



FALL 2010

CORNERSTONE

Notes

## Church Builder Bonus pays you to give back

*Enjoy a 1.5% bonus rate with this new investment option*

**C**ornerstone Fund investors have always enjoyed earning good rates — and now they can earn a bonus of 1.5% with the new **CHURCH BUILDER BONUS** program. Invest a minimum of \$10,000 in a five-year investment, designate a “give-back” gift of at least 10% to any UCC ministry or organization, and enjoy the bonus on the balance for the entire five-year investment term.

“The **CHURCH BUILDER BONUS** helps build the UCC in three important ways,” explains Gordon Gilles, President of the Cornerstone Fund. “First, all Cornerstone Fund investments help ensure funds are available for loans to UCC churches seeking to improve their facilities and strengthen their ministries. For churches with loans from the Cornerstone Fund, **CHURCH BUILDER BONUS** investments can help the church qualify for an Interest Rate Rebate of up to 1%. And the **CHURCH BUILDER BONUS** offers a third advantage — investors help build their favorite UCC organization by naming that ministry as the recipient of their 10% gift. Investors may choose to allocate their 10% “give-back” contribution to their local

church to fulfill their regular pledge, to a capital campaign, or to any UCC-affiliated ministry or institution.”

The **CHURCH BUILDER BONUS** also helps investors themselves. Individuals or organizations with bank CDs or fixed income investments in their portfolios can choose the **CHURCH BUILDER BONUS** to earn a higher rate of return while still enjoying the tax benefits available on eligible charitable contributions — the Cornerstone Fund will transfer each

investor’s 10% gift *in the investor’s name* to ensure available tax benefits are assigned and acknowledged appropriately.

“The **CHURCH BUILDER BONUS** is a unique investment option, designed especially to build the churches and organizations of the UCC,” says Mr. Gilles. “We look forward to helping investors discern how this new investment can work to build both income and ministry.”

To request a special application, contact the Cornerstone Fund today.



# Rewarding generosity



**Gordon Gilles**

President

Who doesn't enjoy being rewarded? At the Cornerstone Fund, we're in the business of helping build and strengthen churches — and we want to reward investors who share our passion and make possible not just *our* mission, but the mission of the United Church of Christ across the country.

The new Church Builder Bonus represents an innovative approach that benefits both investors and UCC organizations that depend on contributions. For churches engaged in capital campaigns, for instance, individual members/donors can invest in a Church Builder Bonus, designate the “give-back” portion of their investment to the capital campaign, and earn an extra 1.5% bonus rate on the balance of their investment. If the donor's church finances its building project with

a fixed-rate Cornerstone Fund loan, that same investment can help the church earn an interest rate rebate as well!

People have asked us, “Is it really that simple?” Yes, the Church Builder Bonus is pretty uncomplicated —

- make an investment of \$10,000 or more in a five-year Cornerstone Fund note
- designate at least 10% of your investment as a gift to a UCC ministry
- earn a 1.5% bonus on the balance of your investment for the entire five years

Sound interesting? Just call or email us for an application and prospectus and start enjoying your reward!

*Blessings,*

## BUILDING STRONGER CHURCHES

# Ministers & Money

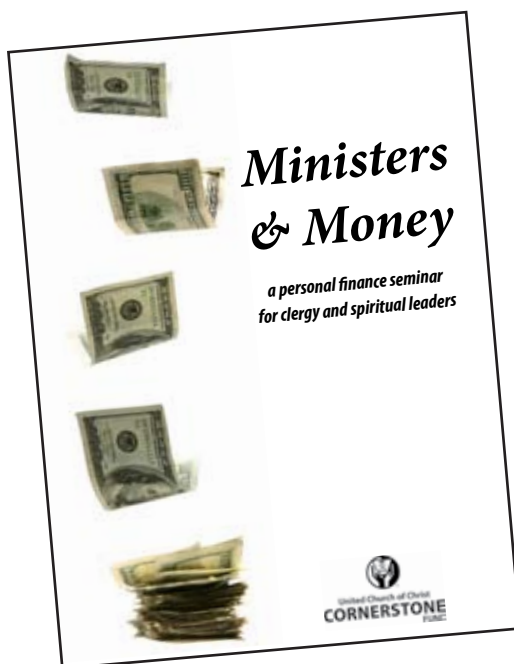
Though Jesus spoke often about money, ministers often find the topic difficult. For many, personal finance has become a center of stress or anxiety. For others, discussion of financial matters — in or out of the church — is just plain confusing.

*Ministers & Money* offers clergy and ministry professionals a comfortable setting in which to build a clear picture of their current financial situation, determine wise priorities and reachable goals, and develop a solid of understanding of financial essentials —

- building an appropriate emergency fund
- managing and reducing debt & using credit wisely
- protecting valued possessions and cherished people
- preparing & investing for a secure future

Presented in an engaging and interactive manner, *Ministers & Money* will reduce your money anxiety, give you new tools for managing your personal finances, and equip you to build a stronger financial future for yourself, your family, and your ministry.

To schedule a *Ministers & Money* seminar for your conference or regional gathering, contact Cheri Lovell at 704-564-5049.



# Got financial controls?

## *Written policies & procedures keep your church's funds safer*

Every month seems to bring a new story of a church or organization that has lost critical funds to embezzlement, bad judgment or unfortunate human error. Ensuring your church develops and maintains a written set of financial policies and procedures can reduce both temptation and loss.

### **Insist on dual controls**

The most fundamental and essential financial control for every church: ensure at least two unrelated people are involved in every financial transaction —

- counting the offering
- reconciling the bank statement
- preparing and signing checks

With two sets of eyes on each financial transaction, the tempted are less likely to steal and the innocent are protected from suspicion.

### **Require term limits**

Generally speaking, a church treasurer should serve no more than one term of three years. Shorter terms provide the church with fresh skills, and help ensure no one gets stuck in the same job for a long time. Consider electing an assistant

treasurer who can learn the procedures and systems, back up the treasurer with shared tasks (and in case of emergency), and be ready to move into the treasurer's role when the treasurer's term ends.

### **Use a computerized accounting program**

Formal programs like QuickBooks® or Church Windows® help prevent mistakes, provide an audit trail for each transaction, and make reporting much easier. The program should be installed on the church's computer (preferably a desktop system) and protected by passwords.

### **Budget for an audit**

Ideally, an audit should be performed each year — but with good controls, an audit every three years allows each new treasurer to enter their role with a “clean” set of books. In the meantime, consider an annual internal audit, or trade audit services with another church in your area.

Want to learn more? Consider hosting a Cornerstone Fund financial seminar — *Making Friends of Church Numbers* or *Church Numbers for Treasurers* — for your conference or regional gathering.



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. Rates may change without notice.



## SUBSCRIBE

for tips, updates & more

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

### **RATES**

A weekly email directly alerting you to the most recent rates on both investments and loans.

### **CHURCH MANAGEMENT**

A brief monthly 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.

[cornerstonefund.org](http://cornerstonefund.org)

## Investment Rates

	Interest Rate	Annual Yield (APY)
<b>Demand Account</b> (Min. Deposit \$50)	0.750%	0.751%
<b>Term Investments</b> (Min. Deposit \$500)		
6 months	1.125%	1.128%
12 months	1.375%	1.380%
18 months	1.625%	1.632%
30 months	2.000%	2.010%
60 months	3.000%	3.022%

Rates are current as of November 16, 2010 and are subject to change without notice. Please see our notice at the bottom of page 3.

## Loan Rates

	Margin & Index	Rate Caps	Current Rate
<b>Adjustable Rate</b> (No Balloon)			
1 year	3.00% US Treasuries	2% / 6%	5.500%
3 years	3.25% US Treasuries	2% / 6%	6.250%
<b>Fixed Rate</b> (Balloon)			
5 years			6.875%
<b>Revolving Line of Credit</b>			
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 16, 2010.



Contact us at the  
Cornerstone Fund

888 – UCC – FUND  
info@cornerstonefund.org

*Investing from the heart. Building for the future.™*



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