

memo

To: Ministers Council Presidents, Treasurers, and Senators, and Officers
From: Joe Kutter, Executive Director on behalf of the Ministers Council Senate
Re: Ministers Council Dues for 2011
Date: September 1, 2010

At its August meeting your Ministers Council Senate made the difficult decision to increase national dues. As our members, you need to know the realities that made this decision necessary.

Ministers Council financing comes from these sources:

1. Member Dues
2. An annual draw from endowment earnings
3. Accrued reserves from previous years
4. TIM income from the Lilly Endowment grant

The hard realities:

1. We have not increased dues since 1997, which means that the members' contributions to the cost of our ministries have not kept pace with rising expenses.
2. With market declines, the value of the endowment has decreased significantly, which means that earnings have decreased and the annual draw erodes the endowment value.
3. We have compensated for the reduced endowment earnings, and tried to protect the principal by using our reserves, which were earning interest at a relatively low rate. However, the reserves are nearly depleted.
4. Through 2010, we have used our Lilly Endowment to serve about 2300 persons in about 225 groups with a significantly positive impact on our colleagues and the congregations they serve. The grant has allowed us to use nearly \$50,000 each year to cover the administrative expenses related to TIM. The grant will come to an end in 2012, which means greater pressure on the operating budget.

In order to sustain our ministry in a financially responsible way, the Senate concluded that we must increase national dues to \$50.00 per person for 2011. Though the Senate agreed that \$50 is a reasonable amount, your Senators are aware that this represents a challenge for some. We hope that the constituent councils will be able to provide some help to persons who need assistance. The increase will go a very long way to providing the financial stability that the Ministers Council needs to continue our member supported ministry

While recognizing financial realities, your Senators are convinced that our Ministers Council members receive tremendous value for the cost. **Minister** magazine, the monthly newsletters, a voice at national levels, resources for constituent councils, a heavily used web site, support for a biennial Clergy Conference, quality programs with the ABC biennials, stewardship of the "Covenant and Code of Ethics" and the remarkable contributions of our TIM groups make a significant contribution to the ministries of our colleagues. It is worth it!

For 2011, national Ministers Council dues will be:

<i>Membership</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Clergy couples</i>	<i>\$70.00 per couple</i>
<i>Seminary Students</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>
<i>Seminary Couples</i>	<i>\$35.00 per couple</i>

Will you join in our effort to help our colleagues to understand the value and necessity of the decision that has been made?

Thank you for your support and understanding.

And may God bless you in every way.