

## **Board of Pensions and Health Benefits**

**Kelly Williams, Chair**

Members of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits this year elected to have the same officers serve another year. Those officers are as follows: Kelly Williams, Chair; Tom Sims, Vice-Chair; and, Bob Green, Secretary.

The main focus of the Board was the mandate from the floor of annual conference to review current health coverage and bring forth alternatives that would provide relief regard to premiums while maintaining continuity in coverage.

Kelly Williams, Chair, appointed an insurance committee to take on the task of reviewing the current coverage along with seeking proposals from other carriers. The committee members consisted of the following: Tom Miller, retired CEO BCBS of Kansas; Warren Livingston, lay member of the Board; Evelyn Fisher, Topeka District Superintendent; Kelly Williams, Chair; and, Carol Fusaro, Conference Benefits Officer. Letters were sent to five carriers/brokers requesting quotes for coverage comparable to the existing coverage only with a higher deductible and for a high deductible health plan. Three carriers met the deadline for submitting proposals. One carrier didn't present a bid and another came in with a bid after the deadline.

The Pre-82 pension plan has an over-funded position which can only be used towards pension benefits; therefore, the Board is once again recommending using the additional funding to reduce the overall cost of pension benefits to the local churches in this conference. This over-funding position will be reviewed annually to ensure adequate funding is available.

The Board sponsored two career seminars that provided clergy members/spouses with up-to-date information regarding their pension benefits, social security benefits, financial planning, health and wellness. These educational events have been well attended and greatly appreciated.

In 2004, the Kansas East Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits voted to establish an Investment Committee for the purpose of advising the Board regarding the investment of funds in the Conference's Discretionary Fund Account. The committee now consists of Warren Livingston, Rev. Tom Sims, Jerry Banaka, and Carol Fusaro, Conference Benefits Officer as an ex-officio member. The committee meets to review guidelines for the investment Policy and oversee the investment of funds.

It remains the desire of the Board to continue using the resources of the General Board's Investment Committee for the investment of our discretionary account and it is our opinion that the Multiple Asset Fund offered the greatest potential for conservation of principle and reasonable growth within the guidelines of our investment policy statement.

Under the established written guidelines for emergency grants, the Board received three requests for assistance and approval was given for all of them.

The Board received five Farmer Fund Grant requests. Four of them were approved for benefits and one was denied at the General Board level.

The Board received four requests for incapacity leave and approved all of them for submittal to the General Board. Two have been approved and two are pending.

The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were completed and then approved by the Leadership Team. We are looking at an effective date of January 1, 2009.