

REGIONALINKS



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



Benefits Connect Tip:

Tax Booklets Available on Benefits Connect

The Board's annual publications that assist teaching elders and churches with tax filing and returns are available on [Benefits Connect](#). Simply click on the appropriate link in the left-hand navigation of the site.

The *Tax Guide for Ministers* provides recent tax information that teaching elders can review when preparing their federal income tax returns. The *Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches* booklet, for church treasurers and business administrators, contains step-by-step wage reporting and withholding instructions and information about situations specific to filing various federal forms.

If you are eligible for Benefits Connect and have not registered yet, you can do so online by completing the [registration form](#) and establishing a user ID and password.

Note: The information provided in the above-described resources is not intended as a substitute for legal, accounting, or other professional advice that you may require while preparing your tax returns.

Board of Pensions Launches New Healthcare Website

The Board of Pensions has launched a new website dedicated to information about healthcare, including medical dues considerations, at [healthcare.pensions.org](#).

Visit the new website to access news, questions and answers, resources, and facts about the Medical Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The site also features a feedback function through which you can share your thoughts and opinions on the medical dues considerations or other areas related to overall healthcare coverage with the Board of Pensions.

Take a few moments to explore this new resource and visit often for new and updated information about healthcare benefits!

Board Bulletin Reports News from March Board of Directors Meeting

The spring 2013 issue of [The Board Bulletin](#) is available on pensions.org. It details key decisions made by the Board of Directors of the Board of Pensions at its March 9 meeting. Highlights include the following:

- The Healthcare Committee reviewed three medical dues options with the full Board and planned to present a final proposal at the June Board meeting.
- The Board of Directors approved a 1 percent experience apportionment.
- The Directors granted a disability benefit increase of 2 percent.

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

Stay Up To Date on Healthcare Reform with Newly Updated Resources

The Board of Pensions provides resources to help Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) church treasurers, business administrators, and plan members understand and stay up to date on healthcare reform and how it applies to them. The following pages on pensions.org -- updated for 2013 – provide information related to healthcare reform:

- [Healthcare Reform](#), which gives a detailed timeline of applicable provisions, by audience, and explains the implications of those provisions for employers and plan members
- [Tax Credit Information & Resources](#), which explains who may qualify for the credit, gives steps to determine if your church or other employing organization qualifies, and provides a worksheet for estimating the amount of the tax credit for which your organization may qualify

Also, visit the [Kaiser Family Foundation Health Reform Source website](#) for highly reliable - - and readable – information about healthcare reform. Topics range from health insurance exchanges, to the individual mandate, to America's rising healthcare costs.

Check out these helpful resources to learn how the 2013 provisions of the healthcare reform law may affect you and your organization.

Medical Plan Provides Benefits To Help Members Quit Smoking

To successfully quit smoking or the use of other tobacco products, many people benefit from help and support. That's why the Medical Plan of the PC(USA) provides benefits to help members on a path to tobacco-free living:

- Prescribed generic or formulary smoking cessation medications are covered at 100 percent for active members of the plan, their covered partners, and dependent children age 18 years and older.

- Mayo Clinic Tobacco Quitline smoking cessation program provides personalized coaching and support at no charge to active plan members, their covered partners, and their dependent children age 18 years and older residing in the United States.

To learn more about these benefits, read [the news article](#) and visit [the Tobacco Cessation page](#) on pensions.org.

Lesson 2 in Online Personal Finance Series Provides Guidance on Budgeting

The second lesson, [Creating a Budget](#), in Board University's online personal finance series is now available. This Web module provides guidance on budgeting, from creating a budget that incorporates the various factors that affect your finances to sticking with that budget to ensure you meet your financial goals.

The personal finance series features quick lessons that cover a range of basic topics, including setting financial goals, managing debt, and saving for college. The introduction and first lesson in the series, Taking the 30-Day Financial Challenge, are available through the [e-learning page for members](#) on pensions.org. Although you do not have to watch all of the modules in the order in which they are released, you may find it beneficial to follow the series in sequence.

If you have questions or feedback about this series, we welcome you to contact the Board's Member Education team at education@pensions.org.