



**RegionalLinks**

*The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

A BenefitsTalk Publication

## **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE E-NEWSLETTER August 2012**

### **Monthly Newsletter from the Board of Pensions**

Welcome to the August 2012 issue of *RegionalLinks Monthly*. Produced by the Board of Pensions for regional representatives, this publication highlights recent Board news and other important updates for your information and for you to share with mid council personnel and other contacts in your field. We hope you find this information useful, and we welcome your feedback at any time. Contact us at [RegionalLinks@pensions.org](mailto:RegionalLinks@pensions.org).

#### **Benefits Connect Tip: Securely Access Your Statement of Benefits Online through Benefits Connect**

Active and disabled members who have Traditional Program coverage and retirees and survivors with a mailing address in the United States who are receiving a monthly pension payment can get a current Statement of Benefits online **anytime**. The easy-to-follow format consolidates information about the benefits you are receiving through the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) into a report that you can review, save, and even print.

To access your online statement, [log in](#) to your Benefits Connect account. Then quickly generate your Statement of Benefits by clicking on

- the "Generate Your Statement of Benefits" button on the Welcome page that opens when you log in; or
- "Statement of Benefits" under "My Benefits" in the left-hand menu.

If you are not already taking advantage of Benefits Connect, [register today!](#)

#### **2013 Dues Schedule Now Available**

The Board of Pensions has released the [2013 dues schedule](#) with the dues approved at the July 21 meeting of the Board of Directors. The approved 2013 dues also have been added to the [dues calculator](#) on pensions.org to assist church treasurers and benefits administrators with budget planning for next year.

The 2013 dues for the Medical Continuation Program (Traditional Program), Medicare Supplement Plan, and optional dental benefits will be available after the October Board of Directors meeting.

## **Board Bulletin Reports News from July Board of Directors Meeting**

The summer 2012 issue of [The Board Bulletin](#) is available on pensions.org. It details key decisions made by the Directors of the Board of Pensions at their July 21 meeting in Philadelphia. Highlights include the following:

- A search will soon begin for a new President and Chief Executive Officer of the Board of Pensions as Robert W. Maggs Jr. plans to retire from the position in 2014.
- The Board of Directors approved an increase in monthly subscription dues of 7 percent, on average, for active Affiliated Benefits Program (ABP) participants and ABP early retirees.
- For the first six months of 2012, the Balanced Investment Portfolio returned 6.1 percent.

The Board of Pensions publishes *The Board Bulletin* after each regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

## **Benefits Overviews Provide Quick Summaries of Key Elements of Benefits Plan**

To help educate plan members and administrators on key elements of the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Board of Pensions provides one-page summaries of its plans, programs, and services, called Benefits Overviews (formerly Product Sheets). These Overviews were recently redesigned to reflect the new theme of the Board's benefits communications: Benefits through the Stages of Your Life.

If you have a question or need more details about a particular benefit, a Benefits Overview is a quick, handy reference that may provide you with the information you need. To access them, visit pensions.org and click on [Benefits Overviews](#) under the Forms & Publications heading.

## **Register for SkillSoft E-learning Program by August 17**

Registration is now open for the popular SkillSoft e-learning program offered by Board University. The program features 10 one-hour, self-paced multimedia courses on topics such as handling conflict, time management and balance, and connecting and communicating with others. If you are an active member of the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) who is looking for a convenient way to reach personal development goals, don't miss out on this opportunity to build your skills from your home or office.

To take advantage of this e-learning opportunity, you must [register online](#) by Friday, August 17, 2012. To learn more about the SkillSoft e-learning program, read [this news article](#) on pensions.org.

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**Please remember as your regional representative,** I am available to assist those in your presbytery who are in any way related to the work of the Board of Pensions, by offering:

- 1) Church Treasurer & Business Administrator Workshops
- 2) Clergy Terms of Call seminars
- 3) CPM Consultations
- 4) Retiree Luncheons; and
- 5) Benefits Overview Presentations

You can reach me at 800.773.7752, ext 7047; or [hlocklear@pensions.org](mailto:hlocklear@pensions.org)

*Rev. Helen Locklear*

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**Thought for the Day**

“The real point of being alive is to evolve into the whole person you were intended to be.

–Oprah Winfrey