



IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



TREASURY NOTES

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Episcopal Residence

In 2003, at its regular session in Ames, the Annual Conference voted to establish parsonage standards and guidelines for all parsonages. In the fall of 2003, the Conference Board of Trustees evaluated the district owned parsonages and the Episcopal residence using these guidelines.

As a result, at the 2004 Annual Conference, the ministry plan from the Board of Trustees included the motion to “work with the Episcopacy Committee on the Bishop’s Residence needs.” Over the next few months the Trustees and the Episcopacy Committee were in conversations about the residence. An Episcopal Residence serves two distinct functions. First, it is the private residence of the Bishop and the Bishop’s family. Second, it is a public residence because the Bishop is expected to provide hospitality in the residence for visiting church dignitaries, leaders within the community and state, ecumenical partners and members of the Annual Conference. The current residence was not conducive for either of these functions. Also, the Episcopal Residence was not compliant with any of the standards.

Two factors were considered regarding the residence. First, the current residence could not be made compliant with Conference standards even with major renovations. Second, the cost of maintenance and usage of the current residence over the last ten years was \$320,701 or an average of \$32,070 per year. It seems the error was not disposing of the current residence a number of years ago. (My editorial comment)

The Board of Trustees brought the following motion to the 2005 Annual Conference: “The Conference Board of Trustees takes very seriously the commitment to make the District and Episcopal residences compliant with the Conference for all congregation-owned

parsonages. (Parsonage Guidelines, Safety and Standards, IACJ, 2003, Item 806, p. 186) The Annual Conference authorizes the Conference Board of Trustees when there is a change in District Superintendents to modify, repair, sell, purchase and if necessary mortgage the property to allow the District Parsonages to meet the Conference approved standards for accessibility and function. The Annual Conference authorizes the Conference Board of Trustees to modify, repair, sell, purchase and if necessary, mortgage the property during the remainder of the quadrennium to insure that the Episcopal Residence meets the Conference approved standards for accessibility and function and to have an appropriate residence available for the appointment of an Iowa Area Bishop at the 2008 Jurisdictional Conference.” This motion was voted and approved by the Annual Conference.

The Trustees decided that any change in district parsonages would wait for the report to the 2006 Annual Conference of the Task Force on Ministry, Leadership and Logistics. However, the Trustees would begin considering options relating to the Episcopal Residence.

The criteria for the purchase of the residence included easy access to the main east/west and north/south roadways of Iowa, the house had to meet the standards adopted for parsonages and whether it would also include easy access to the new conference center and airport. If so, that would be an added bonus.

The Trustees could not locate a house that would meet the Conference standards without major renovations.

The Trustees were then made aware of a house that was constructed by Hubbell Development designed as an “universal house.” The design met the Conference

standards for parsonages. Hubbell was contacted and they had a lot in their Legacy development in Norwalk that was next to a public golf course in which they would construct this house for the Conference. The Trustees could then purchase the house from Hubbell Realty. The major concern was the fact that Hubbell wanted to have the house ready for occupancy by the fall by 2006.

The location of the property matched the criteria for travel and the floor plan with only a few modifications would be appropriate. Because of escalating cost of land and construction, the Trustees considered that waiting to purchase could cost the Conference more money. The Trustees asked Bishop and Mrs. Palmer if they would be willing to move; knowing that by 2008 they may be asked to move by the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee. They graciously agreed to be better stewards of the Conference resources and would be willing to move.

Hubbell Development began construction with the understanding that once the house was completed, the Conference would purchase the house to be used as an Episcopal Residence. The Trustees decided that once the Bishop and his family have moved from the current residence, it will be sold to help pay the cost of the new residence.

The Trustees will be the first to admit that the cost of the construction was higher than originally planned. There are three reasons for the increased cost. (1) The Trustees decided to finish the basement; thus, helping to provide not only for a public house but a greater area for a private residence. (2) The Trustees decided to change the siding and deck to a material that is as maintenance free as possible. (3) They also decided to make it an all electric home with geo-thermal heating and cooling. All three decisions were based on the understanding that construction costs would be increased but over the years savings would occur.

I have heard rumors that the residence is costing the Conference anywhere from \$600,000 to \$1,500,000. I don't know the exact cost as of yet and will not know until the actual closing occurs with Hubbell Realty. However, I do know that the cost of construction and the lot will be less than \$600,000. With the income from the sale of

the current residence, the intent is the new residence, even with a 15-year loan amortization, will cost the Annual Conference less over the next ten years than the current residence has in the last ten.

District Pension Meetings

Just a reminder to attend one of the district meetings that are being held by the Conference Board of Pensions. Changes in the Pension plan for clergy will be reported as well as options in our health insurance coverage.

2006 Conference Journals

The new journals are expected to arrive at the conference center during the week of September 18. They will be mailed out as soon as they are received which takes about three days or so.

Due to the extra amount of reports that had to be printed this year, **there will be no spiral copies** of the Journal because the book is too large. If you do not receive your order by early October or if you have questions concerning the Journal, you may call Jill Stanton at 515-974-8917 or email her at Jill.Stanton@iaumc.org

Apportionment Receipts

	2005	4 YR AVG	2006
Ministerial Support	2,960,394 48.81%	3,062,598 50.66%	2,957,341 50.95%
Administration	1,171,937 40.05%	1,071,573 41.41%	1,283,459 41.30%
World Serv & Conf. Benev.	2,040,719 36.00%	2,073,095 36.91%	2,101,276 36.55%
Other Ministries	87,651 40.64%	92,356 41.28%	87,259 40.87%
Total Apportionments	6,260,701 42.09%	6,299,621 43.53%	6,429,335 43.22%

Bishops' Appeal #818-001

Church Treasurers can send in monies collected for the Bishops' Appeal for Hurricane Response on the Church Remittance Form. We have assigned Project #225 for this and it fits under the Orange (Natl.) or Red (World) category for Rainbow Covenant credit. Please be sure and identify with the name and number on your form since there are other hurricane advance specials.