



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TREASURY NOTES

July 2006

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Annual Conference Follow-up

In the last issue I reported on legislation that was to be presented to the Annual Conference. Here are the actions of the Conference.

The **Conference Board of Trustees** recommended to the Conference that churches combine their resources to purchase a Comprehensive Conference wide Sexual Misconduct Insurance. The Conference referred this recommendation back to the Board for more study.

The **Conference Board of Pensions** proposal to offer an option to clergy for their health insurance coverage was approved. The option will be a health savings account or a continuation in the current traditional plan. This option was approved at the Conference Session. The Board will establish rates for the various plans before September 1, 2006.

Also, the funding for the new Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) was approved. The funding will be 11% of the clergy compensation. Thus, for the year 2007, the congregation or charge will be direct billed according to the following formula. Compensation from line 1 of the Pastoral Support Form times 125%, if a parsonage is provided times 11%. (Example only: Pastoral Support \$40,000 X 125% = \$50,000 X 11% = \$5,500 for the pension share).

If a housing allowance is given instead of a parsonage, the formula would be Compensation from line 1 of the Pastoral Support Form plus housing allowance times 11% (Example only: Pastoral Support \$40,000 plus \$14,000 housing allowance = \$54,000 X 11% = \$5,940 for pension share).

The 11% for the year 2007 is the best estimate the Board could make regarding the cost of the new pension plan. The percentage may need to be adjusted from year to year.

The Board has scheduled a series of district meetings to help explain the changes in the health insurance plan and the clergy retirement plan.

Those that should attend are clergy and at least one member of the Staff Parish Committee. The location of each meeting will be announced at a later date. Each meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. and end no later than 8:30 p.m. Make sure you place them on your calendar. Here are the dates:

Cedar Rapids	Tuesday	September 26
Council Bluffs	Monday	September 25
Creston	Monday	September 18
Des Moines	Thursday	September 14
Dubuque	Thursday	September 28
Fort Dodge	Thursday	September 28
Mason City	Tuesday	September 26
Muscatine	Tuesday	September 19
Ottumwa	Monday	October 9
Sioux City	Tuesday	September 19
Spencer	Monday	September 11
Waterloo	Tuesday	September 12

Annual Conference Treasurer's Report

Since this was the tenth report that I have given to the Annual Conference, I decided this year to look at some ten year trends. Here are some numbers that I found interesting.

The numbers are from December 31, 2005 and the percentages are the changes from ten years ago.

>Membership 193,648; a 4.48% decrease.

>Iowa population during this time grew by 4.23%.

>Worship attendance 68,300; a 12.08% decrease.

>Average Church School attendance was 25,455 a 27.69% decrease.

>Grand total paid to all causes \$94,121,375 or a 43.7% increase.

>The apportionments that were approved ten years ago were \$14,278,552 or 21.79% of the grand total spent that year by all congregations.

>The apportionments approved for 2005 were \$12,122,525 or 15.8% of the grand total spent that year by all congregations.

>Apportionments received in 2005 was \$12,122,525 a 4.97% increase.

>The value of local congregation's assets other than church building and parsonage and the land on which they sit was \$83,407,925 a 79.23% increase.

Staff Changes

It was announced at Annual Conference that Russell Hinshaw, the Assistant Treasurer/Controller of the Conference will be leaving to assume a position as Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services for the East Kansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Russ has been with the Iowa Conference a little more than 10 years. I know that all of us wish him well in his new ministry and know that he will be a blessing to that Conference as he was to our Conference.

Margaret Biggs who has been our Senior Staff Accountant for the last ten years will be assuming the Assistant Treasurer/Controller position. Again, I believe we are fortunate to have someone who knows the Conference and the Church and is able to serve in this capacity. We will want to congratulate her in this new role. We are in the process of filling the position of Senior Staff Accountant.

Letter from Medical Excess

About a week ago many of you received a letter from Medical Excess regarding a theft of equipment that contained names and Social Security Numbers and other personal information. Medical Excess is a reinsurance company that covers excess medical loss. It protects companies from large fluctuations in medical claims. They were not used by the Annual Conference, but some of our insurance vendors may have sent them information in an

attempt to receive a quote for this coverage.

Sending this information is standard practice when a reinsurance quote is being sought. The letter from Medical Excess lists several steps to protect you against identity theft and other misuse of your information. Please follow the steps they have outlined. If you have questions, contact Medical Excess at the number listed in the letter.

May Apportionment Receipts

	2005	4 YR AVG	2006
Ministerial Support	1,861,765 30.70%	1,925,833 31.86%	1,855,743 31.97%
Administration	675,480 23.08%	632,117 24.43%	747,348 24.05%
World Service & Conf Benev	1,239,295 21.87%	1,256,612 22.37%	1,253,289 21.80%
Other Ministries	55,562 25.76%	60,177 26.90%	58,547 27.43%
Total	3,832,101 25.76%	3,874,739 26.77%	3,914,927 26.32%

June Apportionment Receipts

	2005	4 YR AVG	2006
Ministerial Support	2,244,394 37.01%	2,356,577 38.98%	2,242,445 38.63%
Administration	849,417 29.03%	785,461 30.35%	932,570 30.01%
World Service & Conf Benev	1,513,064 26.70%	1,542,177 27.46%	1,548,920 26.94%
Other Ministries	66,427 30.80%	71,445 31.94%	68,480 32.08%
Total	4,673,302 31.42%	4,755,660 32.86%	4,792,415 32.22%

In addition to the current year receipts, we have also received \$433,469 in prior-year apportionments paid. Thank you for your support of the United Methodist Church.