuable information. The cost is \$10

per person or \$15 per couple. It includes the cost of your noon meal and other expenses. Please make your reservations by contacting Cynthia.Davis@iaumc.org.

Software Conversion

As we have reported previously our summer has been and the fall will continue to be very busy with the software conversion of our systems. We thank you for your patience with our staff as we continue to fulfill our current responsibilities plus deal with the added work of the conversion. Our plan is to have the conversion ready to go live in October. Thus, September will be a time for testing what we have accomplished hoping that all will work well. To help with the process, we will close our September Remittances on the 29th. If your church wants credit for September money sent, it must be in our office by September 29. After that date it will be credited to October.

August Receipts

Again, a big thank you for our summer receipts. Often the summer sees a decline in receipts. This year it has not been as great as other years. As you can see from the chart below our receipts have held strong for the year. Thank you for your efforts and work. Together we do make a difference in so many different places as we pass the money you send to us on to the ministries that are supported by the apportionment system.

Thank you for being in partnership with the United Methodist Church.

	2008	4YR AVG	2009
General Church	1,319,726 54.25%	4,016,701 43.35%	1,360,997 50.06%
Conference Ministries	4,463,244 44.14%	4,502,447 45.13%	4,347,427 42.21%
Conference Missions	1,247,713 39.82%	1,125,844 39.04%	1,253,360 37.65%
Total Apportionments	7,030,683 44.85%	6,644,993 43.70%	6,961,784 42.59%

2010 Church Officer Forms

The 2010 Church Officer Forms will be mailed out from the Conference Center. Included in the mailing is a letter from the Cabinet and a list of instructions about the form. The form is due at your charge conference. Please mail the top copy to Jill Stanton at the Conference Center. Hand in the second copy at your charge conference and retain the third copy for your files. Thank you for your help with this important mailing.

2009 Conference Journal/BOR

The new journals and Book of Resolutions will be mailed out the end of September. If you do not receive your journal by mid-October please call Jill Stanton at 515-974-8917. The Journal CDs will be mailed out separately.