PENSION FUND OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SUMMER 2017

BRIDGE



Cultivating a Culture of Excellence



JOIN US THIS SUMMER!

Pension Fund and our newest staff members will be out and about this summer. Come meet with us and let us help you become retirement ready.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Indianapolis — July 8-12

13TH CHECK OFFERING July 8, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS

July 9, 2 – 3:15 p.m.



- Healthcare for Church Employees
- Paying the Pastor
- Retirement Planning
- Top 10 Questions the Church Has About Employment Issues (featuring Rev. Micah James)



MINISTERS & MATES BREAKFAST

July 10, 7 a.m.



Rev. Dr. Ben Bohren will be speaking on how his retirement plans with Pension Fund supported him through various stages of ministry. Visit ga.disciples.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

TUESDAY FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

July 11, 8:45 a.m.

 Personal Financial Wellness (presented by Cynthia Newman and Matt Rosine)

THE PRESIDENTS' BREAKFAST FOR RETIRED MINISTERS & MISSIONARIES

July 12, 7 a.m.

By invitation only

HOW TO REACH US

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5 CHARACTERISTICS OF A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

"Leadership is about challenging the average to pursue the exceptional!"

This quote is on the wall above my desk. Part of my daily role as President of Pension Fund is to think through how I challenge and lead our team to be better today than we were the day before. A recent visitor to the office asked, "So, how do you do that?" I responded, "By pursuing a culture of excellence."

In January, I challenged our team to pursue a culture of excellence. A culture of excellence is not a culture of perfection, nor a controlled environment where employees are afraid to think or use common sense, but a team culture marked by five clear characteristics.



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- 1. The organization has a clear mission and vision. At Pension Fund, our mission reflects Alexander Campbell's call "For the Support of Ministry." Our vision is that "every Stone-Campbell pastor and lay employee has a strong, smart and secure retirement."
- Our goal is to stay ahead of the curve, while being GOOD STEWARDS of your money and retirement resources.
- retirement."2. Employees haveclarity on their roleand purpose. Our staffrecently reorganized into

four teams, updated our position descriptions, and expanded our leadership table to ensure presence from all parts of our ministry in the decision-making process. The Leadership Table is a place where we develop policies and programs, taking into consideration the impact on all components of how we serve you.

3. Our teams are highly collaborative. Our employees work together to solve problems, care for members and develop forward-thinking strategic initiatives. At Pension Fund, we share credit for faithfulness and success, and collectively work together to solve challenges and learn from our mistakes.

- 4. We are resilient to change and challenge. We don't change for the sake of making change, we change because we are challenged to do better and increase our faithful service to our members. We change because our regulatory environment changes. We change because the needs of our members change. And, we are challenged to live our core values of trust, integrity and compassion.
- 5. We have a pioneering mindset. This mindset has led us to expand our services to include spouses of eligible members in our IRA and Benefit Accumulation Account (BAA) products, to develop online enrollment tools and to expand the eligibility criteria for those who can participate in the student gift program. Our goal is to stay ahead of the curve, while being good stewards of your money and retirement resources.

At Pension Fund, we are pursuing the exceptional, so you—our loyal members and investors—can have a strong, smart and secure retirement. Thank you for trusting us!

Rev. Dr. Todd Adams

President

tadams@pensionfund.org





TWO IMPORTANT WAYS PENSION FUND MANAGES INVESTMENT RISK

How Pension Fund manages investment risk is an important factor to consider when deciding whether or not to invest your funds in one of our product offerings.

As such, there are two elements of our investment management to consider:

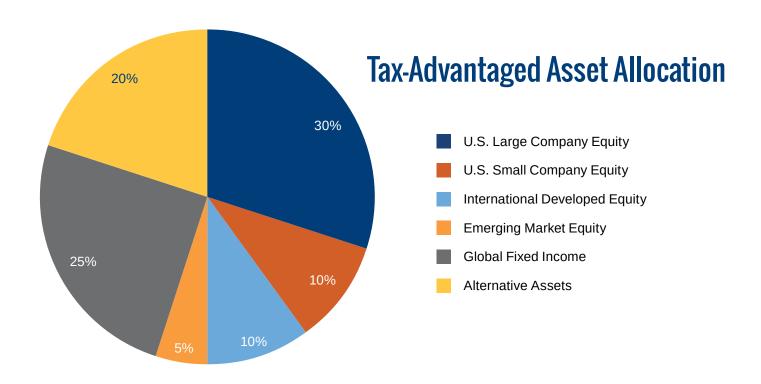
- how we have been able to add value in the management of funds above traditional benchmarks of similar risk, and
- the risk mitigation and protection measures that allow us to protect our participants from the downside risk of the volatile financial markets.

1. Adding Value to Accounts

Attractive, long-term investment returns are achieved by having a disciplined investment strategy that allows value to be added in several ways. For us, this means a disciplined investment process, appropriate asset allocation, quality investment managers and deliberate dedication to lowering costs. Our board of directors is responsible for setting the asset allocation mix for our products, and does so only after considering the appropriate risk level for each product. This risk level takes into

account such things as investment time horizon and liquidity needs.

After the allocation is determined, our investment staff applies a disciplined investment strategy and makes sure assets within each asset class are managed by excellent investment managers with specific expertise within these classes. An additional responsibility of staff is to not only monitor the performance of these managers and make changes if necessary, but to manage the investment operations in the most cost-efficient manner.



2. Protecting Members from Volatile Markets

Pension Fund takes seriously its commitment to assume the investment risk of our products.

Although we've done a good job passing along good long-term investment performance, we need to make sure we do what is necessary to protect the payment of the base interest rate against the significantly volatile shorter term market swings.

We do this in several ways: In addition to a diversified asset allocation and discount rate, we have a disciplined portfolio rebalance process which helps keep risk at an acceptable level. It's also necessary to

keep additional product reserves on hand to provide a protective cushion so that a participant's account grows each day even while investment markets do not.

Our goal at Pension Fund is to offer an array of products on which our participants can safely rely for protection in the short-term while offering competitive returns in the long-term.

David StoneChief Investment Officer davids@pensionfund.org



IRA AND BAA PROGRAMS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SPOUSES

Pension Fund's Board of Directors recently approved participation for spouses of members (and eligible members) in the Traditional IRA, Roth IRA and Benefit Accumulation Account (BAA) programs.



Do you wish you could share all the benefits of participation in Pension Fund retirement programs with your spouse? Now your spouse can enjoy the same stable returns, base interest rates and potential additional interest earnings you have enjoyed as a Pension Fund member. As of Jan. 1, 2017, spouses of members (and those eligible to become members) can participate in the Traditional IRA, Roth IRA and BAA programs.

What programs are open:

- Traditional IRA
- Roth IRA
- Benefit Accumulation Account*

Who can enroll:

- Spouses of current members
- Spouses of eligible members (including surviving spouses)

Our spousal IRAs do not require a spouse to have income to make contributions.**

Why enroll:

- Enjoy Pension Fund participation benefits, including competitive base interest rates and the opportunity to earn Good Experience Credits
- Consolidate and manage retirement savings from one central financial source
- Increase retirement savings by maxing out IRA contribution limits through each of your spouse's IRA accounts
- Save money on account maintenance fees

How to enroll:

- Enroll online at www.pensionfund.org
- Enroll in person at Pension Fund's summer events
- Call your area director (see pages 14–15 for a map and list of area directors)

Questions? Contact your area director or Pension Fund today at 866.495.7322. Learn more at www.pensionfund.org.

This should not be construed as tax, financial or legal advice. Please consult your tax or financial advisor with individual questions or concerns.

^{*} Spouse participation in the BAA program requires enrollment in a spousal IRA program, or participation of an eligible member in the Pension Plan or Tax-Deferred Retirement Account.

^{**}Program participants must be filing jointly for tax purposes if spouse does not receive income.



TEST YOUR READINESS "IQ"

Are you ready for retirement? Take these quizzes to find out if you're ready for retirement, or if there is more you should be doing to pave your financial path.

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If you answered mostly "no" to these questions:

Great! Luckily you have a great system of retirement benefits that work for you.

Summer 2017

retirement. Pension Fund can help! Visit

www.pensionfund.org for more information.



IMPORTANT PENSION PLAN CHANGES

Pension Plan participants should be aware of several important plan changes based on actions from our Board of Directors this year.

EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2017, THE FOLLOWING CHANGES NOW APPLY:

Vesting: A Member shall be 100% vested in his or her benefits under the Plan at all times. This plan change removes the two-year waiting period for lay employees. This change impacts lay employees only. There is no change to ministers who were already 100% vested.

Definition of Retirement: This has been updated to include members who permanently reduce work to less than 50% of the average level of bona fide services performed by the member over the immediate preceding 36-month period.

EFFECTIVE JULY 15,2017, THE FOLLOWING CHANGES NOW APPLY:

Disability: The disability benefit maximum increased from \$50,000 to \$70,000 based on the member's salary for the preceding 12 months. The status of members approved for disability pension will only need to be modified in the case of inactivity for two years. Modification was previously based on inactivity for five years.

Service Waiver: Members who do not begin dues payments within two years following first employment by a church will be able to restore full benefits after two years; 50% after the first year and 100% after the second year.

PENSION FUND'S SUMMER EVENTS

The sun is out in full force, and so is Pension Fund with our summer events! Join us at this year's North American Christian Convention (NACC) in Kansas City or at the

At our booth:

- Enroll in products (like our new Pension Fund spousal IRA and BAA)
- Preview the new www.pensionfund.org
- Meet and visit with your dedicated area director
- Ask questions about products

General Assembly in Indianapolis to visit with staff members, participate in events or enroll in new products.

Check out the highlights for each event on the following page, and find detailed schedules on the inside front cover of this magazine. We look forward to meeting you and helping you become retirement ready.





NACC EVENT HIGHLIGHT: Pete the Planner Lunch and Learn – June 29

Are you retirement ready? At this Pension Fund-sponsored "lunch and

learn" event, award-winning comedian and financial wellness expert, Peter Dunn ("Pete the Planner"), will teach tricks to jump-start your retirement plans. Dunn has appeared on many syndicated TV and radio programs, hosts his own radio show, and is author of ten books. Space is limited, and tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis. Learn more at www.gotonacc.org.



NACC SPOTLIGHT: 2017 NACC President Rev. Gene Appel, senior pastor, Eastside Christian Church (ANAHEIM, CA)

This year's NACC President Gene Appel served for 18 years as senior pastor of Central Christian Church in Las Vegas and lead pastor at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, IL. Rev. Appel currently serves as senior pastor at Eastside Christian Church in Anaheim, CA. He also co-authored the book *How to Change Your Church Without Killing It*.

Appel grew up in what he call the NACC "tribe" and attended his first NACC event when he was only four years old. When describing the benefits of fellowship at NACC, he told Christian Standard, "I fundamentally believe we're better together."

Appel said this year's NACC theme *This is For Everyone* was inspired by his church's desire to make disciples and be proactive as Christians in a diverse world. "My prayer is that it will foster the conversations all of us know we need to be having... and have them in a healthy way that forces a positive type of tension."

"I think people are sensing God's up to something and there's something special moving among this tribe of churches and leaders we are part of," said Appel.





GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVENT HIGHLIGHT: Minister and Mates Breakfast, Rev. Dr. H. Benjamin Bohren: Blink! Blink! (John1:1-5) – July 18

At this Pension Fund-sponsored event, Rev. Bohren will be speaking on how his retirement plans with Pension Fund supported him through various stages of ministry. Tickets required, visit ga.disciples.org for more information.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPOTLIGHT:
General Minister and President
Nominee Rev. Teresa (Terri) Hord
Owens (CHICAGO)

The General Board voted to forward the name of Rev. Teresa (Terri) Hord Owens to the 2017 General Assembly as the nominee for General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

"We saw in Terri that unique combination of pastoral leadership, active presence in all expressions of the Church, and administrative experience that the search committee believed was most needed," said Search Committee Chair Jackie Bunch. "She has experience as a local pastor, theologian and leader."

A Disciple since young adulthood, Hord Owens is currently dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School and pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, IL.

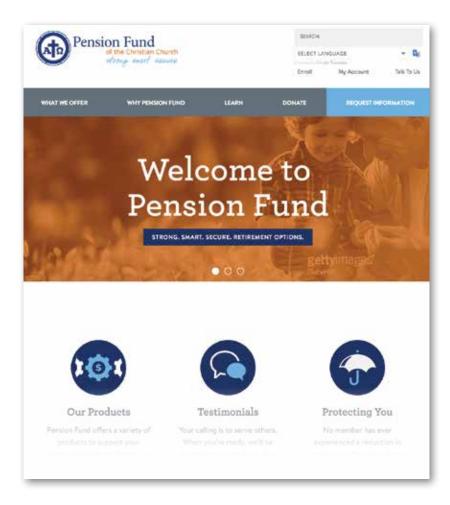
Rev. Owens is widely sought after as a preacher, speaker and workshop facilitator. Her ministry and intellectual interests include a theology of reconciliation, cultural intelligence, developing inclusive and multi-cultural congregations, and the mentoring of youth and young adults.

Participants of General Assembly will join to elect a new General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during Sunday night worship. Speakers include Rev. Jae Young Rhee, Rev. Dr. Jen Garbin and Henry Brewer-Calvert.

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COMING SOON: THE NEW PENSIONFUND.ORG

You asked, we answered. Launching this summer, our new website will be mobile-friendly and provide members with educational information, access to online tools and a better overall user experience.



In February 2016, we surveyed our members to see how we could improve our website. Here is what you said:

■ I would like better online tools."

Our new website will offer relevant financial education information, updates about Pension Fund programs and events, and—in the near future—financial calculators, online forms, and online enrollment.

•• I would like to see forms better organized."

Forms for members are now organized by action (rather than product). Enrollment forms are easily accessible on our product information pages. We hope that will make it easier for our members and prospective members to find the right forms!

I would like to fill out forms online."

The ability to fill out forms online and directly submit them to Pension Fund is a feature that we will add in the future.

The Bridge

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• I want to access more materials online (instead of in paper form)."

Our new website platform is able to provide our members with many of the same materials you are accustomed to receiving in paper form. We hope this will help us continue to "go green" and cut down on the waste and cost of paper.

6 I would like to read the page in Spanish."

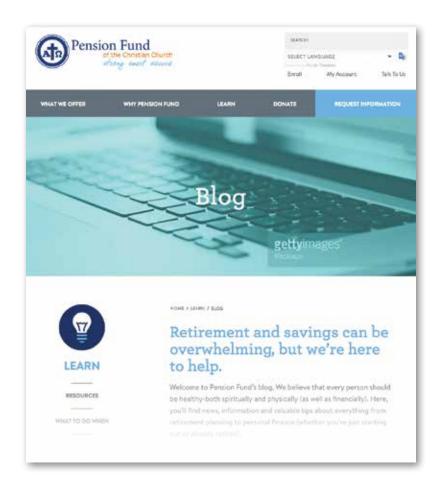
Now you can read all pages in Spanish (and other languages) with the help of Google Translate. Simply click your preferred language in the "Select Language" bar in the upper right-hand corner of the website.

66 I would like more intuitive page navigation."

We have streamlined and reorganized all pages to be more user-friendly based on research and best practices. Our "search bar" functionality will allow website visitors to type in key terms to find the right page.

I would like to know more about Pension Fund staff."

The complete Pension Fund staff list with photos and contact information is now available online. Come e-meet our team!



Visit us at our summer events for a live demonstration and to give us your feedback!



BOOKS ON CULTIVATING CULTURE

Cultivating the right organizational culture is important no matter where you work. Why? Because who you are sets the tone for what you do. Here are just a few popular book picks that may help your ministry create or refine its culture.

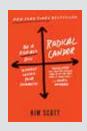


Leaders Eat Last: Why Some Teams Pull Together and Others Don't by Simon Sinek

Imagine a world where almost everyone wakes up inspired to go to work, feels trusted and valued,

then returns home feeling fulfilled. Today many organizations are creating environments in which people naturally work together to do remarkable things. In this book, Simon Sinek shares true stories and his ideas on culture from his work with successful organizations in many industries around the world.

https://www.amazon.com/Leaders-Eat-Last-Together-Others/dp/1591848016



Radical Candor by Kim Scott

Author Kim Scott was an executive at Google and then Apple, where she worked with a team to develop a class on how to be a good boss. She earned fame through her approach to effective management of "Radical

Candor," which simply means that you have to care personally and challenge directly to be a good boss.

https://www.amazon.com/Radical-Candor-Kim-Scott/dp/1250103509



Who Moved My Cheese?: An Amazing Way to Deal with Change in Your Work and in Your Life by Spencer Johnson

Most people are fearful of both personal and professional change because they don't have control over

how or when it happens to them. In this timeless business classic, Dr. Spencer Johnson uses a deceptively simple story to show how your attitude can take the fear and anxiety out of managing the future.

https://www.amazon.com/Who-Moved-My-Cheese-Amazing/dp/0399144463



Give and Take: Why Helping Others Drives Our Success by Adam Grant

For generations, we've focused on the individual drivers of success: passion, hard work, talent, and luck. But in today's dramatically different world, success is

increasingly dependent on how we interact with others. In Give and Take, an award-winning researcher and professor examines why some people are successful and others aren't.

https://www.amazon.com/Give-Take-Helping-Others-Success/dp/0143124986

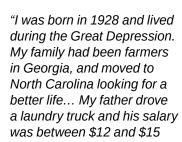
WE ARE ONE FOR 13TH CHECK

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." (Peter 3:8)

July is almost here, which means General Assembly is near. General Assembly's theme for this year is "One/Uno/Younn/Un." As the united Body of Christ, we will celebrate our church family and have the opportunity to study, reflect, and gather as one—connected by God's love and grace. We will also have the honor and privilege of sharing the blessings God has given us with those who are less fortunate.

This spring I visited with one of our retired donors, Betty McEver Curtis. She shared a lovely story about her family, and how her upbringing in the church taught her

that humility and graciousness go hand in hand. She said:



per week. When he made \$15, he took the children to the store for 5 cents worth of candy. That was a huge thing for us. Mother and Dad had such little money that they felt they could not tithe. After much talk and prayer, they decided to try it. Every Saturday night, Daddy laid out 25 cents for church and a nickel for Sunday School as part of the tithe. He wanted his children to share in the tithing. I went to work at 16. After my first check, I came in for my money for church and Sunday School, and was told that was his tithe and that I must now tithe from what I earned. I learned what tithing was all about at an early age. My husband and I felt the same about our sharing with others. In our time of stress and need, Pension Fund was there for us—not only financially, but in whatever support we needed."

Betty went on to tell me about how giving is truly a blessing. She and her family have been supporters of all Ministerial Relief and Assistance programs, one of those being the 13th Check collected at the Assembly.

For many years, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has expressed its commitment to the Church and those who serve the Church through Pension Fund's 13th Check offering. This additional gift has met great need from its recipients, who faithfully served the Church but have low pensions. With the gift of the "13th" Check is affirmation to these pensioners that the Church cares for them and their well-being. Hopefully, the Church is always seeking ways to provide this affirmation and security for those whose ministry it touches.

We are "One/Uno/Younn/Un" in the Body of Christ and we are called to be like-minded, (In loving God) be sympathetic, (listen to their stories) love one another, (As God loves us) be compassionate (with those who need a helping hand) and humble (serve God because we are God's). May this scripture break open in our lives! I pray that this season is full of God's love and grace for you, and if you have the opportunity to come to General Assembly, we would love to visit with you at our booth!

Rev. Ruth Chavez Wallace

Vice President for Development ruthw@pensionfund.org



AREA SUPPORT



Rev. Daniel Gulden, Vice President of Client Relations, leads a new field team including five new Area Directors and an Assistant Vice President for Client Relations.

This team will focus on Pension Fund's continued commitment to providing outstanding customer service, creating and establishing new employer relationships, promoting Pension Fund's products and services, and helping members become retirement ready.



Rod Witte, Assistant Vice President of Client Relations

Witte serves in the Pacific Southwest, Northern California/Nevada, Oregon/Southwest Idaho, Central Rocky Mountain, Northwest and Montana Regions. Additionally, he directs the

work of a part-time staff person who will focus on Hispanic congregations in the Pacific Southwest and Arizona regions. He comes to Pension Fund with a 30-plus year career in the banking industry. Most recently the CEO of Tennyson Center for Children and a former Chairman of the Board for the Christian Church Foundation, he brings with him a proven track record of client management and a broad network in the church. Witte is a member of South Broadway Christian Church in Denver.



Alexis Branaman, Area Director

Branaman is responsible for the Georgia, Alabama/NW Florida, Great River, Tennessee, and Kentucky regions. She is a Phillips Legacy Scholar, former Disciples Peace Fellowship intern, and graduate of Texas

Christian University and the University of North Florida. She lives in Jacksonville, Fla. and comes to Pension Fund with a background in international student recruitment and experience as a community board member for the Phillips University Legacy Foundation. Her parents are Disciple pastors.



Raquel Collazo, Area Director

Collazo is based out of the Indianapolis office supporting Pennsylvania, the Northeastern Region, Florida, Puerto Rico and Hispanic congregations and employees in Texas. She comes to Pension Fund from JP Morgan

Chase Bank, where she worked as a Private Client Banker managing new and existing clients. She has a proven track record for generating millions in new deposits. Born in Puerto Rico, where she grew up in the Disciples denomination, her family moved to Indiana when she was a teen.



Rev. Kyle Fauntleroy, Area Director

Fauntleroy will be based in Fort Worth and responsible for the Arizona region. He will also overlap in Oklahoma and the Southwest Regions with Connie Inglish, the current Assistant Vice President of Client Relations, as she transitions to retirement in 2018. He retired from the U.S. Navy as Chaplain with the rank of Captain after 30 years of service, and is an ordained Disciples pastor and Brite Divinity alumni. He brings leadership in the military, a deep Disciples relational network and



knowledge of the Independent Christian Church where he was raised. Fauntleroy will join Pension Fund staff Aug. 1, 2017.

Want to contact your area director?

- Alexis Branaman: abranaman@pensionfund.org
- Raquel Collazo: rcollazo@pensionfund.org
 - Kyle Fauntleroy: kfauntleroy@pensionfund.org
 - Danny Gulden: dgulden@pensionfund.org
 - Connie Inglish: cinglish@pensionfund.org
 - Michael Johnson: mjohnson@pensionfund.org
 - Dee Long: dlong@pensionfund.org
- Gabriel Lopez: glopez@pensionfund.org
 - David Nicholson: davidn@pensionfund.org
 - Aaron Smith: asmith@pensionfund.org
 - Rod Witte: rwitte@pensionfund.org



Michael Johnson, Area Director

Johnson is responsible for the Upper Midwest, Illinois/Wisconsin, Michigan and Mid-America regions. He comes to Pension Fund from Ed Martin Auto group in Indianapolis. He grew up at Southport

Christian Church and has served on regional youth councils, attended General Assembly and been on donor visits with staff from the Christian Church Foundation. Johnson brings a philosophy of meeting customer needs and experience with sales training resources and client relationship management processes.



Dee Long, Area Director

Long lives in South Carolina and is responsible for the South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and the Capital Area regions. Previously with Disciples Church Extension Fund, she has been doing

independent congregational consulting work. She is actively involved in National Convocation and integrally connected with the Raleigh/Goldsboro District of the Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ International, a Pension Fund employer, along the Atlantic seaboard.



Rev. Gabriel Lopez, Area Director (part-time)

Lopez joins Pension Fund as part-time Area Director for Hispanic congregations in the Pacific Southwest and Arizona. He also co-pastors East Whitter Christian Church

in Whitter, Ca. and brings a wealth of experience in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



David Nicholson, Contractor

Nicholson serves as the Canadian Pension Fund of the Christian Church (PFCC) Representative and is dedicated to servicing and supporting our members, congregations and ministry partners in Canada. He also

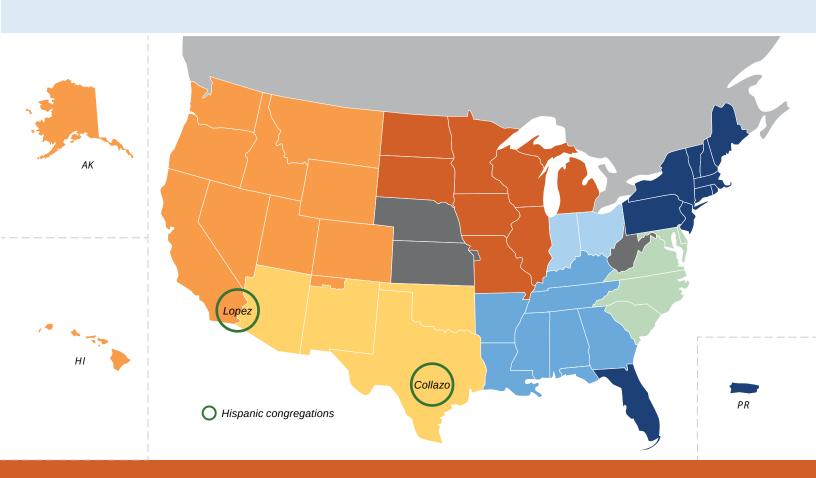
serves as a director for the Canadian PFCC Board of Trustees.



Rev. Aaron Smith, Area Director

Smith is responsible for the greater Kansas City, Kansas, Nebraska, and West Virginia areas and the Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, International Assembly. Born and raised in Indianapolis, Smith has

served with Pension Fund for 5 years and recently moved to Atlanta, GA to serve as deployed staff. He is also an alumnus of the Disciples Divinity House at University of Chicago Divinity School as well as an ordained minister in the Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ.





THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) – PUERTO RICO

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination has served Puerto Rico since 1899, when its first missionaries arrived.

Today, the Church in Puerto Rico continues its emphasis on proclaiming gospels, excelling in Christian education, and changing lives through social work. We spoke with former General Pastor Rev. Esteban Gonzalez Doble about how pastors in Puerto Rico benefit from Pension Fund retirement products.

What makes your ministry unique?

Our understanding of Christian unity is what truly sets us apart. That is why the Disciples of Christ in Puerto Rico has served as a bridge and meeting point among all the Christian traditions in the country. Clearly, this is part of the nature and identity of our denomination.

What's new with your ministry?

Our close relationship with the Catholic Church, Pentacostal Church, Adventist Church, historical denominations, and intra-church organizations, has enabled us to develop working relationships useful for helping the aspirations and goals of our people. From this perspective, our prophetic management has been strengthened and present at vital moments in the life of the country.

Our Church has social projects in the country, with prominent participation in ecumenical organizations, projects in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and missionary work in other countries (including Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Cuba, Paraguay, and Argentina). We publish our own Christian education material for adults, youth and children. We have a ministerial body of 170 members and 106 congregations, with a high level of commitment to the community they serve. We also have Camp Morton, where we develop leaders, and a Bible Institute for the development of lay leaders (which also serves other denominations).

We support our ministers by publishing their books and materials. The Church has a denominational-level choir, which remains active throughout the year and recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. We maintain a series of radio programs and constantly promote the use of technology to share our educational message.

Who participates in Pension Fund benefits?

Pension Fund benefits are offered to all paid staff in our churches—particularly those employees who have a level of stability in employment, because we are affected by high turnover. However, all the staff of the Christian Center, the pastors and some secretaries of the local churches participate in Pension Fund's programs.

How do you encourage employees to use the benefits you offer?

All our ordained pastors receive a contribution to their pension plan (\$75 per month if under age 55, and \$100 per month if over age 55). The Pastor Services

Committee and the Administrative Office of the Christian Center consistently follow up on the need for participants to increase their contributions and importance of the plan for each member. Also, when there are ministerial transitions, this aspect is very carefully considered so participation remains strong.

What is your organization's philosophy regarding care of employees (retirement and/or health)?

The Church has always maintained a proactive philosophy on this issue. We constantly adjust our programs to care for the well-being of the pastors. Our local churches are very diligent about this and the general level of the Church encourages it.

Would you recommend Pension Fund to other organizations?

We have certainly recommended it and will continue to do so.



What are some of the most common FAQs from your staff regarding their retirement benefits?

The main question is always
"How much will I receive when
I retire with the contribution I
am making?" I always answer
the same way: The more you
contribute, the more you will
receive. Immediately I explain to
them that this is a comprehensive
plan that includes various parts
(disability, life insurance, longterm pension), and since it is
designed for the church, once the
operating costs are covered the
earnings are distributed among the members.
That is "justice"!

What do you see as the greatest challenge for retirement administrators?

The greatest challenge for administrators will always be to maintain sound judgement in everything they do. The era in which we live demands that we are conscientious, watch operational costs, maintain sensitivity and historical awareness, take care of the legacy we have received, increase transparency in the process, as well as be good stewards.

Can you think of any interesting stories regarding a pastor or family who has been blessed by one of Pension Fund's programs?

During our relationship over the years, our church has maintained a series of stories in which support from Pension Fund has been indispensable. I don't want to

The main question is always 'How much will I receive when I retire with the contribution I am making?' I always answer the same way:

THE MORE YOU

CONTRIBUTE,
THE MORE YOU

WILL RECEIVE.

mention specific names, but there are more than 20 memorable testimonies.

The most outstanding was when we started in 1993. One of our pastors signed up for the Pension Plan in October and was diagnosed with a terminal illness. On Dec. 31, 1993, he passed away into the presence of our God, leaving behind his wife and three children. Immediately, Pension Fund took action, and this family received all of the benefits of a pastor who passes away while still actively serving in ministry. The result has been that his children received benefits until finishing

their university studies. As of this day, his oldest son is a physician, (gastroenterologist), the oldest daughter is a leader in the church and married to a prominent businessman of our country, and the youngest daughter has completed her culinary studies. His widow continues to enjoy good health. This entire family lives in gratitude for these benefits, and they presently maintain a scholarship fund to help students in need.

Another memorable story was the illness of one of our General Pastors, the Rev. Ramón Goveo Hernández, who during his tenure became ill with Guillain-Barré syndrome. He was not able to work for a year, and during that time Pension Fund took care of him. He was able to return to active ministry, but years later he had to take early retirement. During this entire time, Pension Fund made all the difference.

Raquel Collazo now serves Puerto Rico as an area director.

See pg. 14 to learn more about Raquel and the geographic locations she covers.



REV. ESTEBAN GONZALEZ DOBLE (GUAYNABO, PUERTO RICO)



Rev. Esteban González Doble pastors in Hato Nuevo (Guaynabo), Puerto Rico, and previously held the position of General Pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico from 2001 until 2015. He is a member of Pension Fund's Board of Directors, advocating for benefits on behalf of all Puerto Rican pastors.

Gonzalez's relationship with Pension Fund began in 1992, when he developed a proposal for Puerto Rican pastors to have a pension plan.

"Of all the alternatives we reviewed, the Church decided on Pension Fund," Gonzalez said. "Since then, we've become a big advocate of this extraordinary plan. The feedback from Puerto Rican participants has been very favorable."

He has held several positions in the Disciples of Christ Church in Puerto Rico, including President of the Program Commission of the Convention, Treasurer, President of Budget Committee, President of the Ministerial Accreditation and Training Committee, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor General, Moderator and Interim General Pastor in 1999.

"It is an integral perspective of presenting the gospel that has been maintained during the 118 years of service in Puerto Rico," said Gonzalez, explaining the Church's efforts in the country.

Gonzalez was born in New York City, a member of a family of three brothers and two sisters. His childhood church was the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Sabana Seca, and as a youth he attended the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Villa Marisol, where he entered into ministry at the age of 20.

He is a graduate of the Inter-American University with Concentrations in Psychology and Business Administration, as well as the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, with a Masters in Divinity. He was ordained to ministry by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico in 1989.

Gonzalez pastored the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Candelaria Arenas, Toa Baja, New York (Interim Pastor), La Cumbre, Ciales, and in Santa Juanita. He and his wife, Annette Piñeiro, have two sons, Steven and Brian.

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IN MEMORIAM

Following are member deaths that were reported to Pension

Fund betwee:	n September 31,	2016 and March	n 31, 2017.
DEATHS IN	Nancy Harris	DEATHS IN	Raymond Gipson Willard, MO
ACTIVE SERVICE	Winamac, IN	RETIREMENT	
James Hazelrigg	Alice Hasenyager	Donald Anderson Fremont, CA	Edward Graboski
Hopkinsville, KY	Deland, FL		Williamsport, PA

OTHER	DEATHS	

Catherine Sparks

Karen Austin Laveen, AZ

Frankfort, IN

Quentin Barber Fort Worth, TX

Bruce Bixler Providence Village, TX

Richard Cornell Zanesville, OH

Nancy Cox Thousand Oaks, CA

Michael Dougherty Frankton, IN

Lynda Duncan Nashville, TN

Patricia Fisher Salem, IN

Carol Fosness Youngsville, NC

Roger Grubb Hobert, IN

Eugene Guenin Greenwood, IN

Naomi Hannah Lakewood, NJ

Brentwood, CA Gordon Hill Hamilton, OH

Donna Jones Springfield, MO

Nancy Jorgensen LaBelle, MO

Thomas Hernandez

Mary Kolbe Pantego, TX

Vincent Matle Jamestown, KY

Gregory Nunley Danville, VA

Andrew Orr Tyler, TX

Ruben Ortiz Toa Alta, PR

Lois Pifer Portland, OR

David Roemersbuerger Washington, IL

Joseph Schodrowski St. Louis, MO

Eugene Snyder Tulsa, OK

Fremont, CA

Rush Barnett Colorado Springs, CO

Virginia Betts Indianapolis, IN

Doris Blackwood Brandenburg, KY

Freida Braden Lewistown, IL

John Henry Cain Indianapolis, IN

Deborah Casey Mansfield, PA

Don Cassidy Santa Barbara, CA

James Cox Richmond, KY

Eleanor Daniel Urbana, IL

Daisy Edgerton Indianapolis, IN

James Evans Johnson City, TN

Royal Ewing Hood River, OR

George Gibbs Austin, TX

Freda Guthrie West Union, WV

Donald Haase Monticello, IN

Margaret Hahn Indianapolis, IN

Frederick Hall Plano, TX

Charles Hansrote Lynchburg, VA

Robert Henthorn Edmond, OK

Edith Hicks Phelps, NY

Clayton Housholder Fort Wayne, IN

Norman Hunt Washington, PA

Charles Irving Fillmore, IN

Rosetta Johnson St. Louis, MO

Erma Jones-Wolf Modesto, CA

The Bridge

Ray Kerstetter Newton, KS



Cleon Kitchen Soldotna, AK

Clara Koehl Speedway, IN

Cathleen Landeroz *Nampa, ID*

Hoy Ledbetter *Huntsville, AL*

Melissa Leehan Santa Fe, NM

Wesley Livingston Norwalk, CT

William Longman Watertown, MA

E. Rebecca Matthews *Springfield, MO*

Therese McAndrews *Greenwood, IN*

Golda McClelland Whiteville, NC

Gerald McHarg Whittier, CA

Margy McKay Springfield, MO

Mary McReynolds Canton, MO

Billy Montgomery *Edmond, OK*

Herbert Nobles Newton, KS

Raleigh Peterson Lake Nebagamon, WI

Wendell Pew San Juan Capistrano, CA

Peggy Prose Russellville, AR

Norma Putney Claremont, CA

James Reynolds Tulsa, OK Elizabeth Rogers Michigan City, IN

Pauline Sanders *Miami, OK*

Gale Secord Kenton, OH

Kathryn Shane Aurora, CO

Dale Smith Nampa, ID

Tommy Steel Leander, TX

John Synja San Diego, CA

Dorothy Tait Wilson, NC

Mary Taylor Hampton, VA

Calvin Tillery Broken Arrow, OK Colleen Travis

Garland, TX

Hia Trinh Belton, MO

Clarence Tucker Lee's Summit, MO

Michael Warning Kinston, NC

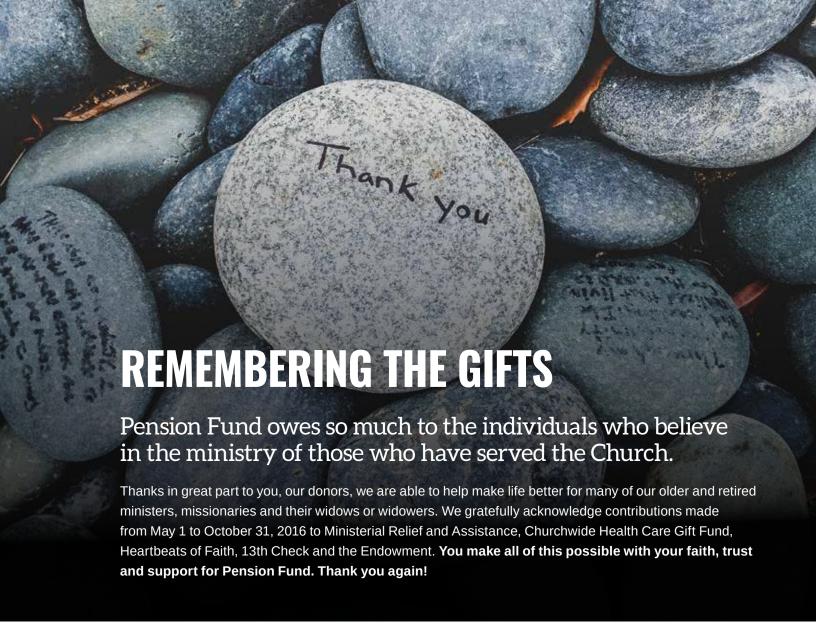
Norman Wasson Flemingsburg, KY

Grace Williams Naples, FL

Cleo Wilson Wellsburg, WV

Florence Wolfe Temecula, CA

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Ministerial Relief

Gifts from individuals for Ministerial Relief & Assistance help make life better for many of our older and retired ministers, missionaries and their widows or widowers. Gifts to Ministerial Relief, along with offerings through the Disciples Mission Fund and earnings from the Endowment Fund, make funds available for the Supplemental Gift (to supplement low pensions) and Ministerial Relief (for those with no pensions).



INDIVIDUALS

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Todd and Kimberly Adams
Tommy and Vickie Akers
Charles and Janette Akin
Kathryn Albers
Anna Alexander
Don and Judy Alexander
Bertram and Jeannie Basinger
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Christian Women's Fellowship, Arthur, IL Disciples Womens Ministries, Richmond, KY

Federated Church of West Lafayette, West Lafayette, IN First Christian Church of the Beaches, Neptune Beach, FL

First Christian Church, Belton, TX First Christian Church, Bolivar, MO First Christian Church, Bryan, TX First Christian Church, Clearwater, KS First Christian Church, Donna, TX First Christian Church, Hopkinsville, KY First Christian Church, Idaho Falls, ID First Christian Church, Lemoyne, PA

First Christian Church, Metropolis, IL First Christian Church, Morgantown, WV First Christian Church, Texas City, TX

Gordonsville Christian Church, Gordonsville, VA

Hope Church, Bound Brook, NJ

Hurstbourne Christian Church, Louisville, KY Lansdowne Christian Church, Baltimore, MD North Christian Church, Fort Wayne, IN North Heights Christian Church, Wichita, KS Ridglea Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX

Riverbridge Partners, LLC Utica Christian Church, Utica, MS

Washington Avenue Christian Church, Elyria, OH United Christian Missionary Society, Indianapolis, IN Zion Christian Church, Maurertown, VA

13th Check

At Christmastime each year, we lift the financial burden of pensioners living check to check by providing recipients with a "13th Check." This extra boost in income is a highly anticipated and appreciated gift for those who served the Church at the cost of their own financial success. The following is a list of individuals and congregations that responded to 13th Check offering. These gifts will provide the 13th Checks to recipients in 2016. We express our sincere appreciation.



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13th Check, continued

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Shirley Kroh Nancy Laslo

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Lillian Lewis John and Donna Long Lanny Lybarger

John and Margaret Lyons Alan and Janice Mace

Gwendolyn Marshall Roy Martin

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Beatrice and David Meeker Ralph and Ann Messick Wayne and Carol Meyer

Betty Miller Ruth Ann Mindel Alice Mitchell Michael and Susan Moschenrose

Paul and Blossom Tibbits

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Ruth Woods David and Nancy Worden

Sally Wright

John and Sarah Yonker

Sarah Yonker Pamela Young Bennie Yount

Roger and Sherry Zollars

CHURCHES

Christian Church Foundation First Christian Church. Louisburg, KS First Christian Church, Princeton, IL Ione Community Church, Ione,

Trinity Christian Church, Mechanicsville, VA

Churchwide Health Care Gift Fund

The Health Care Gift Fund helps pay the Health Care Medicare Basic premium for many worthy servants of the Church. Many gifts have been received since the Winter 2016 issue of the Bridge.



INDIVIDUALS

Alaina Adams

Tommy and Vickie Akers

Donald Arterburn

William and Shirley Baird

David and Priscilla Adamson

Baker

Mary Bancroft

Charles and Barbara Bare

Audrey Beck

Shokrina Radpour Beering

Catherine Bergel **Betty Blakemore**

India and José Mario Bobadilla

Eugene and Karen Boring Nancy Brewer

Eugene and Elizabeth Brice

Rowena Britt

Sara Andrews Brooks Robert and Doris Brown

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Arthur and Pauline Vermillion

Ruth and Charles Wallace

Gary Warman

Harold Watkins Mary Wells

Mary West

Nancy Whetstone Megan Wilkins

Claude and Gladys Wood Dennis and Karen Zimmerman Roger and Sherry Zollars

CHURCHES

Christian Church Foundation

Christian Church of Connellsville, Connellsville,

PA

Christian Women's Fellowship, Selma, CA

Endowment

Earnings from the Endowment Fund are added to the offerings from congregations through the Disciples Mission Fund and through gifts from individuals to assist those whose pensions are low or who have no pensions or to assist with the payment of health care premiums and other needs. The Endowment Fund includes gifts, bequests and memorials to loved ones and honored minsters, as well as other estate gifts.



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Shokrina Radpour Beering Claire and Charlotte Berry India and José Mario Bobadilla James and Ann Burton

Richard and Lynn Cohee

Bobby and Nancy Cook James Ellerbrook Robert and Harriette Elliott

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Connie and William Inglish

Mary Anne Parrott Marjorie Reisinger

Raymond and Carolyn Toon

John Trefzger Nancy Underwood Ruth and Charles Wallace

Charles and Jane Watkins

Harold Watkins

Deborrah and John Wray

CHURCHES

Christian Church Foundation
Christian Church in AL / NW FL

Excellence in Ministry

The following list of individuals have made gifts and commitments to the Excellence in Ministry Campaign.



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Everton
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McDonald Fisher
Dawn Fleming

Laura Reed Gelarden Robert Hempfling Janet Long and Daniel Clark

Kyle and Debra Powell Maxwell

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Wallace Ted and Jennifer

Weaver

Heartbeats of Faith



The following is a list of individuals who have made gifts and commitments to the Heartbeats of Faith Capital Campaign.

INDIVIDUALS

Ben Duerfeldt

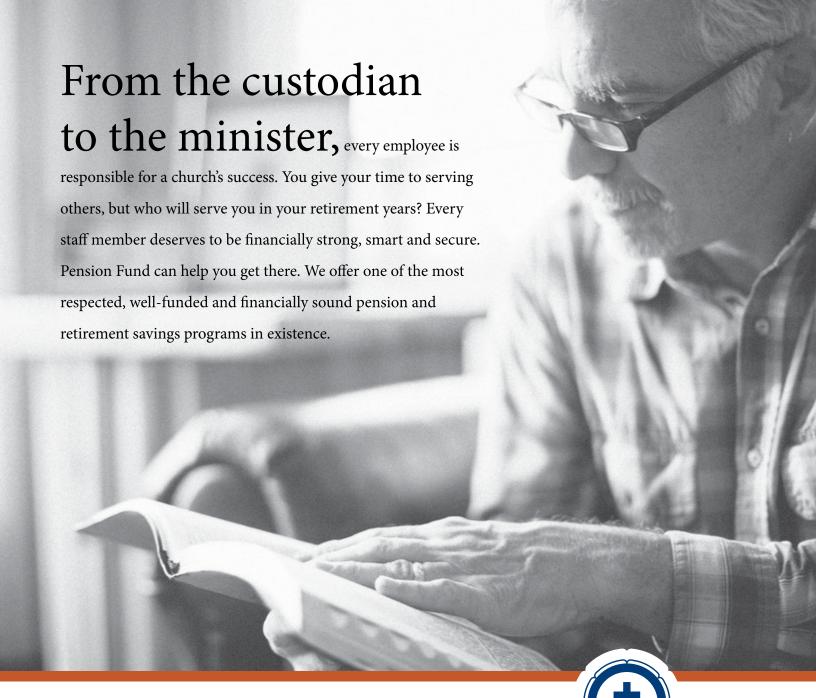
Elberta Evans Nancy Saenz

Andrea Toonder

CHURCHES

First Christian Church, Bryan, TX

Summer 2017 27



Program Offerings:

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

Pension Fund

of the Christian Church strong. Smart. Secure.

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.

NOW AVAILABLE FOR SPOUSES!

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 CONTRI BUTION 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 Good Experience Credits - meaning more money for you in retirement.



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