

Clergy Retirement Plans

Depending on your length of service in the ministry, clergy can be eligible to receive various retirement benefits from programs sponsored at different times by the [General Board of Pensions](#).

Determination of actual benefit balances can be made by using the Pension Projection Calculator provided by the General Board of Pensions by [clicking here](#). After 12/31/2006 contributions to MPP will cease and beginning in January, 2007 contributions will begin into the new Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP). Your current MPP account will remain at the General Board of Pension until time of distribution.

As the nation's largest faith-based pension fund, the General Board demonstrates its stewardship with a solid financial track record coupled with a steadfast history of positive social and environmental returns. Through their shareholder advocacy efforts, they work with the world's largest corporations to address the pressing environmental, economic and social issues of our time. For more information on the General Board of Pensions Socially Responsible Investing [click here](#).

We take the long-term view with respect to investing for retirement, and offer outstanding retirement and savings plans to eligible clergy:

[Clergy Retirement Security Program](#) (CRSP)

Provides both a defined benefit and a defined contribution plan to clergy of The United Methodist Church. Replaces MPP effective 1/1/2007.

[Ministerial Pension Plan](#) (MPP)

Serves more than 26,000 United Methodist clergy from 65 conferences. No further contributions will be made to this plan after 12/31/2006.

[United Methodist Personal Investment Plan](#) (UMPIP)

Provides retirement benefits and savings opportunities for clergy and lay employees of United Methodist churches, church-related organizations and general agencies.

[Comprehensive Protection Plan](#) – (CPP)

Provides a death and disability benefit for eligible United Methodist clergy.

Sustentation Fund

A Texas Annual Conference benefit.

Reserve Fund

A Texas Annual Conference benefit.

Pre 1982 Service

Those persons who are already retired are not affected by CRSP, and those who are yet to receive a distribution who have years of service before 1982 will continue to receive those monies as well as any MPP account and CRSP account distributions for which they are eligible.

[The Clergy Retirement Security Plan](#) (CRSP), which becomes effective January 1, 2007, comes from the General Board of Pensions and has three core benefits; the first three in the list below. The Texas Annual Conference has added three additional parts to the pension apportionment which goes to the local church; they are items 4 through 6 in the list below. They have been explained in the district tours made by the Conference Board of Pensions and are defined below for you benefit.

1. **Defined Benefit:** This portion of the clergy pension is based on an amount contributed by the local church, its payment to retired clergy is based on a formula provided by the GBOPHB, and will provide a fixed amount to the retired clergy which is guaranteed to them regardless of market performance.
2. **Defined Contribution:** This portion of CRSP is a defined amount, contributed by the local church into an account for the clergy, and the total amount will be made available to the clergy person upon retirement. The proceeds of this portion will be dependant upon market performance.
3. **Comprehensive Protection Plan:** This portion of CRSP was also a part of MPP and provides protection in the event of disability.
4. **Contribution to UMPIP:** The new CRSP pension plan, which begins January 1, 2007, does not provide the level of retirement support that was previously supplied by MPP. In an effort to make it more equitable to previous pension protection the Annual Conference has asked local churches to make a 1% contribution to the clergy person's UMPIP.
5. **Sustentation Fund:** This portion of the apportionment provides for the support of clergy persons who discover that they do not fit in ordained ministry and are transitioning to other vocations; it provides for the intentional use of interim pastors in situations of congregational conflict or clergy sabbatical leave; it provides for special assessment and nurture initiatives for clergy in their 5th and 10th years of ministry; and it provides for a crisis response team for intervention in troubled congregations.
6. **The Reserve Fund:** The most dramatic change that comes to the Annual Conference in the new CRSP pension plan is that all financial liability for the defined benefit portion of the pension has now become the responsibility of the Texas Annual Conference. The pension plans are based on market earnings. The Reserve Fund is to provide protection against changes in market performance.