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Dr. Charles W. Smith
Conference Treasurer/
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Dear Iowa Conference Pastors and Treasurers

RE: 2009 Annual Statistical Reports

Along with the winter holidays comes the report of the local church statistics. The 2008 Book of Discipline ¶340.2c(2)(f) states that a pastor's responsibility is "to care for all church records, and local church financial obligations, and certify the accuracy of all financial, membership, and any other reports submitted by the local church to the annual conference for use in apportioning costs back to the church." A pastor may fulfill this requirement by ensuring that all statistical information for table one, two and three are completed.

There are some significant changes in each of the Tables this year. *Table One* has tried to clarify some of the definitions being used, and also being more specific when asking about groups within the congregation. *Table Two* will now contain four worksheets instead of three. The worksheet now entitled *Table Two Worksheet A* will ask for assets and liabilities of the church. Most of this information was previously reported on Table One. *Table Three* has been revised to help clarify what should be placed in each income category.

As we have done in the past year, we are asking all churches, if possible to submit their statistical tables online by **Monday, February 22, 2010**. The information printed on the *reverse side of this letter* provides the instruction for this online submission. Our rationale for doing the statistics this way is of course a big cost savings in postage for the Conference and each local congregation. Also, the fewer number of people who do the data entry, the less likely errors will occur.

If it is impossible for you or someone from your congregation to submit your statistics online, please contact Cynthia Davis at 515-974-8920 and she will send to you paper copies of the report.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation by providing this valuable information. Again, remember submission must be completed no later than **February 22, 2010**.

Peace,

Charles W. Smith