GB-2615

Pension Fund of the Christian Church
Report to the General Board 2026
Submitted by Rev. Dr. Todd A. Adams, President/CEO

An Accomplishment for 2025

In 2025 Pension Fund paid the following benefits to our members:

Pension Plan Payments:	$149MM
TDRA Payments:	$30MM
BAA Payments:	$48MM
IRA Payments:	$4.3MM

Total Interest Credited to interest bearing accounts in 2025: $31.6MM

Total Benefits and Interest - $263,000,000.00

Special Apportionment Increase for all pension account holders was: 3.5% or $69.8MM

Total Assets Under Management as of Dec. 31, 2025 $3.9B an increase in AUM of $308MM

Ministerial Relief and Assistance distributions: $3.1MM, an increase of $901K over 2024.

A Hope for 2026

We are bringing together our leadership team and Cornerstones small group leaders to reflect on what we have learned and to look ahead to 2027 and beyond. Our goal is to learn from both our successes and our challenges and to identify opportunities to strengthen the program. Today, more than 240 pastors participate in 22 facilitated groups. With the Church Benefits Association receiving a $30MM grant from the Lilly Endowment, we will be able to apply for funding to expand the reach, impact, and offerings of Cornerstones for 2027-2029.

The Gathering: A Retreat for Clergy is September 7–9, 2027 in San Diego. Our featured speakers will be Silas House, Dr. David Wang, and Rev. Virzola Law. Our theme for the event is "Healing the Storytellers."

Looking Ahead with Data

We are reviewing 142 data points that will help shape decisions and guide our trajectory for the next 20 years. These include long-term trendlines—some extending back 50 years—and an analysis of our benefits structure to ensure we continue offering the most generous and secure benefits possible. Our commitments impact more than 22,000 people and typically span about 60 years from the first contribution to the final beneficiary.

What Are Pension Fund's Biggest Challenges?

1. Federal Policy Uncertainty

   Our most significant challenge is Washington, D.C., and the ongoing legislative gridlock. New laws are often passed without sufficient time for implementation. Some take effect before the IRS can issue guidance; others are applied retroactively. Rapid back-and-forth policy changes require extensive programming and compliance work—making them costly and difficult to manage. Also, states are issuing conflicting regulations either to counteract the current federal mandates or to go beyond the current federal mandates. This requires us to track 50 state legislative bodies.

   Also, we are actively engaged at the Federal and State level to fight restrictions or secure a religious exemption for how we vote our proxies with the faith and teachings of the church.

2. Geopolitical Instability

   As an institutional investor carrying market risk, we face the challenges of a volatile global landscape. We are living in a season where it feels like we are "waiting for the other shoe to drop," and geopolitical tension continues to add uncertainty.

A Story of Collaboration

We have partnered with regions to provide pastors with emergency aid and parental leave grants. Together with Week of Compassion, we have supported pastors and congregations in the wake of disasters including the most recent winter storms. We provided Obra Hispana with more than $450,000 in emergency aid to address the mental, emotional, and economic needs of Hispanic pastors amid the current U.S. immigration climate.

We have supported clergy wellness by funding the Black Ministers Retreat through Disciples Home Missions, as well as wellness events through Obra Hispana, NAPAD, and the Christian Church in Puerto Rico. Additionally, we partnered with the College of Regional Ministers to provide emergency support for pastors whose medical premiums rose due to the loss of federal subsidies.

Our ecumenical work advocacy includes signing onto legislative efforts for the Clergy Act, allowing pastors who opted out of Social Security to reenroll and fighting restrictions on proxy voting. We work ecumenically with the Church Benefits Association (50 interfaith and ecumenical benefit organizations) and the Church Alliance (35 interfaith and ecumenical organizations) to ensure the security of church workers and clergy.

What We Hope Every General Board Member Will Carry Home

We serve everyone on your staff. Please encourage your congregation to offer benefits—even self-funded access—to retirement programs. Preschool teachers, administrators, secretaries, janitors, choir directors, and others with church-based income are eligible to participate. Expanding access strengthens the whole church.