



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



TREASURY NOTES

December 2006

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Christmas Thought

A number of years ago I read a short story entitled "If Christ Had Not Come." It was based on our Savior's own words, "If I had not come," in John 15:22. In the story a person fell asleep to dream of a world without Christ. They walked through the house but there were no stockings hung on the chimney, no Christmas tree, no wreaths of holly. As he looked at his library there were no books about Jesus or with a Christian theme and the one marked holy book ended with Malachi. The person was then told of a death of a friend and at the funeral there was no gospel, no promise of hope and salvation, and all that the people could do was bow their heads and weep in bitter despair.

Thus, it is with joy each year that we can sing "O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold Him, born the King of angels, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Let us all be glad and rejoice today, because Christ has come. May our hearts be blessed as the staff of the Conference Treasurer's office wishes to thank you for another year of service and wish you the blessing that comes to all people who know the good news of great joy because our Savior has been born.

Jill

Alex

Barb

Betty



Doug

Maggie

Chuck

Jeremy

Kristina

Roland

Johnneen

Cynthia

The Story Of The Candy Cane Sometime during the latter part of the 18th century in England, when all religious symbols were banned from public display, no longer could Christian's recognize one another by any type of symbolic jewelry, clothing etc. It was during this time it is told that there was a Christian candy maker who set out to find some way for members of the Christian family to identify. He began with a white candy to signify purity and the holiness of Jesus Christ. Next, he fashioned the candy cane into the shape of a shepherd's staff as a reminder that our Heavenly Father is the Good Shepherd.

Then he placed three small red stripes around the candy to represent the encompassing power and presence of the Trinity (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

Finally he placed a single bold red stripe throughout the candy to demonstrate the redeeming power and the blood Christ shed upon the cross for each of us, and the forgiveness of sins. This was a hope that each would be reminded in a subtle way of the love God has for us and the price he paid for our salvation. © S.J. Mckee



2007 Church Officer Forms

As you know, new church officers begin their duties January 1, 2007. The **deadline** for forms to be turned in was **December 1, 2006**. If your church has not returned your church officer's form, please make it a priority.

The original copy goes to the district office, the second copy to Jill Stanton, 2301 Rittenhouse St., Des Moines, IA 50321-3101 and retain the third copy for your files.

Direct Bill for Health Insurance & Pensions:

We are making every attempt to get your January Direct Bill to you on time but as you know from previous years the January Direct Bill runs a little later than usual. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

November Apportionment Receipts

	2005	4 YR AVG	2006
Ministerial Support	4,156,978 68.54%	4,277,640 70.76%	4,091,949 70.50%
Administration	1,719,305 58.76%	1,570,550 60.69%	1,887,218 60.72%
World Serv & Conf. Benev.	3,012,604 53.15%	3,063,165 54.54%	3,131,364 54.47%
Other Ministries	123,667 57.34%	128,742 57.55%	128,016 59.97%
Total Apportionments	9,012,553 60.59%	9,040,096 62.46%	9,238,547 62.11%

UMPIP Contributions for 2007

All pastors and lay employees please remember that you will need to complete a new Before/After Tax Contribution form if you are changing your amount of contributions for the New Year, otherwise your billings from the General Board of Pensions & Health Benefits will be incorrect for your January 2007 billing. Please call or email Betty Palmer at (515) 974-8921 or betty.palmer@iaumc.org for the necessary form.

2007 Medicare Supplement Rates

The new rates will be \$54.70 per person monthly or \$656.40 per person yearly. There are some retirees who pay a higher rate because at the time of retirement their years of service were less than required.

2007 Standard Mileage Rates

The IRS for 2007 is 48.5 cents per mile for business miles driven; 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and 14 cents per mile driven in service to a charitable organization.

Holiday Closing Dates

The Conference Offices will be closed December 25 and 26 for the Christmas Holiday, Monday January 1, 2007 for New Year's Day and on Monday, January 15 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

2006 Remit Forms Due Date

January 8, 2007 is the due date that remittance forms must be received in our office to receive credit towards your 2006 apportionments. Any 2006 apportionments received after that date will be credited to

2006, but will show on your January 2007 statement as "Prior year apportionments paid."

Remittance Forms/Envelopes

We will be mailing the twelve monthly Church Remittance Forms for 2007 within the next couple of weeks. If you do not wish to receive these forms, please contact Jeremy Jolly at (515) 974-8923 or Jeremy.Jolly@iaumc.org.

Because of a new zip code for our lockbox, we will be sending you new return envelopes. These envelopes are green instead of the gray that we have used in the past. We would ask that you please discard of your gray envelopes after the first of the year as they include the old zip code. The new lockbox zip code is 50305-4564. The post office will continue to deliver mail to the old zip code until July 1, 2007. All remittance forms mail sent after that will be returned by the post office.

Also, please discard any old remittance forms as there is new information on the '07 forms.

If your church is one of the many number of congregations who are sending money to the conference by E-Service, you will not be receiving the remittance forms or envelopes. If your church wishes to begin electronic payment please contact Jeremy Jolly at the conference office 515-974-8923 or e-mail JermeJ.Jolly@iaumc.org.

The remittance forms are also available on the treasurer's page on the conference web site and you may download the form from that site. Thank you for cooperation.

Charitable Tax Reforms

Beginning in 2007, cash contributions (currency and coin) will not be deductible unless the donor can provide a bank record or a written communication from the charity. The written document must include the name of the charitable organization, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the donation. Before 2007, individuals only needed documentation for contributions of \$250 or more.

In order to satisfy this requirement, it might be best to pay with a check or a credit card. The reason for this is that the donation could be proved through the canceled check or the bank statement. You are still required to have a written receipt from a charity before you file your taxes for each \$250 or greater gift.