



WINTER 2015

CORNERSTONE

Notes

Something for everyone

A Conference expands its facilities, a Conference Minister invests for retirement

The Rev. Dr. Marja L. Coons-Torn says she first became aware of and interested in the Cornerstone Fund when she was Conference Minister for the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. She saw what wonderful things UCC local churches were able to accomplish with the assistance of a loan from the Cornerstone Fund.

In fact, the Penn Central Conference itself borrowed money from the Cornerstone Fund and used it to finance a much-needed renovation to the dining hall of their Hartman Center Camp and Conference Center. This loan helped them to double the size of this building.

“Little did I know at the time,” says Marja, “how important the Cornerstone Fund would become for my own retirement plans. My husband Jim and I began saving a little money in Cornerstone Fund Term Notes about ten years ago. It wasn’t much—a thousand here, maybe two thousand another time. But eventually, our funds added up to over \$30,000, which was enough to make our ten-percent down payment at Fox Run Orchard Park, the retirement community of our dreams!”

Marja and Jim are now retired and living happily in their retirement community in Orchard Park, New York. In April of this year, they went on a cruise down the Panama Canal (see them enjoying

themselves in the photo) and then resumed playing in their bocce league. These busy retirees continue to try to put away a small amount of money in their Cornerstone Fund Demand Account when they can. Marja says that eventually they’ll begin buying Term Notes again, because they still have a lot of travel to fund in the future. Up next is a two-week cruise on the Rhine and Danube Rivers in Germany that’s planned for April 2017.

“It’s a wonderful thing to be able to help churches and get such a competitive rate. And the Cornerstone Fund staff is top of the line,” praises Marja. “They have helped us at every turn. I think very highly of the Cornerstone Fund.”

Whether you’re a church in need of a loan, or an individual who would like to save for a dream, the Cornerstone Fund has something for everyone.





There's More to the Cornerstone Fund Logo than Meets the Eye



Gordon Gilles
President/CEO

Every once in a while, I'm asked about the significance of The Cornerstone Fund logo and how it came to be. I'm always happy to share this information because it's very near and dear to my heart.

The Cornerstone Fund was incorporated in September of 1993. I began working for the Cornerstone Fund on the first business day of October 1995. My top priority was to contact a few marketing firms to commission a logo, as the Cornerstone Fund didn't have one. Coming from the banking world, I knew how important logos were to branding and recognition, and I felt it was equally necessary that the Cornerstone Fund also have a logo.

I asked each firm to show me logo designs depicting "multiracial and multicultural people coming together to worship Jesus Christ, who is the cornerstone of our faith." The winner—which you see here—was unveiled at the United Church of Christ Board for Homeland Ministries Annual Meeting one month later. Twenty years later, it's still a symbol of our mission.

The logo actually has a dual meaning. In addition to the above, it conveys that there's a partnership between our investors and borrowers that makes the mission of the Cornerstone Fund possible. We couldn't exist without our investors, and we couldn't exist without our borrowers. Our tagline, "Investing from the heart, building for the future" also reinforces this message.

And I couldn't be more proud to share this with you.

NEWS TO NOTE

The Cornerstone Fund Welcomes Kathy Houston

The Cornerstone Fund is pleased to announce that Kathy Houston has joined its team as Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operations Officer.

Kathy assumed this position on October 1, 2015, but certainly is no stranger to the Cornerstone Fund. She served on its Board of Directors in an Ex-Officio capacity from 2000 through 2008.

In addition to her extensive financial and accounting background and knowledge of the Cornerstone Fund, Kathy brings a love of the United Church of Christ. Prior to joining the Cornerstone Fund, she was the Chief Financial Officer of the United Church of Christ Board. Her responsibilities also afforded Cornerstone, in its infancy, the opportunity to have her provide many of their accounting services.

Please join us in giving Kathy Houston a warm welcome.





BUILDING STRONGER CHURCHES

Protect Your Church Funds, Staff, and Volunteers

Common sense controls you can count on

If your church has never experienced the mismanagement of church funds by a trusted treasurer, leader, or employee, count your blessings. By establishing some good, common sense controls (such as the ones listed below), your church can ensure the safety of your funds and those who manage them—as well as prevent a financial disaster for your entire congregation.

- Insist on dual controls.
- Ensure all account statements are sent to the church and opened by someone unrelated to the church's financial transactions.
- Corral multiple accounts so all funds flow through the treasurer and are managed in compliance with proper controls.
- Use accounting software, but streamline the chart of accounts for greater clarity.
- Do not avoid establishing smart policies for fear of offending volunteers.
- Good policies not only protect the church, but help protect volunteers from temptation and suspicion.

To learn more about financial controls, call us toll-free at 1-888-UCC-FUND (1-888-822-3863).

subscribe.cornerstonefund.org



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

RATES

The most current loan and investment rates

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

Announcements about new Cornerstone Fund programs, webinars, and more.

CORNERSTONE NOTES

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United Church of Christ
CORNERSTONE
FUND

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Cleveland, OH 44115



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 November 10, 2015 and are subject to change without notice. See website for special requirements to earn Church Builder Bonus rate.

Loan Rates

	Margin & Index	Rate Caps	Current Rate
Adjustable Rate (No Balloon)			
1 year	3.25% Plus 1-year US Treasury	2%/6%	3.75%
3 year	3.5% Plus 3-year US Treasury	2%/6%	4.75%
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 November 10, 2015.



Scan this code for our current rates

888-822-3863

info@cornerstonefund.org

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.