

KEITH ANDERSON

Why I Am Staying United Methodist

I watched Hurricane Ian very closely, even though I was in Colorado

to officiate a wedding. Cara and Adam moved to Tampa, FL, to join their older sister, Kiersten and her husband, Devon. Cara and Adam even live in the same complex as Kiersten and Devon.

As Ian approached the Florida coast, predictions had it making landfall at Tampa. The kids live in south Tampa, which is a low-lying area. After sandbagging their townhomes, they went to stay at their aunt's house to ride out the storm.

I had mixed emotions when Ian turned and hit Sanibel Island and then Fort Meyers. I was relieved Tampa was not hit, but I was terrified for those where Ian came ashore. One of our staff members, Rev. Cindy Jones, lives in Fort Meyers. With 4 generations living together, they did not have time to evacuate and had to ride out the storm in their home.

Cindy and her family were safe when the storm finally moved out of the area. They did lose power but were able to get to a hotel the next day. Thankfully, all of our retirees in the area came through safe but some did suffer damage to their homes.

Ian reminded me of why I am proud to be and will remain United Methodist.

The UMC has been my home since birth. I was born in May of 1967 and baptized in November. I was the last person baptized in First Methodist Church, East Moline, as they merged with the Brethren Church in January of 1968 to form Christ UMC. I grew up knowing there was a "home" for me in every community – I just needed to find the

cross and flame on a church sign.

This connectiveness is one of the greatest strengths of the UMC and is intertwined in the life of the church. As Ian approached, we were unsure where the kids would go to be safe from the storm. I reached out to other Methodists, and soon we had more places than we could imagine.

But the connection is more than that. The connection helps us to see a much greater picture of God than we can by ourselves. It is said the UMC is a "big tent" welcoming many different people and thoughts. God is and will always be bigger than myself or just those who think like me. We will disagree because our world is full of ambiguity. Being challenged by the "other" continues to have a positive effect on me, and we must continue to welcome those who are different from ourselves to experience God more fully.

Grace has always been an integral part of the UMC. It is by God's grace we are claimed by God. In my case, even before I knew my name and who I was, God – and the church – claimed me through my baptism. But grace did not stop at the baptismal font. It continues to be poured out on us all every day. God's grace makes me realize I am no better than anyone else as we all stand in the need of God's grace.

My oldest, Kiersten, has learned this through the UMC. When Ian was entering the Gulf, she said to me, "Dad, it is strange to pray for the hurricane to not hit Tampa because that means it will hit someone else. How do I pray for that?"

My home church taught me grace through the mission trips we took. Throughout the year fundraisers were held to pay for the trip. All youth were invited to go on the trip for free even if they did not help with any of the fundraisers. When I put this policy into practice where I served, I was questioned why someone could go without working all year. My answer was always God's grace is something none of us earn. The UMC time and time again has shown me this grace that is poured out on my life and is offered to all, no matter who or what they have done.

Perhaps one of the best ministries in the UMC is UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). It is with great pride to know wherever disaster and war appears, UMCOR will be there. And they will remain until the job is done, typically still helping people after other agencies have left. Not only that, 100% of our gifts to UMCOR will go directly to the need. No administrative fees are taken out because the administrative costs are paid through our apportionments.

UMCOR and the UMC inspired my son, Adam, to look for ways to help people struggling from the hurricane. When he heard people were having to drive 1-2 hours to find an open gas station, his faith called him to action – just like UMCOR does. He teamed up with a friend and began to ask people for their gas cans. He took 70 cans filled with gas to the Fort Meyers area. They drove around the neighborhoods and offered gasoline to those who needed it. While a few gallons of gas may only last a little while, they will not forget an 18-year-old cared enough to give them free gas.

I can go all day on why I will stay United Methodist but space is limited. I do grieve the loss of those who have decided to leave the church I love. Their voices and presence will be missed. For me, living

ANDERSON WINDOWS continued on page 3



Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund
P.O. Box 19207
Springfield, IL 62794-9207
217-529-3221
edweston69@gmail.com
pasbfgiving.org





If you want to learn more about donor-advised funds, contact us for more information. 618-806-6819

This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation. 22AB02

If so, consider some of the advantages of using a simple, convenient, versatile means of gifting - *the donor-advised fund (DAF)*, the fastest-growing vehicle for charitable giving in recent years.

FAMILY

ESTABLISH it in a few minutes with a simple application

MANAGE your charitable giving through one easy-to-use giving tool

SUPPORT several charities with one gift **MAXIMIZE** your income tax savings and minimize capital gains taxes

The names and images shown here are representative of typical donors and may or may not be actual donors to the organization. Under federal rules your benefits may be different from this example. Please contact us for your specific benefits.

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Endless Line of Splendor

The following persons have joined The Endless Line of Splendor since our last Society Page. May we celebrate their lives and remember their family and friends as they grieve their loss.

Name	Dates	Family Contact	Link to Obituary/Service
Rev. Richard Houser	1942-2002	Mollie Houser 104 S. Main St. Palestine, IL 62451-1244	https://obituaries.tribstar. com/obituary/richard-hous- er-1086310007
Rev. Paul Lees	1929-2022	Dollie Lees 2025 E. Lincoln St., Apt. 3105 Bloomington IL 61701	https://www.carmodyflynn. com/obituaries/Rev-Paul-Lees?o- bId=26158046#/celebrationWall
Alice Louise Hale	1925-2022	Condolences may be left online	https://www.hugheyfh.com/ obituaries/Alice-Louise-Hale?o- bId=25907373#/obituaryInfo
Lois Kathleen Bumpus	1924-2022	Condolences may be left only	https://www.johnstonfuneralhome. com/obituary/LoisKathleen-Bum- pus
Judith Icenogle	1945-2022	Rev. Phillip Icenogle 2621 Arlington Circle Pekin, IL 61554	https://www.hendersonfuneral- care.com/obituary/judith-icenogle
Augustus Benjamin "Buzz" Swett III	1945-2022	Linda Swett 1863 Bucks Pond Rd. Monticello, IL 61856-8062	https://tanzyusloganmemo- rialpages.com/augustus-ben- jiman-swett-iii-1945-2022/

Financial End of the Year To Do

As the year comes to an end, here some things to consider for your financial health. Not all of these items will apply to everyone. Pick the ones that apply to your situation.

☐ Review Your Goals for Savings – Retirement, College, and other Savings

 Goal setting allows you a road map to financial success. Without setting goals for your savings, both short and long term, you will wander aimlessly.

☐ Create a Budget and Evaluate Your Spending

 Now is a good time to review your spending habits for the past year and adjust your budget for next year.
 Reviewing your spending now may also prevent you form over spending during the holiday season.

☐ Check Progress on Paying Down Debt

 It is good to review any debt balances and your plan to pay the debt off. Remember, the faster you are able to get rid and avoid debt, the more financially stable you become.

☐ Fully Fund Your Emergency Fund

 A fully funded Emergency Fund is 3-6 months of non-discretionary expenses.
 For clergy in a parsonage, this would also include rent in case you must move out of the parsonage.

☐ Contribute as much as possible into Retirement Savings

• Max out your retirement savings for

you. Remember, contributions to the UMPIP, Traditional IRAs, 401(k) s, and other 403(b) Plans are all tax deductible in the year of the contribution, reducing your tax liability now. Roth contributions are taxed in the year of the contribution but are tax free when funds are distributed, reducing your tax liability in retirement.

☐ If over age 72, Ensure You Meet your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

• Tax-deferred retirement accounts such as UMPIP and Traditional IRAs, require you to withdraw a certain amount before the year end once you reach age 72. There is 50% penalty if you do not meet this requirement. Contact your plan administrator to ensure you will meet your RMDs.

☐ Review Investment Strategy and Rebalance Accounts

 This has been a down year for the stock market, but do not panic.
 Review your strategy for investments and make any adjustments to it. Also, be sure to rebalance your accounts to match the strategy you desire.

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ANDERSON WINDOWS continued from page 1

with differences is hard but worth it to experience God's grace through each other.

One last thought. When Ian blew through Sanibel Island destroying much in its wake, the church on the island remained as well as the lighthouse. They may have sustained damage but they remained standing. I know as the UMC goes through this current storm, we will survive. We may get "battered and bruised" but we will march forward with "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors." I am proud to be counted in that number.

Dear Investors:

Yes, I addressed you as INVES-TORS—because every gift you make is an investment in the ministry of PASBF. It is a gift that enables us to advance our mission of serving those who served us! Investors believe in the mission and vision and desire to support it to accomplish its purposes. I want to share two ideas as we approach the end of the year.

First, consider contacting us for a free Estate Planning Guide. (https://pasbf-giving.org/?pageID=19) We can email you a 28 page document that enables you to do a comprehensive examination of your assets and desires.

Secondly, as you work through the worksheets, you will look at different ways to honor your loved ones and the ministries that are dear to you. PASBF has a Legacy Society for those who name our organization in their estate planning. There are many ways to do that:

- Dollar Amount
- Percentage
- Remainder
- Specific assets
- Trusts, etc.

If you are interested in becoming an "invested" member of the Legacy Society, email or write me personally. All desires are kept strictly confidential.

May God bless you as you continue to be a partner in our ministry.

Edward R Weston
Director of Development

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Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund P.O. Box 19207 Springfield, IL 62794-9207 edweston69@gmail.com 618-806-6819 (cell) pasbfgiving.org

If your IRA is life's dessert, the thought of being forced to pay taxes on a distribution you would rather not take may leave a sour taste in your mouth.

It does not have to.

May We Help You?

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT REV. EDWARD R WESTON, DIR OF DEVELOPMENT

WE WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTIONS AND WORK WITH YOU AND YOUR ADVISORS.



This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation

There is a sweeter choice. Rather than take the required minimum distribution, call your IRA administrator and ask them to gift all or part of the RMD to PASBF.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

A Sweet

Choice

Make sure the distribution comes directly to our mission and not to you. When you do, you:



You contributed to and saved your IRA all your life. Do not let taxes spoil it. Use your IRA's RMD to support the cause you love. Replace the disappointment of taxes with the delight of helping others.

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☐ Check Flex Spending Account Balance

• These are typically "use it or lose it" tax deductible accounts for health and childcare expenses. Make sure you are on target to spend all of the benefit before you lose it.

☐ Complete Enrollment for Medicare and/or Employer Benefits

• There are deadlines for enrolling in Medicare Plans as well as Employer Benefit Plans. Make sure you meet the deadlines to receive the maximum benefits available.

☐ Review Beneficiaries

NOVEMBER

• Review your beneficiaries on all your retirement savings accounts, bank

accounts, life-insurance policies, and any other Transfer on Death Accounts. Make sure the addresses of the beneficiaries are correct to avoid delay in the benefit.

☐ Review Insurance Policies

Review and check your insurance policies including but not limited to auto, home/renters, life, long-term care, and disability policies. It is a good idea to meet with an agent to ensure you are covered.

☐ Meet with your Financial Planner

• By meeting with a financial planner, you will receive better understand your financial health and develop a plan to strengthen your position.

"What have you been up to?"



This is a question many ask when seeing familiar faces at the retiree gatherings.
While many people

use social media to share their lives, sometimes it's also important to answer this question reflectively. PASBF wants to add your stories and updates to our newsletters and Facebook page. We want to know about your families, your travels, your ways in which you serve those in your church and community. Big or small ways. Local or farther travels.

Birthdays 80+

Anniversaries 50+

Larry & Marilyn J Maffett......11/23/61

Mike & Marcia Eischen11/23/69

Ted & Kathy S Snider11/25/62 J Michael & Mary Robison11/29/69 Nelson & Clara Reiber......11/30/52 DECEMBER Hank & Beverly Crede.......12/17/55 Kenneth & Mary Miller 12/18/54 Bill & Nancy W Zander......12/18/59 Ken & Dorris Dean......12/22/51 Howard & Judith (Judy) Daughenbaugh ..12/22/55 Jimmie & Joanne Lambert 12/22/57 Gilbert & Rose Mary Fletcher 12/23/55 Richard & Roberta (Bobbi) Kerr......12/23/71 John & Victoria Reynolds12/27/61 Wade & Onda Gregory......12/29/59

OVEMBER

Bud Peyton
Brad Watkins, Sr 11/3/42
Jennie Wise 11/3/33
Maurine Seibert 11/4/29
Don Doty 11/6/37
John Wilkey11/6/35
Dick McGuire 11/7/36
Gene Creek 11/8/41
Dennis Beedy
Jerry Divjak11/9/42
Martha Johnson 11/9/16
Nelson Reiber 11/9/32
Ron Cox
Dan Henderson 11/18/41
Louise Chapman 11/19/42
Benita Black
John Fullmer 11/23/41
Lois Mulvany 11/23/26
Marjorie Molloy 11/24/30
Louella Pence 11/25/39
LaVon Bayler 11/26/32
Terrell Johnson11/26/36
Margaret Misal11/28/38
Gary Scheller11/28/38
Judy Medlen 11/29/37
Glen Stewart 11/29/42
Sam Totten11/29/32
Mary Lou Vaughn 11/29/33
Donna Stradley 11/30/34

FCEMBER

Norma Fullmer	12/2/39
Ron Johnson	
Brenda Nance	
LuAnne Wright	
Mary Lou New	
Arthur Greenwood	
Onda Gregory	
ohn Reynolds	
Carol Andricks	
uanita Wolfley	
Dave Gaffron	
Ellen Reed	
Barbara Wilson	12/16/38
Shirley Frick	
Laura Jo Smith	
Dale Best	
Harry Crowcroft	12/20/36
Larry Maffett	12/20/39
Ruth Whitley	12/20/30
Clarice Hollis	12/21/31
Fern Frick	12/22/31
Esther Wartick	12/23/32
Mary Jane Fischer	12/24/32
Marian Root	12/24/25
Peggy Goodwin	12/25/42
Rose Marie Patterson	
Walter Wilkins	12/25/42
Paul Unger	
Russell Ehrhardt	
Oarlene Reiner	
Frances Heddings	12/31/32

Memorials

Pamela SchielerNormal Don JonesBloomington
R. DUANE AMBROSE
Margaret AmbroseEffingham
CECIL ATCHISON James & Sandra HeaneyHerrin
LOIS KATHLEEN BUMPUS Sharon & Ron MonroeFairbury James & Sandra HeaneyHerrin
OWEN CANDLER Allan & Robin Birkey
IRENE CARLTON Louis & Dorothy YoungsRobinson Robert & Linda EdwardsMascoutah
HARRY DEFFLEY
Don JonesBloomington
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GEORGE & VADA DESMOND
George Desmond, Jr
JANET DOANE
Dennis DoaneO'Fallon
ALICE HALE
Clarice Hollis
Brad & Donna Henson
James & Sandra HeaneyHerrin
Robert & Linda EdwardsMascoutah
Murriel & Brenda NanceMt. Vernon
JUDITH ICENOGLE
Larry & Marilyn MaffettBloomington
Rosa N. Showalter Jacksonville
Paul & Mary ArnoldDwight
Jeanne' SimsRochester
Brad & Donna Henson Albion
Carol & Richard RitterFlanagan
Marsha LeppinHuntley
Wm & Marlene Landstrom Bloomington
Lois PalmerO'Fallon
Susan HawbeckerDecatur
Irene GarabrantBloomington
Russ & Karen SmithWashington
John N. KellerFiatt
Sharon & Ron MonroeFairbury Howard
& Judith DaughenbaughBloomington
Ida CandlerGroveland
Sandra IsenburgPekin
Dean & Linda Austin
Sandra & George Burrier Morton
Lisa & James McKenzie Fort Myers Beach FL
Herbert & Suzanne ThompsonKankakee Sharon Colbert GarretsonPontiac
Phil IcenoglePekin
Donna Stradley Kankakee
Domina StracticyRalikakee

ROY ADAMS

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James & Roberta Bortell.

Paul & Dollie LeesBloomington	Howard
SOLOMON JADHAV	& Judith Daugh
Don JonesBloomington	Richard & Randina
_	David & Janet Proe
D.T. KAHL	Donald Geiselman
Susan J. BatesMahomet	Wm & Marlene La
PAUL LEES	Gary & Sharon Da
Judy PrattBloomington	Sharon & Ron Mor
· ·	Don Jones
RON LEIST	Herbert & Suzanne
Scott & Patricia Carlson Indianapolis IN	WILLIA
JANICE LOGSDON	Lois Palmer
Herbert & Suzanne ThompsonKankakee	Don Jones
NANCY MANOR	ELL.
	Jerry Reed
Don ManorHighland	Jerry Reed
NORMAN MENDELL	ROBE
Glen & Susan BocoxGalesburg	Charles & Amy Ku
PHILIP MERRITT	MAR
Lois M. PalmerO'Fallon	New Hope UMC
Larry & Marilyn MaffettBloomington	James & Roberta B
Stephanie MerrittWashington	
Randy & Barbara Waldrip	CHAR
Viola LangBartonville	James & Roberta B
Mary & Stan Wilson Rome City IN	R. P
Marilyn E. Walrich Fort Wayne IN	Carol A. Sims
FRANK NEW	Jeanne' L. Sims
Robert & Linda EdwardsMascoutah	
	FORR Mark & Tina Cana
JOAN NEWSOME	i Mark & Tilla Calla
Robert & Linda EdwardsMascoutah	Vera Slone
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SAR: Gen. Joseph Bartholomew

..Bloomington

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	ELLA JO REED
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	MARTHA SCAFF
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	CHARLES SENSEL
Ja	mes & Roberta Bortell Normal
	R. PAUL SIMS arol A. SimsSpringfield anne' L. SimsRochester
	FORREST SLONE [ark & Tina CanadaMonmouth era SloneVienna
В	B. CLIFFORD SMITH onita J. McQuilkin Magnolia
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W	EVERETT L. WEISS Vilma F. Weiss Dickson TN
	HONORARIUMS
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	hristy Blickensderfer oward & Judy Daughenbaugh
	eith Zimmerman neryle Carpenter
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	eith Anderson len & Susan Bocox
	CHURCHES

Edwardsville St. John's UMC

Fairbury First UMC

Memorials

Fairfield UMC, Port Byron Lancaster UMC Mahomet UMC New Hope UMC, Neponset Staunton First UMC Wesley Chapel UMC

ONGOING

Keith Anderson Max & Patricia Borah Jon & Rochelle Bouse Stephen & Susan Burwell John & Irma Davis George Desmond, Jr. John & Norma Fullmer Brad & Donna Henson Debbie Jadhav Ronald & Angela Johnson John Keller Kathleen Kenyon Gail & Steve Kettelkamp William G. Myers **Daniel Powers** Dennis Price Paul Simpkins Clyde & Nancy Snyder Matthew Stump Diwan & Kamal Tiwade Dave & Linda Trover Ed & Nancy Weston James C. Williams

UNDESIGNATED

Paulette & Greg Cott David Schultz M. Cathy & Mark Najmon Terrell E. Johnson Paul & Diana Copeland Karla Lohnes Allynn Walker Joyce Herriott Mike & Nancy Lane Carole J. Piscatelli Karen Tallman Bruce & Sandra Baumberger Michael Johnsey **Bryan Cummins** Sheri Hill Patrick & K. Elise Rebmann Richard & Cindy Pierce



Pastor Appreciation

At this time of year, we make a point of expressing our appreciation to those who have touched our lives through their ministry, service, and witness. Some have passed from this life to Life Eternal, some are living witnesses in retirement, and some are actively serving our churches. For all of our clergy, named and unnamed, our respect and our profound thanks!

God bless our clergy and their families!

Gifts have been received in memory or honor of the following:

Leroy Pittman, Frank Pierce, William Fester

Ed Weston Roger & Carol Russell

R. Duane AmbroseMargaret Ambrose

Gay King Crede, Janet Eggleston, Rachel Stockle

Sally Hamon

John McIntosh Mike Heaton

Forrest Slone

Mark & Tina Canada Vera Slone

Carl Coker

Irene Coker

Everett Weiss Wilma Weiss

Bill Cummins, Bob Fitts

Cynthia Cummins

R. Paul Sims, Billy G. Hahs, Robert Krause

Carol A. Sims

Les Pruehsner Karen Oplt

Kent & Kathy King-Nobles and Kim Burke Brent & Julie Anderson

D. 1. 475 . 4

Robert Treat

Roderick McLean

William J. Brown
Francis Brown Heddings

Paul Ragsdale & Maurice Winn Dennis Doane

Charles W. Sensel

Sheila Sensel

Franklin Ogdon

Diane Ogdon

Keith Anderson & James Bortell Stephen & Susan Burwell

Grant Armstrong & Retired Pastors St. John's UMC, Edwardsville

Robert L. Shook

Susan Thompson-Shook

Charliam Renner

Linda Trent

Bishop Lance Webb, George Baldridge,
Miley Palmer, Oral Landis,
Claude Mosher, "Lippy" Lippman,
Owen Candler, Jim Barnett Sr.,
Philip Merritt, Mike Kovalcik,
Dick Piscatelli, John McCliman,
Jim White, Lloyd Bumpus,
Willis & Erma Simpson,
Bill Pruett, and Raymond Bjork

Friends and Colleagues now memories

Jerry Reed

Leonard T. Martz

Robert Horath
Eldon & Linda Witzig

Paul Wier & Sharon MonroeFairbury First UMC

Paul Unger & James Fielder
Mary Postlewait

John J. Lauer & Jessica Baldyga Sharon M. Lauer

> **Eugene Leckrone** William & Brenda Braswell

Lowell E. McDowell & Robert Patterson
Marie Patterson

Nancy Hubert & Avis Richardson Staunton First UMC

Don & Darlene Jones, Gary Bass, Art Runyon, Roger Grimmett, Tom & Dodie Brewer, Bryce Hays,

Roger Russell, Cecil Atchison Larry Moreau

> **Jim McClarey** Deborah Helmick

Walter and Emma Smith Sam & Marilyn Totten

Carl Cummins, "Skip" Conrad, Earl Renshaw, Bill Lewis, Bob Edwards

Loretta Cummins

Clyde & Esther Funkhouser
Bonny & Phil Gardner

Jack Travelstead Sharon & Ron Monroe

Tiffany Black

West Olive Faith UMC, Bloomington

Tom & Betty RichardsPhil & Barbara Poe

Julia Abel Luann & Brian Kuehn

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Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund



United Methodist Center Illinois Great Rivers Conference PO Box 19207 Springfield, IL 62794-9207

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Are you ready for Retirement? What do you need to plan for and consider? Can you financially or emotionally afford it? Where will you live? What will you do? What are the steps to proceed with in the process?

Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund can help you work through these questions and more at our annual Pre-Retirement **Seminar** to be held this year at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Mount Vernon.

Bonus: Your personal pension projection will be available for those who register by January 5, AND individual conferencing will be available for the projection and personal retirement concerns.

When? January 19-20 (1:00 Thursday to 12:00 Friday) Where? Double Tree, 222 Potomac Blvd., Mt. Vernon IL Who? Clergy & Spouses who are 10 years or less from retiring

Cost? \$50 individual; \$75 couple. Plus lodging. (\$90, including tax)

(This covers all materials & meals.)

Seminar Registration

Name(s):
Address: ———————————————————————————————————
Phone: E-mail:
Projected date of retirement (this is for projection purposes only and is not binding or public information):
Any dietary or special needs that we should be aware of?
Registering as individual: \$50 ———— As a couple: \$75 ———
Commuting?———Need a room? \$90———(WE WILL make this reservation for you!)
Please return this form, along with your check made out to Preachers' Aid Society, to: PASBF, P.O. Box 19207, Springfield IL 62794-9207

A confirmation e-mail will be sent to you immediately upon receipt and a printed agenda mailed to you a week preceding the seminar. We seek to bring in the best experts to answer your questions and make this time very beneficial for you. Blessings on you in your present ministry and as you seek to prepare for your future.

Any questions? Call Keith or Carol at 217-529-3221, Monday-Friday.

The hotel is wanting room reservations by January 5 so please let us know promptly. Thanks!!