

Your Personal Annual Statement of Benefits is in the mail

Watch for *Your Personal Annual Statement of Benefits*, an individualized benefits statement published for active Benefits Plan members in booklet form by the Board of Pensions. Mailed in mid-July, *Your Personal Annual Statement of Benefits* shows you how the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) provides for you and your family. Through the Benefits Plan Traditional Program, members receive comprehensive pension, medical, death, and disability benefits, and, if elected, optional benefits as well.

Your **personalized statement** gives you a snapshot of your benefits as of January 1, 2008. The Board provides this information so that you can

- check the accuracy of your personal information on file with the Board of Pensions
- review benefit coverage levels with your family
- assess your overall financial picture
- plan for your retirement

If you don't receive your statement by early August, please notify the Board of Pensions at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN).

E-learning expands on Pensions.org

Education is thriving at the Board of Pensions as we expand our e-learning opportunities with two new e-learning modules on community nature and effective salary. These e-learning modules and future webinars will enable the wider Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to understand many facets of the Benefits Plan, as well as provide follow-up learning options to our seminar participants.

The first module, [Community Nature: Caring for One Another](#), explores the history and significance of the Benefits Plan's community nature and how it applies to Plan members and the Board's mission to support them.

The second module, [Effective Salary: Why It's So Important to Get It Right](#), defines effective salary, explains how it is calculated, and demonstrates the impact underreporting effective salary has on Plan members.

In the coming months, look for more e-learning resources in the [Educational Resources](#) section of Pensions.org. You can also view our full complement of multimedia presentations under [Forms & Publications](#).

Call for Clergy Colleague Group proposals

Clergy Colleague Groups are designed to help alleviate some of the isolation pastors encounter, providing them with a forum in which they can exchange ideas, garner support, and build relationships. Under the guidance of a group facilitator, pastors meet to constructively address issues of isolation, stress management, professional development, and mutual trust in a confidential setting.

Presbyteries are invited to submit a proposal for funding for a Clergy Colleague Group. The Board grants \$1,000, with the funding designated to cover 50% of the cost for pastors to meet 10 times a year. Applications are being accepted for new groups or existing groups that want to continue meeting for a second year.

Additional information, a brochure, and the application are available on Pensions.org. If you have any questions regarding the program or its requirements, you can contact Gwen Holmes, senior welfare benefits specialist, health and welfare plans, at gholmes@pensions.org.

Calendaring for the Remainder of 2008

Please know that I stand ready to assist those in your presbyteries who are in any way related to the work of the Board of Pensions: Benefits Plan members, church treasurers, personnel, COM and CPM committees, congregations, etc. Whenever an occasion arises where I can be useful to you and/or those with whom you work, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

I am available to meet with presbytery or PPG groups for events such as the following:

- **Retirement Luncheon:** a chance for retired servants of the church to gather for fellowship, support, an update on what's happening at the Board, and a Q&A session. I have funds in my budget to subsidize the cost of such a luncheon.
- **Church Treasurers Workshop:** a review of the interrelationships between a treasurer and the Benefits Plan.
- **Benefits Overview:** a comprehensive look at the benefits available to Plan members and how to access them. Can be done in a variety of settings with a variety of groups, including the staff members of an individual congregation. Some presbyteries have offered an overview as a pre-presbytery meeting event.
- **COM Consultation:** the COM sets the agenda according to its needs.
- **CPM Consultation:** If your presbytery has an annual gathering of Inquirers/Candidates, I can help them deal with issues related to transitioning from seminary to ordination/installation and the Benefits Plan.

- **Presbytery or PPG Leadership Training Days:** I'm available to present a benefits overview or to present a workshop on any aspect of the Benefits Plan.
- **PPG Forum:** I would be delighted to host a gathering of middle governing body leaders in your PPG to discuss benefits issues that have arisen in your area, receive feedback on the relative effectiveness of the Benefits Plan in serving Plan members, etc. I can provide the lunch and may also be able to assist with transportation costs.

With warmest wishes and the hope that the summer is offering you ample time for rest and re-creation...

Phil

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