



SPRING 2015

CORNERSTONE

Notes

Covenantal, conscientious, and Christian

Why a UCC pastor chose the Cornerstone Fund for his IRA account

As Christians, we are called to invest and spend our money with a conscience,” says the Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose, pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Corpus Christi, Texas. “I’m careful about where I shop. I avoid those stores in which employees aren’t fairly compensated. Their values don’t align with mine, and I only want to support those that do. I’m blessed that my husband, Ronald, feels the same way, and we’ve already begun teaching these values to our five-year-old daughter, Rosalee.”

When it came time for Burton to shop around for a retirement plan, he said he took the same approach: invest with an institution whose values mirrored his own. That’s why he chose to open his IRA account with Cornerstone Fund, which he knew and trusted as a unique financial ministry that benefits both individuals and churches affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

St. Paul United Church of Christ is Burton’s first pastorate—a call he accepted in Fall 2014—but he’s been involved with the United Church of Christ in a number of ways prior to serving this congregation. He earned his M.Div. from Andover Newton Theological School. He previously served the South Central Conference as Office Manager and Ministry Assistant and currently he is their Minister for

Communications, a part-time position he enjoys, especially because it keeps him connected to the church.

Burton admitted he expected the IRA application process from a distance to be rather complicated and daunting, but instead was pleasantly surprised at how easy it was with Cornerstone Fund. All he had to do was fill out a short form and mail it to them. Within a couple of weeks, he received a confirmation receipt and notification that his account was open and active.

Supporting the wider church and covenantal ministries of the United Church of Christ is very important to Burton. “The United Church of Christ

is a covenantal church: members are in covenant with their church, churches with their associations and conferences, and associations and conferences with the wider church.” He says that having an IRA with Cornerstone Fund is one more way *he* is living out a covenantal relationship with the United Church of Christ. “For me, supporting the church not only makes sense, but I believe my faith compels me to do so.”

To check the Cornerstone Fund’s current rates, or for more information on investing savings, retirement or organizational funds, visit the Cornerstone Fund online at www.cornerstonefund.org.



Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose (right) with daughter, Rosalee, and husband, Ronald.

The Cornerstone Fund is for You



Gordon Gilles
President

Looking for a great way to invest your IRA? It may come as a surprise to some folks that the Cornerstone Fund helps individuals, too—not just UCC churches. Anyone who is affiliated with the United Church of Christ can invest with the Cornerstone Fund. They get a great rate of return while simultaneously helping to build the church.

As you read in the cover story featuring Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose, who recently opened an IRA account with the Cornerstone Fund, we're a natural fit for those who believe in the values of the United Church of Christ and wish to support its mission. Our IRAs are no-fee accounts, and an automatic transfer of funds to a bank checking account is free of charge, too.

The Cornerstone Fund is unique, not only because of who we serve, but also because

of what we offer. One such perk is our free interest rate step-up feature, which is available on some of our investment notes. For example, if there's a change in interest rates that will benefit you, you need only call us, request a step-up, and we will honor it, with no fees at all.

How is this possible? The Cornerstone Fund, unlike other financial institutions that invest in the stock market, invests in loans to churches. Churches that borrow from us offer their property as collateral. We're very careful when selecting our borrowers, which insures that we can offer good, solid investment options to individuals.

We want to inform potential investors that we are diligent, prudent, and thorough in all of our processes. We stand by this commitment and encourage you to consider investing with the Cornerstone Fund.

NEWS TO NOTE

The Top 6 Reasons to Invest in the Cornerstone Fund

Key factors to consider while exploring the possibilities

Since 1995, the Cornerstone Fund has closed over 480 loans to churches for more than \$153,000,000. These loans were possible because of investments in the Cornerstone Fund made by UCC-related conferences, associations, local churches, and individuals.

Beyond the obvious reasons—UCC stewardship, mission, and loyalty—here are other excellent reasons to invest in the Cornerstone Fund:

- ① Good investment rates
- ② No service fees
- ③ Free automatic transfer of funds to your bank checking account

- ④ Free interest rate step-up features on certain accounts
- ⑤ No-fee IRA Accounts
- ⑥ Skilled staff to answer questions about your Cornerstone Fund investment

For more information about investing in the Cornerstone Fund, visit www.cornerstonefund.org or call us 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.





BUILDING STRONGER CHURCHES

The Top 7 Reasons to Refinance with the Cornerstone Fund

We have your church's best interests in mind

Time to refinance your church loan? Before you contact your bank, consider refinancing with the Cornerstone Fund. You've read that correctly. Since 1995, the Cornerstone Fund has provided over 480 loans to UCC-related churches and institutions.

If you're wondering why you should consider the Cornerstone Fund over a bank, it may interest you to know that investments from individuals, conferences, associations, churches, and other UCC related organizations enable Cornerstone Fund to provide loans to well qualified UCC Churches. And we are simply less costly than refinancing with a bank.

Here are several more excellent reasons to refinance with the Cornerstone Fund—in addition to UCC stewardship, mission, and loyalty:

- 1 We offer five different loan options: one- and three-year adjustable rate loans, a five-year fixed rate with five-, 15-, or 30-year amortizations.
- 2 No application fees or loan points
- 3 No appraisal or environmental survey fees
- 4 No prepayment penalty from funds derived from the church (successful capital campaign, generous member, or cash reserves)
- 5 No origination fees and we don't take a commission
- 6 Get an Interest Rate Rebate up to 1%
- 7 We now contribute up to \$1,500 toward closing cost (title insurance and recording fees)

For more information on church loans from the Cornerstone Fund, visit www.cornerstonefund.org or call us at 1-888-UCC-FUND (1-888-822-3863).



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for tips, updates & more

Stay up-to-date on information from the Cornerstone Fund. Subscribe to any or all of 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



To build the church, invest with the church.

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 January 13, 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 2.

Loan Rates

	Margin & Index	Rate Caps	Current Rate
Adjustable Rate (No Balloon)			
1 year	3.25% US Treasuries	2%/6%	3.500%
3 years	3.50% US Treasuries	2%/6%	4.500%
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 January 13, 2015.



Scan this code for our current rates

888-822-3863

info@cornerstonefund.org