



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



TREASURY NOTES

November 2006

Publisher/Editor: Dr. Charles W. Smith; Telephone (515) 283-1991; www.iaumc.org

DVD AND CD PACKAGE

At the June session of the Annual Conference, each Pastor received a DVD and CD Package for their Charge. The package contained video and printable resources that should be used to help church members understand how apportionment money supports the mission of the church. Some really good news to share, at the annual meeting of the United Methodist Association of Communicators this package received an "Award of Excellence" for publicity and interpretation. ***Congratulations to our Communications department for this recognition from their colleagues.***

The Conference Office of Communications and the Interpretation Sub Committee of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration would like you to take a few moments to answer several questions about the DVD and CD Package. You may respond to these questions by e-mailing either Art McClanahan at amclanahan@iaumc.org or Chuck Smith at chuck.smith@iaumc.org.

The questions are:

1. How have you used the DVD or CD Package?
2. If you have not used the package, what do you need from the Conference that would be more user friendly?
3. What did you find most helpful from this package?
4. What else would you like from the Conference to help interpret our shared ministry?

Thank you in advance for answering these questions. If you do not have e-mail access, you may send your response to the Communications or Treasurer's office.

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

Recently, each member of the Annual Conference and chairperson of the local congregations Board of Trustees received a request from the Conference Board of Trustees to provide a Certificate of Insurance for the church. The request comes in response to the task assigned by the Annual Conference Session for the Trustees to review insurance coverage for local congregations.

If your church is on the conference insurance plan, just note that on the top of the form and return it to our office. If your church is covered through some other insurance company, have the agent complete the certificate and send to the Conference. The insuring company must be identified and an authorized representation must sign the form.

The form was sent to all Annual Conference members, lay and clergy; therefore, retired clergy know what is being asked by the Conference but they do not need to return a form. We ask the lay members of the Annual Conference make sure that the Certificate of Insurance is completed and returned. The information will be helpful when the Annual Conference must decide how best to protect all local church and conference assets from unwarranted or warranted legal judgments.

DONOR NOTIFICATION REMINDER

Just a reminder, donors who make a contribution of \$250 or more at one time, must have a "contemporaneous" written acknowledgment from the church. The written document should include the church's name (letterhead will suffice) and provide the following data:

- The name of the donor.
- The total of all contributions for the year.
- A listing of each individual contribution of \$250 or more (You are not required to aggregate smaller contributions that when put together total \$250 to trigger this requirement).
- A statement that no goods or services were provided to the donor in exchange for the contribution except "intangible religious benefits" provided by the church's ministry.
- A description of any non-cash property contributed.

This written acknowledgment must be provided to the donor prior to the date the donor's tax return is filed on or prior to the due date for filing, whichever is earlier.

When a donor wishes to donate property that is valued in excess of \$500, they must complete Federal Tax Form 8283. Section A is completed for property valued less than \$5,000 and for publicly traded securities. While Section B is for property valued in excess of \$5,000 excluding publicly traded securities.

The church would be required to complete Section B Part IV, Donee Acknowledgement only for property listed in section B of this tax form. The acknowledgment certifies that your organization is qualified under section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Tax Code (**which it does**) and affirms that should the property be sold or otherwise disposed of within two years after date of receipts, the church will file Federal Tax Form 8282.

Whenever your church receives donated property valued in excess of \$5,000, excluding publicly traded securities you need to track the property for at least two years. Should you dispose of the property within two years, the church is required to complete Federal Tax Form 8282 Donee Information Return. This form describes the property and the amount received up to the sale or disposition. The form is filed with the Internal Revenue Service within 125 days after the date of sale or disposition and a copy must be sent to the donor.

JUST A REMINDER

Your church has received enrollment forms for the 125 Flexible Spending Account. Clergy who select the HDHP will have some seed money put into an account for them. They may use these funds for dental care, prescription glasses, over the counter medications, dependent care expenses, family health insurance premiums and hearing improvement care.

Clergy who select the Traditional Health Plan may use the 125 Cafeteria Plan in the same way they have been used in the past. There would be no change for them.

Also, a reminder that local church employees who are employed for more than 21 hours per week may also take advantage of the 125 Cafeteria Flexible Spending Account for their health needs—even if the church does not provide a health insurance plan for them.

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. These individuals will need to increase their rates by 4.25%.

IRS Announces 2007 Standard Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2007 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 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.

PERSONAL NOTE

As I was reflecting on how fast it seems the year 2006 has gone, I was reminded of the first stanza of a poem by Carl Sandburg entitled "Without Notice Beforehand."

The frozen rain of the first November days
came down without notice beforehand
the same as the wind and the frost
loosening the leaves of the buckeye tree,
dropping a yellow rain of flat swirling leaves,
all without notice beforehand, came down,
the same as the far hiding out of lady bugs,
woggle bugs spotted black polka dots
on box care red, on banana yellow,
the same as this going away of the bug families
all went on without notice beforehand.

From The Complete Poems of Carl Sandburg

During this time of year, let us rejoice and give thanks that God cares for us and our world in such a way that even when we don't notice, change comes, life continues to be lived and the cross still means a way of salvation for us all.

2006 JOURNAL

As of this writing all of the books have been distributed and there are no extra copies left. However, if you can use the Journal on CD we do have copies of those for \$7.00 each. If you have any questions or concerns about the Journal contact Jill Stanton.

REMINDER: THE 2007 CHURCH OFFICER FORMS ARE DUE DECEMBER 1, 2006.

If you elect your Board of Trustee chair later than December 1 you should send in the name to Jill Stanton as soon as you know it. Thank you for your help.

OCTOBER RECEIPTS

	2005	4 YR AVG	2006
Ministerial Support	3,682,802 60.73%	3,804,930 62.94%	3,627,279 62.49%
Administration	1,526,913 52.18%	1,380,267 53.34%	1,625,758 52.31%
World Serv & Conf. Benev.	2,603,766 45.94%	2,666,226 47.47%	2,701,208 46.99%
Other Ministries	107,919 50.04%	114,089 51.00%	108,591 50.87%
Total Apportionments	7,921,400 53.26%	7,965,511 55.04%	8,062,836 54.21%