



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



TREASURY NOTES

April 2006

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Special Offerings

Each year at the Iowa Annual Conference meeting in June, the Conference authorizes four special offerings. These four special Sunday offerings are in addition to the six offerings that are set by the General Conference. The four Iowa offerings are:

Disabilities Awareness. The purpose is to celebrate gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and promote their full inclusion in the community. 100% of the offering is retained by the Iowa Annual Conference to provide educational opportunities and to provide grants to local churches which will assist in removing architectural and attitudinal barriers to accessibility. The Conference Commission in Ministry with Persons with Disabilities is responsible for promoting this offering. (#39)

Golden Cross Sunday. The purpose is to celebrate health and welfare ministries and their role in spiritual wellbeing. 100% of the offering is retained by the Iowa Annual Conference to fund grants to local churches and community groups. The Iowa Conference Board of Global Ministries has responsibility to promote this offering. (#41)

Rural Life Sunday. The purpose is to celebrate and support rural life and rural ministry. 100% of the offering is retained by the Iowa Annual Conference to fund grants to local churches, rural networks and community organizations. The Iowa Conference Board of Global Ministries is responsible for promoting this offering. (#42)

Christian Education Sunday. The purpose is to celebrate and promote Christian education and spiritual formation. 100% of the offering is retained by the Iowa Annual Conference and is used as follows: 52% is granted to the Iowa Religious Media Services for the purchase of resources, 38% is used to

support camperships at Iowa United Methodist Camps, and 10% is used to fund scholarships for continuing education for salaried United Methodist Christian Educators. The Iowa Conference Board of Discipleship is responsible for promoting this offering. (#40)

It is suggested that the Disabilities offering be taken in late winter; Golden Cross Sunday is held the first Sunday in May and Rural Life Sunday is also in May and held on the third Sunday, and Christian Education can be held any Sunday in September. Occasionally, the Sunday dates set aside for these offerings interfere with activities within your local congregation. When this happens, the dates may be changed to best fit the local church calendar. One thing to remember, it is important that members be given an opportunity to support these special causes sometime during the year.

2006 Journal Order Forms

Soon the Pre-Conference Mailing will be in the mail. When you receive your copy, please be sure to look for your 2006 Journal Order Form. The deadline for forms to be received is June 11. However, you may want to turn in your form as soon as you receive it to avoid the rush at Annual Conference. Forms must be filled out and returned with payment. Checks should be made payable to the Iowa Annual Conference. Journals are \$15.00 each and CDs are \$7.00 each.

You should send your order to Jill Stanton, 2301 Rittenhouse St., Des Moines, IA 50321-3101. Your check must be included with the form - do **not** send your payment to the lock box. If you have any questions, please contact Jill at 515-974-8917 or Jill.Stanton@iaumc.org.

Celebration of Health & Ministry

Clergy and spouses are invited to a dinner on Wednesday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m. sponsored by the Conference Board of Pensions. The

keynote speaker for the evening is Dr. John B. Dilley. He is a certified clinical psychologist and sports psychologist with a private practice. He is an ordained clergy and conducts numerous workshops as well as doing research and writing in the areas of mental health and the integration of psychology and theology. His theme for the evening will be the Unique Work of the Clergy and how it creates stress that result in physical and emotional issues for themselves, their families and congregations. He is a very informative and an excellent speaker.

In order for us to be good stewards in preparing a meal count, a pre-registration is required. There is no cost to attend so please come, receive and enjoy. Registration may be returned by clipping and sending the form provided in the pre-conference packet or contact Cynthia Davis 515-974-8920 or Cynthia.Davis@iaumc.org. Reservations must be made June 1.

Apportionment Receipts through March 29

	2005	4 YR AVG	2006
Ministerial Support	1,092,919 18.02%	1,062,870 17.58%	1,018,707 17.55%
Administration	404,270 13.82%	355,514 13.74%	405,054 13.03%
World Serv & Conf. Benev.	741,921 13.09%	704,319 12.54%	704,648 12.26%
Other Ministries	36,751 17.04%	26,790 11.98%	33,405 15.65%
Total Apportionments	2,275,861 15.30%	2,149,492 14.85%	2,161,813 14.53%

March Remittances

The Church Remittance Statement treasurers are receiving this month does not reflect amounts received thru March 31. As reported last month, our remits were closed early in March. Please refer to the commentary on the statement for the dates included.

Dependents Graduating in May

Just a reminder to clergy and lay persons on the Conference health insurance plan that if you have a dependent who will be graduating from high school and is not going to continue their education in a college or trade school, their health insurance coverage will end June 1, 2006. If your dependent is graduating from college, the coverage will end June 1, 2006.

Our office has information on short term health care through Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. You may receive this information by contacting Betty Palmer at 515-974-8921 or Betty.Palmer@iaumc.org.

Reminder to Clergy who are Moving

Clergy who are moving this year are reminded to: 1) Return the yellow "Move Authorization Form" as soon as you have selected a mover. Movers will not be at your residence to move you until they have an authorization letter from our office. 2) Remember, the move date for each pastor is set by the District Superintendent. Their office will notify you of your move date. If there is a complication, contact your District Office. 3) It is important that the pension forms be completed. All moving Clergy must complete a new enrollment form for the UMPIP and declare before or after tax. This is the only way the General Board of Pensions can bill your new church. If you are using the tax benefit provided by the 125 Cafeteria form, a new election form needs to be completed. Also, you may now participate in the 125 Cafeteria Plan if you have not done so in the past. These forms were given to you by your District Superintendent at the time of your put-in with your new parish.

Conference Office Closed

The Conference Center is closed Friday, April 15 for Good Friday.

Did You Know

For centuries, eggs were among the food forbidden by the church during Lent, so it was a special treat to have them again at Easter. In some countries, baskets of food including eggs are traditionally taken to church to be blessed on Holy Saturday or before the Easter midnight service, and then taken home for a part of the Easter breakfast.

However, eggs were colored, blessed, exchanged and eaten as part of the right of spring long before Christian times. Even the earliest civilizations held springtime festivals to welcome the sun's rising from its long winter sleep. They thought of the sun's return from darkness as an annual miracle and regarded the egg as a natural wonder and a proof of the renewal of life. As Christianity spread, the egg was adopted as a symbol of Christ's resurrection from the tomb.