



"From Where I Sit ..."

**It Bears Repeating ...
12% Retirement Contributions are
Reimbursed to "Retired" Supply Pastors**

It bears repeating that two years ago a CME Retirement Plan policy change had been announced in the May 2019 issue of the Christian Index. The previous policy did not permit retired ministers who continued to receive an appointment from also receiving the 12% retirement contribution paid by their church because their account with the Plan had been closed at retirement. The new policy now permits the retired pastor to receive these payments annually as they are being paid in.

This new policy was approved by the Board of Trustees of the CME Retirement Plan as a response to the increasing number of retired ministers being called back into pastoral service by their Bishops. The intent of the policy was to provide a "legal" and reportable means by which these pastors could receive and account for these contributions.



Over the past two years more and more of our retired pastors have taken advantage of this policy revision and are encouraging their congregations to report through the CME Retirement Plan the 12% of their salaries with the understanding that when it is refunded to them the following year, it has been properly submitted, refunded, and reported.

And so, it bears repeating... ***"Because the law states that each church shall pay an amount equal to 12% and because the account of a retired pastor would have been closed at his/her retirement; effective in 2019, our Board will refund to any retired pastor the 12% contribution paid into the Plan for that pastor (less the 20% withheld for taxes). Such a process permits applicable churches to continue the practice of paying 12% rather than having to start anew when an "active" pastor is assigned. It also allows the pastor a more appropriate and legitimate means to receive the 12% intentionally set aside for the benefit of the pastor."***



The times in which we live, and the circumstances of our administrations have changed. As such and, where practical, our policies will also continue to change as we seek to address our mission and our purpose for being. *Or at least that's the way it looks to me...*

"From Where I Sit"

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(Copies of earlier articles may be found on the
Personnel Services Webpage of the CME Website at www.thecmechurch.org)