

CRSP Contribution Increased for 2017

The church's contribution to fund the pastor's pension is increasing for the first time since 1993. The Florida Conference has not increased the percentage of compensation collected to fund the pension plan since 1993.

This action was taken at Annual Conference and is effective January 1, 2017. The church must contribute 15% of the pastor's total compensation for pension. That's an increase of 3% from the current 12% that was established in 1993. This increase is needed to maintain full funding of our pension plan in order to satisfy our obligations to pastors in retirement.

The clergyperson's compensation in lieu of health insurance is not included in the calculation for pension contributions. No pension contributions will be paid on the additional compensation pastors receive to purchase health insurance. Please make sure your finance committee is aware of this change and the 2017 compensation forms are completed correctly.

Charge Conference Compensation Forms Must Document Additional Income in 2017

Very soon all local churches will hold their annual Charge Conferences where the church confirms the Pastor's salary and benefits. The forms will change from those used in prior years to include documentation of every pastor's election for health insurance.

If you are requesting the additional compensation in lieu of insurance, the amount of your 2017 annual salary must be correctly listed on the Charge Conference form. You must make an election to either accept the health insurance plan offered by the local church (if available) or request the additional compensation before your Charge Conference forms are completed and submitted to the District in late November.

Don't Delay – Secure Alternative Coverage Now!

The Federal Exchange or Marketplace opens on November 1 and ends on January 31, 2017. But, you don't have to wait until November to begin exploring your options. Visit www.healthcare.gov now and become familiar with the site. You can shop and compare insurance plans available in your area. We

recommend that you select a plan and complete enrollment no later than December 15, 2016 for coverage to be effective on January 1, 2017.

Keep in mind, if you do not have health insurance from another source and you fail to complete enrollment through the Federal Exchange by January 31st 2017 - **You will not have health insurance in 2017.** The Open Enrollment window for the Marketplace ends and you can't enroll after that date. In addition, the government requires everyone to have health insurance or pay a penalty in addition to self-insuring yourself and your family for all health care needs.

How to get help with choosing an individual health insurance plan.

If you (or your spouse) have Medicare contact: www.shine.org Or, call: **1-800-963-5337**

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a free program offered by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and your local Area Agency on Aging. Specially trained volunteers can assist you with your Medicare, Medicaid, and health insurance related questions by providing one-on-one counseling and information. SHINE services are fee, unbiased, and confidential.

For members who do not have Medicare the best resource is to work with a Navigator. Navigators are individuals or groups that are trained to help you find and select a health plan. They are required to be unbiased and services are free.

Go to: <http://floridachain.org/get-connected-find-local-help/>

Or: <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/navigator>

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Expect regular **Benefits Updates** providing information and support to help you determine the best solution for you and your family. And, the Benefits team is available if you have questions. Email us at benefit@flumc.org. In addition, Conference staff will be attending District clergy meetings this fall. Look for a meeting notice and make plans to attend.