

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE PENSION FUNDING CRUSADE

Why do we discover all of a sudden that we need so much for pensions?

This is not an "all of a sudden" discovery. For many years, concerned laymen have been telling us that we need to increase the amount of the pensions given to our retired ministers, and to spouses and children of deceased ministers. A committee studied our pension program for a year before bringing a recommendation to the 1978 Annual Conference where the Pension Funding Crusade was overwhelmingly approved.

What is the current situation for our retired ministers and their families?

The provision is quite small compared with the pensions paid in other vocations. Ours is based on the number of years a minister has served. The per-service-year rate of \$92 (for 1979) is multiplied by the number of years a minister has served. Thus, one who retires in 1979 with forty years service will receive \$3,680 annually, or \$306.66 a month. The average length of service prior to retirement is thirty-one years. A surviving spouse receives 75% of the amount which the deceased minister would have received.

We are now supporting 136 retired ministers, 109 widows of ministers, and 23 children of deceased ministers. The average pension per month is \$221 for ministers, \$117 for widows, and \$88 for children.

Will the Crusade raise the pension rate?

It is hoped that this pension funding crusade will raise the per-service-year rate by about \$18.

Is it realistic to expect that our Conference can raise \$3,000,000?

There is never an ideal time. The question is how much do we really care about what happens to our retired ministers. The Office of Finance and Field Service of the United Methodist Church, which is guiding our Crusade, has found that a Conference of our size, can raise this amount of money when the payments are spread over three years. The goal, \$3,000,000, represents a small amount when compared to our expected local church budgets for the same period, \$69,000,000. It is well within our capability. And, our people will do it. The reality of inflation only spurs us to raise these funds now. To wait will only increase the amount needed.

Do ministers participate in their own pensions?

Yes. They support the local church budget which pays "Conference Claimants" as part of the Single Figure Apportionment. They are considered self-employed under Social Security, so they have to pay that entire amount. Some, who can, try to save for retirement. Most, because of the level of their salaries, are unable to put much aside.

The ministers can be expected, moreover, to make pace-setter pledges to the Pension Funding Crusade. In a called meeting of the preachers of this Conference in Goldsboro on 22 January, personal pledges in excess of \$330,000 were received from the ministers present.

What does the General Board of Pensions recommend for the per-service-year rate?

This agency of the whole church recommends that the per-service-year pension rate be one percent of the average salary of the ministers in the Conference. This figure for the North Carolina Conference would be \$136 per year; our 1979 rate actually is \$92.

How does our Conference compare with neighbouring conferences?

In a word, poorly! Fifty-seven of the 73 Annual Conferences are higher in this matter than we are. Our closest neighbours have these rates: Virginia, \$130; South Carolina \$125; Western North Carolina, \$115. Our rate is \$92.

The Duke Endowment has been giving our retired ministers (and those of the Western North Carolina Conference also) an average of \$17 per-service-year. This assistance should always be a special bonus above-and-beyond our own responsibility to provide adequate pensions. We should not let the generosity of the Duke Endowment carry the ball for us.

Will this Pension Crusade reduce the Conference's unfunded liability?

No. This is being done through the Ministers' Reserve Pension Fund which was established in 1973. In fifteen more years or in 1994, our past-service liabilities should be paid off. Money for the Reserve Pension Fund is raised each year through the Single Figure Apportionment.

--Adapted from "Questions and Answers", a publication of the Conference Pension Funding Crusade

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

February 25, March 4, 11, 18
5:00 - 7:30 p. m.

Snack Supper - small donation
requested

It's not too late -
Call the church office
NOW to register!

THE BULLETIN
DUKE MEMORIAL
METHODIST CHURCH (USPS 553-880)
504 W. Chapel Hill Street
Durham, N. C.

Second Class Postage
Paid at
Durham, N. C.

Postmaster send Address Changes to Duke Memorial Methodist Church
504 W. Chapel Hill St., Durham, N. C. 27701

PULPIT EXCHANGE: Sunday, 25 February, our preacher will be the Reverend Roger Elliott, pastor of Bethany UMC, Guess Road. Our pastor will in turn be the guest in the pulpit of Bethany Church. This exchange is part of the Pension Crusade endeavour and is arranged by our district superintendent. Mr. Elliott is a very able preacher and pastor.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CLOTHING DRIVE! We wish to thank the many persons who helped in so many ways to make this a success. We had over 300 pounds.

WHEELCHAIR NEEDED: It has come to the minister's attention that one of Duke Memorial's members is in dire need of a wheelchair. If you have a wheelchair which is not being used and would like to loan it to this member-in-need, or if you wish to help in another way, please contact Don Settle.

JR. HIGH UMYF NOTICE: There will not be a regular UMYF meeting on Sunday evening, February 25, because of the ski trip that weekend.

OPENINGS FOR ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to put flowers in our sanctuary please call the church office. April 1 and April 22 are open at this time.

SUNDAY, 25 February 1979

Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Caldwell, Jr.
Acolytes: Karen Connery and Dawn Lampley
Junior Church Leader: Mrs. Connie Chandler
Carol Christmas, assistant
Nancy Stark, music

SYMPATHY: The pastors and congregation express love and concern to the family of Mrs. L. T. Cheek because of her death.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Mary Lyon Terry Cheek
15 February 1979

"I am the Way, the Truth, the Life"

CHURCH CALENDAR FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 3, 1979

| | | |
|--------|-------------|---|
| Sun. | 9:45 a. m. | Church School |
| | 10:55 a. m. | Morning Worship |
| | 5:00 p. m. | Children's Choirs |
| | 5:00 p. m. | Defensive Driving Course |
| | 6:00 p. m. | Sr. High UMYF |
| Wed. | 12:10 p. m. | Devotions led by Mildred Darkis, Lunch follows in Whitford Hall |
| | 6:00 p. m. | Visitation Supper |
| | 7:30 p. m. | Council on Ministries |
| Thurs. | 7:30 p. m. | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal |

MEMORIALS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION:

In memory of Robert C. Cox by Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Edward Powell

In memory of James Heizer by Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Edward Powell

Choir Fund

In memory of R. L. Forrester by the Bennett Place Chapter, U. D. C.

Good Samaritan Fund

In memory of Lottie Mae Oldham by Charlotte Corbin

LOCAL PROJECTS: To all United Methodist Women's Circles. School kits for Migrant workers' children are needed before school starts in September of this year. Please bring some or all of the things needed by June 1st and place in marked box in the church office. Circle #7 will assemble the kits and deliver them.

School kits: In sturdy cloth bag, 12" by 14", with cloth handles, 3 new pencils (unsharpened) with erasers, composition tablet or notebook, eraser, long colored pencils (not crayons, as they melt), ruler (metric) and a small hand pencil sharpener. Thanks!

LIBRARY - NEW BOOKS

In Search of History by Theodore H. White has been given by the H. E. Spence Bible Class in memory of Roy Lane Forrester. Mr. White, author of the Making of the President Series, in this most recent publication reports on himself - his personal reminiscences and memoirs as a journalist. Richly woven into his book are exciting and dramatic events of the 20th Century. This new edition to the Library has been on the "Best Seller" list for the last 16 weeks.

To Live Until We Say Goodbye with the text by Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross and photographs by Mal Warshaw has given us a beautiful, inspiring and triumphant new book. The Chicago Tribune describes it as an "extraordinary union of text and picture - a celebration of life.

BIBLE READINGS FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 6

| | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| February 28 | Numbers | 34 - 36 |
| March 1 | Deut. | 1 - 2 |
| March 2 | Deut. | 3 - 4 |
| March 3 | Deut. | 5 - 7 |
| March 4 | Deut. | 8 - 10 |
| March 5 | Deut. | 11 - 13 |
| March 6 | Deut. | 14 - 16 |

HOSPITALIZED:

| | | |
|-------|--------------------|------|
| DCGH: | Joy Long | 7307 |
| | Ethel Cheek | 7205 |
| | Catherine Barnhill | 6106 |