

PENSION FUND
OF THE
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

FALL 2017

BRIDGE

14

Get to know
Rev. Terri Hord Owens,
the new Disciples General
Minister and President

Better
Benefits



WEEK OF THE MINISTRY 2017

OCTOBER 8–14

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."
(John 1:5)

#BeTheLightInTheDark

From our first payment to Ira Chase's blind widow in 1895, to our financial support for ministers today, Pension Fund has striven to be "the light in the darkness" for our brothers and sisters who serve Christ and the church. We do this because we know that to many, you are a light in dark times.

We celebrate Week of the Ministry, October 8–14, as a reminder that what you do makes a difference. Ministry—and the world—can be messy. Sometimes, it can be difficult to see the light you are spreading with so much darkness to battle.

Still, like a pilot light ignites enough gas to heat an entire home, your continuously burning flame for ministry is the foundation for the shared love of Christ in your community. You may only be able to see your own small fire, but know your work and passion is fueling everyone you touch.

Shine on, brothers and sisters, shine on!

Hear how Rev. Ben Bohren overcame the darkness in his life in his sermon at www.pensionfund.org/week-of-ministry



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information contained herein will impact
your individual situation.

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In Memoriam

HOW WE PROVIDE BETTER BENEFITS

A frequent question to Pension Fund is, “Can I count on my pension? I read that UPS just froze their fund, and the state of Illinois is \$100 billion underfunded.”

At Pension Fund, we have a long history of conservative management for your funds. Today, we are funded in excess of 115% of our liabilities. Each year, we review our funding levels with our actuary to ensure we can honor our commitments.

Our staff works daily to steward your resources, guided by Matthew 25:20-21: The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him:

‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.

We apply this guiding passage by asking, “What does ‘good’ look like?” What is the most member-oriented, customer-facing, best-quality product Pension Fund can offer? Asking this question allows us to start with the end in mind, and then work backward to where we are today.



Good

In context of retirement readiness, “good” looks like retirees—who, if they’ve paid pension dues throughout their career, make as much in retirement as they did working. Georgia Meece, Rev. Bernie Meece’s widow, shared with me at General Assembly that she makes more in retirement than Bernie ever made working because of Pension Fund. “Good” is opening our Individual Retirement and Benefit Accumulation accounts to spouses so they too can have a savings vehicle void of market risk.

Concerning new members, “good” is moving to online enrollment. This means an easy process for enrolling in any (or all) of Pension Fund’s products at one time. No longer do we need paper forms (or multiple versions of product forms with the same information on them). At events and in the near

**“Good” is providing
THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE
RETURN AT THE
LOWEST LEVEL OF RISK
with the greatest
impact for our
members, all while
being a responsible
corporate partner.**

future, this will be as easy as clicking a link, inputting your information, selecting the accounts you want to open, reviewing the necessary legal disclosures and funding the account in your online member portal. “Good” is leveraging technology to better serve our members.

What does “good” look like with our products? “Good” is constantly reviewing our investment strategy, performance of our fund managers and current

economic conditions. “Good” is providing the highest possible return at the lowest level of risk with the greatest impact for our members, all while being a responsible corporate partner.

On the pages that follow, you will learn more about how we offer the “best” retirement possible at the lowest cost with the least risk to members like you.

Rev. Dr. Todd Adams

President

tadams@pensionfund.org



WHY OUR PENSION PLAN REMAINS STABLE (WHILE OTHERS AREN'T)

These days, it is hard to watch or read the financial news without hearing about widespread problems with many of the nation's defined benefit pension plans. Whether government or corporate plans, there is no doubt of significant problems in many plans due to a combination of factors.

These factors include poor plan design, overly optimistic return assumptions, poor management or excessively generous benefits. The result—much of which has been increasingly happening over the past few years—will be higher taxes, reduced benefits and government assistance/plan failures. I want to take the opportunity in this article to briefly address these issues in relation to the management and safety of our pension plan (of which so many of you are part of).

1. First, your pension plan is based on assumptions which are significantly more conservative than most other types of plans. As such, we have an added degree of comfort that our funding status will adequately cover future benefits payments to our participants. It is these assumptions that allow Special Apportionment credits to increase pensions when actual investment performance is better than those assumptions. Second, as an added degree of protection, these credits are awarded to participants accounts only when our funding status well above the 100% level. This helps strike a good balance between increasing pensions and plan integrity.

2. Another important distinction between our pension plan and many other plans is the time at which the future benefits are funded. Your pension

plan credits are earned and accumulated each time you make a dues payment. This is in contrast to many government and corporate plans, where credits and benefits can accrue without any actual funding of the obligation. The result is what leads to much of the problems in the U.S. pension system today. As obligations increase without proper and timely funding, funding levels can decrease to dangerously low levels, resulting in the need for higher taxes and/or reduced benefits.

3. Finally, management of our pension assets is based on guidelines and policies established over many years, which result in a consistent long-term investment discipline (a process which allows us to take advantage of both long-term market cycles and short-term investment opportunities). Our efforts are dedicated to providing promised benefits to our retirees, in addition to keeping the program strong and secure for our future retirees.

David Stone

Chief Investment Officer
davids@pensionfund.org



BOOKS THAT BENEFIT

Looking for a read that will help you think differently about money? The following books (recommended by Inc.com) have very different—but powerful—approaches to accumulating personal wealth.



The Richest Man in Babylon by George S. Clason

George S. Clason's collection of parables set in ancient Babylon have inspired investors since the 1920s. The characters in these parables learn simple lessons in financial

wisdom through their experiences in business and managing household finances. *The Richest Man in Babylon* emphasizes saving over spending, and insists that charitable giving is equally as important—provided you don't allow the recipients to become dependent on those gifts.

<https://www.amazon.com/Richest-Man-Babylon-George-Clason/dp/1505339111>

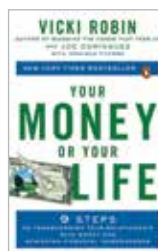


The Money Book for the Young, Fabulous & Broke by Suze Orman

Well-known for her appearances on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, Suze Orman helps millennials navigate

the basics of the financial world (like coping with huge student loans and navigating the job market). In this book, she targets young adults with strategies to acquire wealth.

<https://www.amazon.com/Money-Book-Young-Fabulous-Broke/dp/1594482241>

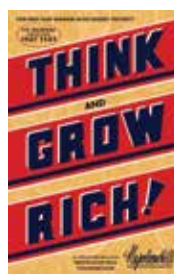


Your Money or Your Life by Vicki Robin and Joe Dominguez

Authors Vicki Robin and Joe Dominguez contend that living more frugally increases (rather than decreases) your quality of life. This

practical guide to saving and growing funds teaches the concept that time is money—and when you realize this fact, you'll start thinking twice about your purchases.

<https://www.amazon.com/Your-Money-Life-Transforming-Relationship/dp/0143115766>



Think and Grow Rich by Napoleon Hill

Back in the 1930s, author Napoleon Hill interviewed a group of millionaires and philanthropists (including the steel magnate Andrew Carnegie). The result was this perennially best-selling work

of self-development that encourages the notion that “greed is good” (provided you're willing to share your wealth).

<https://www.amazon.com/Think-Grow-Rich-Napoleon-Hill/dp/1912032996>

BEING A LIGHT IN TIMES OF DARKNESS

In many cases, a pastor's role is a symbol of light in a world where personal—or worldly—darkness can encompass us.

Filling the role of pastor, minister, worship leader, or another church leadership position is a demanding, sometimes rewarding, and often misunderstood calling. It means playing the roles of speaker, administrator, counselor, manager, and sometimes public punching bag. And through it all, a pastor must maintain sanity and spiritual health. The pastor must be the light in times of darkness.

It is believed that the concept of clergy appreciation started with the Apostle Paul as he was establishing the first Christian churches. In Thessalonians 5:12-13, he wrote, "And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love." (Message version). Over the centuries, pastors have been recognized and honored—either formally or informally—by many denominations and local churches as a long-standing practice.

This October 8-15, we celebrate Week of the Ministry. Since its inception, Pension Fund began emphasizing Week of Ministry to remind congregations it was biblical and proper to honor their pastoral staffs and families by setting aside the month of October for a special, tangible tribute. This kind of support can be crucial to ministers struggling to preserve their passion for ministry in the face of darkness.

Maintaining Hope When Darkness Falls

In 2010, Haiti suffered the tremendous tragedy. An earthquake took over 300,000 lives. Haiti was shaken to its core, and her people were afraid and torn apart.

My husband, Charlie, and I had the opportunity to visit our sister churches a few months after the earthquake. Things were worse than we could have ever imagined. We went to one of our partner

churches for evening worship. The walls were completely broken and the roof was falling in. But, hundreds of people came to hear a good word from their pastor.

We started worship early and went on into the night. There was no electricity, so as night approached, darkness began to engulf us. At one point, we could not even see the person in front of us. Then, suddenly, there appeared a bright light: The pastor had lighted a kerosene lamp and hoisted it up on a beam. The light shown brightly, and he proceeded to bring the Good News—even in the darkness!

Walking in the Light

During that tumultuous time in Haiti, a pastor gave light to a community that had been consumed in darkness. He was bringing solace, compassion and the Good News to his people! Let us thank God for those pastors who have gone before us, who serve us now and who are called to serve, because they have answered that call to ministry.

May we walk in the light as God is in the light, and may the light of God in Christ shine in our hearts and show forth in our lives, so that all may see the light of Christ shining in our lives as we abide in Him and He in us. May the light of Christ's life and love be seen in them and use them to reflect the light of the glorious gospel of grace in the world!

Shalom,

Rev. Ruth Chavez Wallace

Vice President
for Development
ruthw@pensionfund.org





6 Unique Ways to Be a 'Light in the Darkness' for Your Pastor

There are many ways a church can honor their minister. If you really want to overwhelm your pastor with appreciation and love, try some of these ideas:

- 1 Provide a meal for your pastor and the pastor's family
- 2 Put together a work crew to winterize the pastor's yard
- 3 Send your pastor a note of encouragement
- 4 Volunteer to assist your pastor with a project around the church
- 5 Commit to praying for your pastor
- 6 Invite you pastor (and family) to your house for a meal

Another way to honor your minister could be to send a gift to Pension Fund's Ministerial Relief and Assistance programs in their honor. Visit www.pensionfund.org/give-now for more information.

DUNCAN DRAPER RETIRES FROM PENSION FUND

Duncan Draper, Pension Fund's former Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, retired effective June 30, 2017, after eight years serving Pension Fund. During his tenure, Draper led many major Pension Fund initiatives, including upgrading and connecting all IT software systems, and enhanced security measures for Pension Fund members.

Staff celebrated Draper and his retirement at an in-office luncheon. Draper is currently enjoying his retirement and spending time with his wife, two daughters, son-in-law, and two grandchildren.





Kevin M. Kuuskvere Named Chief Financial Officer of Pension Fund

Kevin M. Kuuskvere of Charlotte, N.C., joined Pension Fund's team as Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Treasurer on Aug. 15, 2017, following the retirement of Duncan Draper. Mr. Kuuskvere emerged as the lead candidate in a national search supported by Medora Ventures of New Orleans.

Professionally, Kevin held the position of the Vice President of Finance and Head of Enterprise Business Planning for Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA), where he also served as Chief Financial Officer of the Participant Services Division. Prior to joining TIAA, he was Vice President and Controller of Wells Fargo Corporate and Investment Banking. Kevin also served as the Vice President of Budget, Finance, and Cost Management for Freddie Mac, managing over \$2 trillion in single and multi-family mortgage assets. Most recently Kevin worked in private equity alternative investments, focusing on the mortgage industry.

"During the interview process, Kevin clearly communicated his passion for Pension Fund's mission and his desire to have a direct impact on the lives of the church's servants," shared Ruth Weaver, search committee member and Chief Financial Officer of the Christian Church Foundation.

Mr. Kuuskvere holds his Masters of Science in Accountancy, a Master of Business Administration in Finance, and a Bachelors of Mechanical Engineering. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst and held a FINRA Series 7 license (inactive). He began his career as a United States Naval Officer serving five years in the submarine force.

"Kevin has an impressive professional background where he has demonstrated solid leadership and business decision-making," said Rev. Dr. Todd A. Adams.

Kevin served 8 years on the investment committee of the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Central Carolinas, focusing his leadership on the direct management of a \$35MM pension plan for United Way employees. He is married to Patti Fogarty Kuuskvere and they are the proud parents of four children.



Chandra Haskett, Director of Meetings/Executive Assistant to the President

Chandra has over 17 years of experience working in the Christian Church denomination's Disciples Center with Reconciliation, Week of Compassion, OGMP and the General Assembly. Chandra most recently comes from the Office of the General Minister and President (OGMP), where she was Director of Meetings, handling all hotel contracts, BEOs, travel arrangements expense reporting, and more.

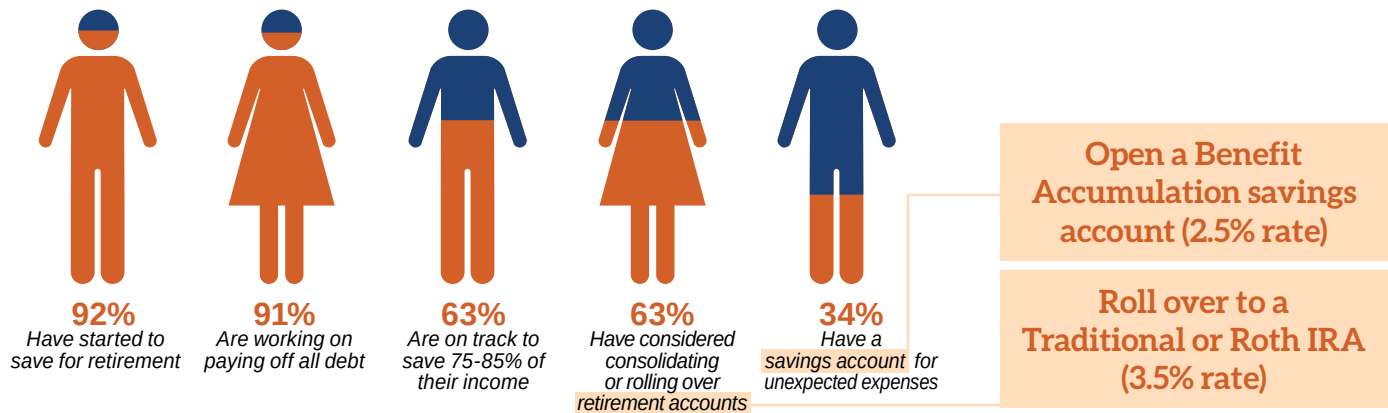


Jordan Whitt, Marketing Communications Director

Jordan comes to Pension Fund from the Chimney Safety Institute of America, where he served as the Director of Communications and Marketing. In his personal time, Jordan volunteers as a Disaster Public Affairs spokesperson for the American Red Cross in Indiana and also works directly with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security during national military exercises and emergency operations to manage official public communications and provide interviews to national and international media. A native Hoosier and Indiana University alumnus, Jordan resides in Indianapolis with his wife and two children.

RETIREMENT READINESS SURVEY RESULTS

Pension Fund surveyed 348 attendees of the North American Christian Convention (NACC) and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly about their retirement income and savings habits. Here are the results:



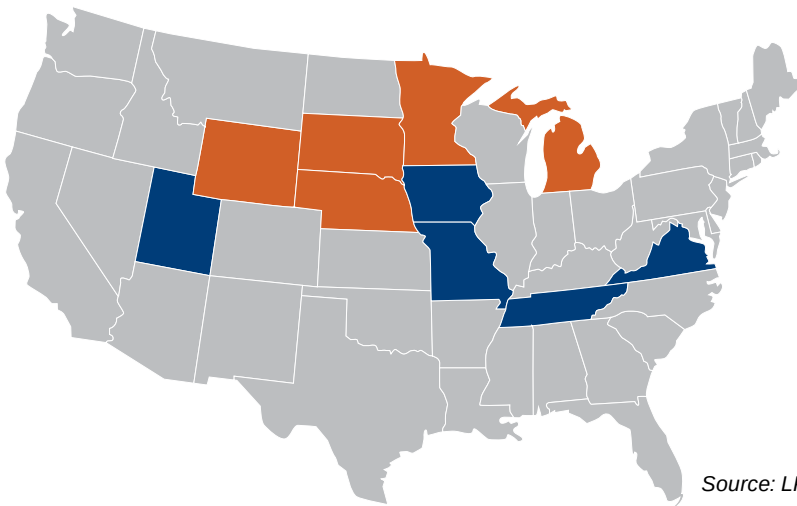
10 BEST STATES FOR PRE-RETIREEES

You've read many "Best Places to Retire" lists, but what about the best places for pre-retirees (aged 46-64) to settle? LPL Financial recently released a report ranking the most attractive states for this largest subset of the Baby Boomer generation (and you might be surprised to find Florida didn't even make the top 10).

LPL Financial's report assessed states based on six factors, including a state's fiscal health, access to and cost of health care, availability of affordable

housing, safety and quality of life, employment and education, and overall wellness. These categories cover issues that concern pre-retirees and could impact their well-being in the years leading up to and spent in retirement.

The Midwest outperformed other regions, with Nebraska, Michigan and Minnesota ranking as the best state for pre-retirees. Popular—and warmer—states for retirement received much lower rankings, with Florida ranking as the 29th best state for pre-retirees.



Best States for Pre-Retirees:

1. Nebraska
2. Michigan
3. Minnesota
4. South Dakota
5. Wyoming
6. Tennessee
7. Virginia
8. Missouri
9. Utah
10. Iowa

Source: LPL Financial Retirement Environment Index, May 2017

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Don't miss next year's
member conference call!**

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018

11 a.m. EST
Dial-in Number:
800.260.0712

Participant Code:
430172

7 p.m. EST
Dial-in Number:
800.260.0718

Participant Code:
430173

Look for Pension Fund at these fall events!

Oct. 19 – Oct. 23 : Disciples Seminarian Conference

Oct. 21 – Oct. 22 : Pacific Southwest Regional Gathering

Nov. 16 – Nov. 19 : ICOM (International Conference on Missions)

STUDENT GIFTS



Students – get a head start on retirement savings (at no cost to you)! Pension Fund is pleased to welcome applications for the Student Gift Membership for the 2017-2018 academic year. The deadline to apply has been extended to Oct. 31!

Benefits of being a member of the Pension Plan as a Student Gift Member:

- Pension Fund pays monthly dues of \$70 per month for up to four years – a total gift of up to \$3,300!
- Death benefits for the member's family (monthly benefits for spouse and children)
- Disability benefit of \$300 per month
- Opportunity to earn more pension credits by starting earlier in your career
- Receive an invitation to attend Pension Fund's annual Personal Finance Academy

You can find more information and application materials at www.pensionfund.org/student-membership-gift. To enroll, simply complete the application and enrollment form. You will need certification from both your school and ministry sponsor (such as region under care). If you have questions, give us a call at 866.495.7322 or email pfcc1@pensionfund.org.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PENSIONER DIES?

by Jefa Sheehan, Director of Member Relations



At Pension Fund, we realize having to report the death of your loved one can be extremely difficult. That is why our Member Relations staff strives to ensure the process is as stress-free as possible. The sooner we receive the information we need regarding the deceased, the sooner we may begin processing the payout of benefits.

4 Steps of the Death Benefit Process:

- 1 Please notify Pension Fund of the pensioner's death in the month of their passing with the following information: The deceased member's full legal name, current address, membership number or last four digits of his or her Social Security number, and the date of death.
- 2 Immediately following the report of the death, a Member Relations Associate will mail a letter of condolence to the surviving spouse or beneficiary, along with copies of any forms which need to be completed to allow the payout of benefits or termination of an account. Please note that all Pension Fund forms must be returned along with a photocopy of the Death Certificate.
- 3 If your loved one was the direct recipient of an Age Retirement Pension, there may be a death benefit attached to his or her account. In these cases, half of the death benefit will be mailed along with the condolence letter to help with any immediate costs incurred related to the member's passing. The remainder of the benefit will be placed into an interest-bearing Benefit Accumulation Account (BAA) until the funds are formally requested by the beneficiary.
- 4 Pensions are no longer considered active once we are notified of the member's passing. Deceased members receiving a pension at the time of his or her death are entitled to the pension payment during the month of death only. Any subsequent payments disbursed must be returned to Pension Fund by electronic reclaim process through your bank or by personal check.

For your convenience, all forms may be returned via fax to 317.634.4071; via a scanned email attachment to pfcc1@pensionfund.org; or via regular mail to Pension Fund, P.O. Box 6251, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6251.

Please contact a Member Relations Associate if you have any questions regarding beneficiary information or the death benefits that may be attached to your account(s). We are here to help you through this process, as difficult as it may be.

WHAT ARE RMDs?

Many Pension Fund members who have reached age 70½ and/or separated from service are required by federal law to begin receiving distributions from their TDRA or IRA account(s) in certain minimum amounts (called “required minimum distributions (RMDs)”) by April 1 of the following year.

For those unfamiliar with the concept of RMDs, here are some FAQs:

What is an RMD?

A required minimum distribution is an IRS mandated minimum yearly amount that must be withdrawn from TDRA and/ or IRA account(s) by April 1 of the calendar year following the year you turn 70½ and/or separate from service and then by 12/31 each year subsequently.

What accounts require an RMD?

Generally, you have to take RMDs from any retirement account in which you contributed tax-deferred assets or had tax-deferred earnings (including Traditional IRAs, and most 401(k) and 403(b) plans). Note: You are not required to take RMDs from your Roth IRA unless the account is inherited.

Why am I being required to take money out of my account?

These retirement accounts allowed you to delay income taxes over several years. Now that you’re in (or near) retirement, the government is seeking an income tax return on your withdrawals.

How will I know how much to withdraw?

For Pension Fund accounts, we calculate the amount of your RMD(s) based on IRS life expectancy tables, and mail you a personalized statement (with other useful information) each year.

What if I have multiple accounts that require RMDs?

RMD amounts are calculated per account based on balances and IRS life expectancy tables, but the withdrawal of RMDs can be combined for similar plans. For example, if you have two Traditional IRA accounts, you can either distribute each amount from each IRA account, total the amounts and distribute it from one IRA, or take any portion of the combined amounts from the IRA accounts.

Can I withdraw more than the required amount?

Yes. While there is a minimum amount you are required to withdraw in order to avoid severe penalties, you can withdraw more than the required amount.



TIP: If you have several similar accounts requiring RMDs, take a distribution from the worst-performing account.

What if I'm 70½ and still working?

If you are still working at this age and do not own more than 5% of the business you work for, you may be able to defer taking RMDs from a 403(b) plan (like Pension Fund's TDRA) until April 1 of the calendar year after the year in which you retire. For IRAs, you are still required to take RMDs if you continue working past 70½.

What if I don't need the money?

One option is to gift the funds as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to a qualified 501(c)(3) organization of your choice (such as Pension Fund's Ministerial Relief and Assistance program). The total of all charitable distributions should not exceed the maximum of \$100,000 per taxpayer, and must be made directly from an IRA to the charity. This may also qualify you for valuable tax benefits.

Interested in gifting your RMD to our relief programs? Visit www.pensionfund.org/give-now.

Can I just roll over my RMD to an IRA?

No. Unfortunately, if you roll over or convert your RMD, it will be treated as an excess contribution and must be removed from the account by a certain time to avoid penalties. You must take your distribution first before rolling an IRA over after age 70½. However, you may transfer the funds to a new or existing Benefit Accumulation Account after taxes have been withheld to ensure your funds gain interest.

What if I inherited an IRA?

Inherited accounts are subject to different rules for RMDs, and RMDs are usually required beginning in the year after the death of the original owner.

For additional information on RMDs, view our 2017 RMD Factsheets by visiting www.pensionfund.org (you can find the factsheets under "Program

Resources" and then "Take My RMD or Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution").

REV. TERESA (TERRI) HORD OWENS

Curious to learn more about the new General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? Rev. Teresa (“Terri”) Hord Owens got personal with Pension Fund in our Q & A.

What is your favorite Bible verse?

Oh, that is hard! I thought about this a lot, and there are two verses meaningful to our collective ministry: John 17:23 and Micah 6:8. For me, those sum up the work ahead of us – to show the world through our example what is possible when we focus on justice, kindness and our relationship with God. It is that relationship with God that equips us and guides us in our work of ministry, service and mission.

My personal scripture is Philippians 1:6, in which Paul reminds the Philippians that God will finish what God

has started in each one of us. It reminds me that God is still working on, in and through me, always.

You are the first African-American woman to lead a mainline denomination in the United States. How will that influence how you approach the position?

I am a descendant of one of Indiana’s oldest African-American free settlements. My bachelor’s degree in Government included a minor in Afro-American Studies from Harvard University. I am a proud black woman with deep roots in my community of origin. This is all part of what makes me who I am. African-



The Basics

- **Most recent positions:** Senior Pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, IL and Dean of Students at the University of Chicago Divinity School
- **Education:** Bachelor of Arts: Harvard University, 1982; Government with a minor in AfroAmerican studies
- **Master of Divinity:** University of Chicago Divinity School, 2003 (also a Disciples Divinity House Scholar)
- **Ordination:** Light of the World Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, IN
- **Other experience:** Board of Trustees for Christian Theological Seminary; Board of Directors for Higher Education and Leadership Ministries; founding member for the Advisory Board for the Center for the Study of Black Faith and life at Chicago Theological Seminary; president's office staff of the University of Chicago Hospitals; director of information systems at SBC Ameritech; director of IT planning, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association; senior consultant for State of Indiana Data Processing Oversight Commission; manager of information technology for Ernst & Young, Indianapolis; account systems engineer for IBM Corporation, Chicago; supervisor for customer services, Cummins Engine Company.



American Disciples have been a crucial part of our movement from the beginning, and I am proud to stand on the shoulders of those who firmly believed that we should be one church.

That said, I also recognize that mine is not the only perspective. After 20 years in corporate America working on interdisciplinary teams from vastly different backgrounds, and as dean of students for more than a decade, I have learned two things. First, it is possible to come together around shared interests, just as our spiritual ancestors came together in a quest for Christian unity and welcome at the Lord's Table. The other is that when we value and include diverse experiences and perspectives, our communities are all the better for having welcomed those perspectives and experiences.

I applaud the work of Pension Fund as they support pastors and other staff both during and after their active ministry.

How do you see Pension Fund serving those in ministry?

Pension Fund is a common point of contact for those in ministry across the three streams of the Stone-Campbell Movement, and as such is a visible sign of unity and the Church's care for those who are giving their lives to God's service. I applaud the work of Pension Fund as they support pastors and other staff

both during and after their active ministry through innovations such as the Excellence in Ministry program, the Ministerial Relief Fund and the 13th Check Fund.

Pension Fund continues to be open to new ways of serving. Amidst the uncertain environment relative to health care, they are currently facilitating conversations that will help clergy across the church to identify cost-effective options for quality healthcare plans.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT (INDIANAPOLIS, IN)

A general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Office of the General Minister and President (OGMP) serves to lead, inspire, nurture and facilitate the Christian Church as one in many expressions.

What Does the OGMP Do?

The OGMP handles a broad spectrum of Church-related initiatives, including convening tables for dialogue that affect all three expressions of the Church – general, regional and congregational. These include the General Assembly, Justice Table, Pastoral Table, the General Board and Administrative Committee, support for the General Commission on Ministry and the College of Regional Ministers, the Cabinet/Council of General Ministries, among many others. The National Convocation is also a part of the OGMP.

Another portion of the OGMP's work is facilitating communication among the three expressions of the Church through websites, Disciples News Service and social media. A monthly meeting of communicators from throughout the general ministries assists greatly in the coordination of this work.

Treasury Services and the Christian Church Year Book staff also support all expressions of the Church, from receiving gifts to supporting the accounting function of more than 15 regions along with other ministries. The Year Book staff maintains the 501(c)3 nonprofit paperwork for all congregations.



We need to support those who have heard the call, and this is one way [we have] chosen to structure the benefits of our employees.

Did You Know?

OGMP By the Numbers

Number of ordained clergy: **8***

Full time employees: **18***

Part time employees: **5***

Age range of employees: **24 – 70**

Number of “preacher’s kids”: **4**

Number of deployed staff: **4**

**Including associated ministries*

OGMP Fun Facts

Longest tenured employee:
Sharon Coleman – 20 years

Newest employee:
Rev. Terri Hord Owens,
General Minister and President

Unusual hobby:
Urban chicken farmer –
Zach Corlett

There are three other ministries that are associated with the OGMP: Week of Compassion Fund, Reconciliation Ministry (also a fund) and the Center for Faith and Giving. In addition, staff in the OGMP support the operation of the Disciples Center, from answering phones to lease negotiations.

How does the OGMP work with Pension Fund?

Since the restructure of the Christian Church in the late 1960s, the OGMP has used the services of Pension Fund for retirement benefits. For decades, all full-time lay members of the staff—both Disciples and non-Disciples alike—have received the benefit of a 14 percent contribution to their retirement funds. More than half of OGMP employees are laity.

“Membership with Pension Fund continues to be one of the premier benefits offered to all eligible employees,” said Sharon Coleman, vice president for operations. “We believe strongly that working for the Church is a calling. We need to support those who have heard the call, and this is one way the OGMP has chosen to structure the benefits of our employees.”

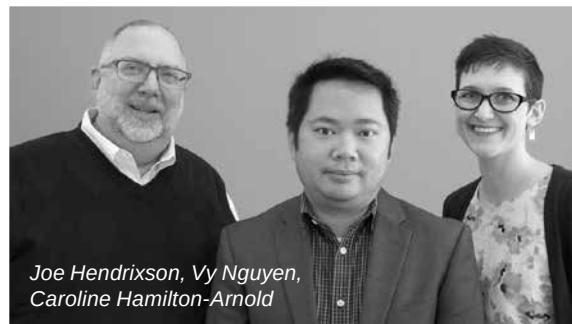
Sharon Coleman



April Johnson, Bere Gil Soto



Joe Hendrixson, Vy Nguyen,
Caroline Hamilton-Arnold



Emily Martin, Suzy McKay, Cherilyn Williams



Timothy James



IN MEMORIAM

Following are member deaths that were reported to Pension Fund between March 31, 2017 and June 30, 2017.

DEATHS IN ACTIVE SERVICE

Dana Hoover
Fort Smith, AR

Mary Ann Jenkins
Topeka, KS

OTHER DEATHS

Mary Anderson
North Platte, NE

Donna Ball
Portland, OR

Elisa Cooper
Berkeley, CA

Mabel Decker
McMinnville, OR

Mary Eversier
Ogden, IA

James Hazen
Fort Collins, CO

Dorothy Hudson
Jefferson City, MO

Steven Hughes
Caledonia, MN

Hazel Kelly
Indianapolis, IN

James Kelly, Jr.
Monrovia, CA

Harriette Mitchell
College Station, TX

Ruth Morrison
Indianapolis, IN

Mary Owen
Bartow, FL

Lawrence Pratt
Hayward, CA

Cleopatra Reynolds
Spencer, VA

Sandra Russell
Houston, TX

Donald Toler
Tullahoma, TN

DEATHS IN RETIREMENT

Helen Adamson
Wichita, KS

Jack Adkisson
Temecula, CA

Dwight Milton Ashmore
Superior, CO

Bill Barnes
Scottsdale, AZ

Patricia Bates
Fallon, NV

Jean Beam
Martinsville, VA

Robert Belew
High Point, NC

Wayne Bell
Lexington, KY

Genevieve Bennett
Colorado Springs, CO

Frank Betzer
Springfield, OR

Mary Borgaard
Las Vegas, NV

Bonnie Bottger
Oakwood, IL

Donald Brown
Springfield, MO

Franklin Browning
Plymouth, MN

Audrey Buchanan
Jacksonville, IL

Dennis Clark
Siler City, NC

Roberta Cline
Oronogo, MO

Claudette Cogswell
Fort Worth, TX

Richard Davis
Pecos, NM

Opaline Dean Prince
Garrettsville, OH

Paul Detweiler
Eugene, OR

Tamalla Jean Dixon
Topeka, KS

John Downs, Jr.
Springhill, LA

John Everett
Roodhouse, IL

Miguel Garcia, Jr.
Coos Bay, OR

Velma Hall
Johnson City, TN

Franklin Hall
Savannah, MO

Marion Hannah
Lakewood, NJ

Max Hickerson
Houston, TX

Rollin Hill
Kissimmee, FL

Raymond Hite
Banning, CA

Betsy Hobgood
Ponte Vedra, FL

I. Jean Holtzclaw
Lincoln, NE

Donald Jarman
Beaverton, OR



Edward Keswick
Orange, CA

Henry Keys, Sr
Indianapolis, IN

Fletcher Larrow
Runaway Bay, TX

Vona Linsley
Glen St. Mary, FL

John Orville Maynard
Anderson IN

William Montague
Fort Worth, TX

Maybelle Newby-Bennett
Springfield , MO

Charlotte Noe
Eureka, IL

Thomas Parish, Jr.
Nixa, MO

James Pierson
Bakersfield, CA

Gary Reynolds
Cartersville, GA

F. Thomas Rutherford
St. Thomas, Ontario

Ivan Shelburne, Jr.
Danville, KY

Sandra Shelton Mills
Franklin, NC

Virginia Smith
Oklahoma City, OK

Maurine Smith
Dallas, TX

Faye Speilman
Beckley, WV

Eugene Stiff, Jr.
Rock Hill, SC

Martha Sutter
Fishers, IN

Marjorie Thomas
Seattle, WA

Afton Travis
Tulsa, OK

Jerry Whitt
Ocala, FL

Carl Wilhelm
N Fort Myers, FL

Eleanor Wolfe
Clermont, CA

Herbert Works
Corvallis, OR

From the custodian to the minister,

every employee is responsible for a church's success. You give your time to serving others, but who will serve you in your retirement years? Every staff member deserves to be financially strong, smart and secure. Pension Fund can help you get there. We offer one of the most respected, well-funded and financially sound pension and retirement savings programs in existence.



Pension Fund

of the Christian Church

strong. smart. secure.

Program Offerings:

- Pension Plan
- Tax-Deferred Retirement Account (TDRA)
- Traditional IRA
- Roth IRA
- Benefit Accumulation Account (BAA)
- Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance

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AVAILABLE
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To learn more about our programs and how we can help you plan for retirement, visit us at www.pensionfund.org or call us today at **866.495.7322.**

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

Program

Advantages

Good for someone who:

EMPLOYER-SPONSORED RETIREMENT PLAN OPTIONS

Pension Plan

DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN:

Provides a lifetime monthly retirement benefit for participants.

- Employer, employee or both may make contributions
- Contributions are normally made pre-tax
- Ministers can continue to participate during periods of self-employment if performing in the exercise of ministry
- Provides guaranteed monthly pension benefit for life (upon retirement)
- Retired ministers may declare housing allowance on retirement distributions
- Offers additional security with pre-retirement monetary benefits for participants and their families:
 - » At participant's death, benefits for surviving spouse and minor children
 - » Disability benefits for participant

- is looking to lower taxable income
- wants peace of mind for a spouse/family
- wants security of income-for-life (won't outlive money)

Tax-Deferred Retirement Account (TDRA)

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN:

Allows eligible employees to set aside a portion of compensation on a pre-tax basis to save for retirement.

- Employer may make contributions as a benefit for the employee
- Participants may make contributions through salary reduction
- Contributions made pre-tax
- Higher contribution limits than with IRAs
- Retired ministers may declare housing allowance on retirement distributions
- Ministers can continue to participate during periods of self-employment if performing in the exercise of ministry
- Funds can be grown tax-free until distribution

- wants to lower taxable income
- wants to defer taxes until retirement distribution

INDIVIDUAL PLAN OPTIONS

Roth IRA

Contributions are non-deductible, but earnings on qualified distributions are tax free.

- No age limit for making contributions
- Contributions can be accessed at any time
- Money can be withdrawn without penalty in certain situations, such as using the distribution for higher education or a first-home purchase
- No required minimum distribution for an account owner or spousal beneficiary, and interest can be grown tax-free
- Upon qualified distribution for owner and spouse and if 5-year holding period is met, interest is not taxable
- Ability to contribute to a Roth IRA phases out (is reduced) for higher income earners. For 2017, you are not eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA if your modified adjusted gross income equals or exceeds \$133,000 (filing single) or \$196,000 (married filing jointly)
- Maximum annual contribution limit for 2017 is \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you reach age 50 or older during the year)

- is still relatively new in their career (tax rates are lower when income is lower)
- wishes to withdraw retirement funds tax-free
- wishes to access funds earlier than retirement, if necessary

Traditional IRA

Contributions may be either fully or partially tax-deductible, and taxes are deferred until funds are distributed.

- Contributions may be fully or partially tax-deductible
- Deductible contributions are permitted
- No upper income limit on Traditional IRA contributions
- Funds can be transferred through rollovers
- Provides savings opportunity for individuals whose employer does not provide retirement plan
- Maximum annual contribution amount for 2017 is \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you reach age 50 or older during the year)

- is looking for additional tax deductions on income
- would like to save without income limits
- has rollover funds available in another account

Benefit Accumulation Account

Current members and spouses with an active account can take advantage of this after-tax savings account with a fixed rate of return.

- The fixed base interest rate protects the account from down markets
- No age or contribution limits
- Funds may be withdrawn twice a month without a withdrawal fee
- Provides opportunity to save additional funds for life expenses such as education or emergencies

- is a participant in the Pension Plan or TDRA
- would like to withdraw funds at any time without penalty
- would like a competitive base return for savings



Each year when plan reserves exist above what is required for current and future benefits (and for any potential market decline), Pension Fund's Board of Directors may declare additional earnings in the form of Special Apportionments or GoodExperience Credits - meaning more money for you in retirement.

The material contained in this overview is for informational purposes only and not to be construed as tax, financial, or legal advice. Please consult your tax or financial advisor with individual questions or concerns.



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