



FALL 2015

CORNERSTONE

Notes

The gift that keeps on giving

New furniture from General Synod finds a home at a local church

The UCC's 2015 General Synod was held in Cleveland, Ohio, from June 26-30. The Cornerstone Fund was there, sharing a comfortable, inviting space in the exhibit hall with the rest of the UCC's financial ministries: Insurance Board, United Church Funds, and Church Building and Loan Fund.

The space was so welcoming due in large part to the furniture: attractive, quality items they purchased—not rented—from a local vendor. Buying it demonstrated great stewardship of resources—it was less expensive to buy than rent, and after Synod, it could be donated to a local church.

This practice began at General Synod 2013 in Long Beach, California. Conference Minister and Cornerstone Fund Board member Rev. Dr. Felix Villanueva was asked to identify a startup church that could benefit from the furniture. An offer was made to that church and accepted, and a new Synod tradition was born.

In preparation for this Synod, Financial Ministries, in collaboration with Rev. Dr. Rita Root, Associations General Minister for the Eastern Ohio and Western Reserve Associations, posted an announcement in the associations' newsletter informing local churches that Financial Ministries would be donating their furnishings to a local church or churches after Synod. Tracy Glaser-

Bacon, a licensed minister who serves as Supplemental Pastoral Care and Mission Outreach at New Vision United Church of Christ, in Canton, Ohio saw the posting and, after consulting with church leadership, replied. "Being a local church not far from Cleveland, and in need of some furnishings for our growing church community and outreach programs," said Glaser-Bacon, "we thought this was amazing news! All we had to do was make arrangements to remove it from the convention center and get it to our church."

New Vision was able to furnish their church with eight lounge chairs, four end tables, one coffee table, four high-top round tables, eight armless bar stool seats, and two three-seat benches.

Glaser-Bacon said the furniture is, "a Godsend, literally. We use it every time people gather in the building, including the groups we host in our church, like Narcotics Anonymous, neighborhood groups, the local timeshare group, and more."

Chuck Hollingsworth, the Cornerstone Fund's VP of Sales and Marketing, said Financial Ministries plan to continue this Synod tradition in Baltimore in 2017 and encourage other ministries to consider supporting local churches in a similar manner. "It requires a little more involvement, like cost comparison, identifying a recipient, and coordinating delivery and removal of items, but it's well worth the effort."



The Cornerstone Fund Wants Only the Best for Your Church



Gordon Gilles
President

As we head into the Fall season we anticipate nature's changing landscape. But that's not the only change that's happening. The conversations in the media around the Federal Reserve anticipating interest rate increases provide uncertainty in the financial landscape. Let Cornerstone Fund help your church get the best loan possible—whether it's with us or your local bank. That's how much we care.

Local UCC churches and ministries across the denomination—over 500 since 1995—choose the Cornerstone Fund for our:

- Competitive rates
- Borrower-friendly requirements
- No points or lender fees
- Attractive payment options
- All of the above

We continue to strive to make our loans even more appealing. Did you know that, as a partner in ministry, we will pay up to \$1,500 of title search and recording fees for most loans? If you're interested in borrowing a small loan, this could mean no closing costs at all! And, if you're taking out a large loan, this savings of \$1,500 could enable you to allocate more funds to your building project.

But time is of the essence. Consider the Cornerstone early. Visit our website at: www.cornerstonefund.org/borrow/rates or call us toll-free at 1-888-822-3863 to learn more about your financing options. Again, we emphasize the word *early*. That way, if, after consulting with us, you'd like to explore options with a local financial institution, you'll still have time to do so. We just want what's best for you.

NEWS TO NOTE

In Memoriam: Nicholette I. Koller

December 10, 1962 – May 21, 2015

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Nicholette I. Koller, the Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of the Cornerstone Fund.

Nicholette earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in French from Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, and attended Notre Dame College of Ohio, obtaining her CPA license in 1997. She joined The Cornerstone Fund in 2009. She also was active with the Geauga County Fair Board and the Fair Foundation, serving as their Assistant Treasurer.

Nicholette was preceded in death by her father, and is survived by her mother, sister, two brothers, a niece, and three nephews.

A memorial service for Nicholette was held on May 27, 2015.





BUILDING STRONGER CHURCHES

Consider an Investment Ladder for Your Church

Climb to greater liquidity and a higher yield.

Is it possible for my church to earn even more on funds that need to remain accessible?

Yes! An investment ladder from The Cornerstone Fund allows you to invest funds across a range of maturities so you can maintain liquidity and improve yield.

How does this work?

Suppose your church maintained a \$15,000 reserve fund. An appropriate ladder might invest:

- \$5,000 for six months
- \$5,000 for 12 months
- \$5,000 for 18 months

Assuming your church doesn't need the reserve when the six-month investment matures, you can reinvest those funds for 18 months at the typically higher rates for longer-term investments, repeating the process so that funds mature every six months.

Are there other benefits?

Yes. Such a ladder would provide an initial average investment yield similar to a 12-month investment—and after one year, with the rollover of the six- and 12-month investments, the average yield would be equivalent to an 18-month rate, with funds maturing every six months.

Can the ladder be adjusted, so we don't have to worry about changing rate environments and market trends?

Yes! That's another great thing about ladders. Their terms can be adjusted, offering you liquidity and the highest possible yield, without any guesswork. To find out more about investment ladders, call us toll-free at 1-888-UCC-FUND (1-888-822-3863).

This is not an offer to sell our securities to you, and we are not soliciting you to buy our securities. We will sell our securities only in states where authorized. The offering is made solely by our Offering Circular, which may be obtained by calling us at (888) 822-3863. Our securities are not insured by the FDIC or any other state or federally regulated institution. Investment involves certain risks as more fully described in the Offering Circular. Rates may change without notice.



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for tips, updates & more

Stay up-to-date on information from the Cornerstone Fund. Subscribe to our email updates—

RATES

You'll get the most recent rates on both investments and loans delivered straight to your inbox.

CHURCH MANAGEMENT

A brief article to help pastors, church officers and other leaders navigate a range of church management challenges, from budgets and finance to policies and risk management.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

An occasional email with information on new Cornerstone Fund programs, webinars and more.

E-NEWSLETTER

Receive our quarterly newsletter, *Cornerstone Notes*, by email. The same useful news, delivered right to your inbox.

To subscribe, send your name and email address to info@cornerstonefund.org.

cornerstonefund.org



Investing from the heart, building for the future.

OUR CURRENT RATES

Investment Rates

| | Interest Rate | Annual Yield (APY) |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Demand Account | 0.500% | 0.501% |
| Term Investments | | |
| 6 months | 0.750% | 0.751% |
| 12 months | 1.125% | 1.128% |
| 18 months* | 1.250% | 1.254% |
| 30 months* | 1.375% | 1.379% |
| 60 months* | 2.000% | 2.010% |
| Church Builder Bonus | 3.000% | 3.022% |

* Eligible for Step Up Your Rate.

Rates are current as of August 31, 2015 and are subject to change without notice. See website for special requirements to earn Church Builder Bonus rate. Please see our notice at the bottom of page 3.

Loan Rates

| | Margin & Index | Rate Caps | Current Rate |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Adjustable Rate (No Balloon) | | | |
| 1 year | 3.625% US Treasuries | 2%/6% | 3.25% |
| 3 years | 4.625% US Treasuries | 2%/6% | 3.50% |
| Fixed Rate (Balloon) | | | |
| 30 years | | | 4.875% |
| 15 years | | | 4.375% |
| 5 years | | | 3.875% |
| Revolving Line of Credit | | | |
| Adjustable | | | 4.875% |

All loans are available with payment terms of 5 to 30 years. The interest rate on a Cornerstone Fund loan is set at the time of loan approval and is guaranteed for 60 days. Rates as of August 31, 2015.



Scan this code for our current rates

888-822-3863

info@cornerstonefund.org