



Circuit Rider Dispatch



Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc.

Performance Update

2015 was both a tumultuous and relatively a flat year in the financial markets that basically landed very close to where it started. Despite terrorist attacks and El Nino the market both corrected downward and surged upward before sputtering sideways at year end. The S&P500 finished slightly negative (-.73%) without the dividend. Mid-Cap & Small-Cap stocks were down 2.4% and 4.4% respectively. Developed market international stocks fell .4%, while emerging markets were down hard at -14.9%, the Aggregate Bond Index returned just over 1%.

The Holston Conference Foundation's returns reflect those of the broader market. The Balanced Growth Fund finished -.31%, the Equity Growth Fund -.98%, the Intermediate Income Fund -.52% and surprisingly the Short-Term Income Fund +.56%. For churches and ministries with endowments, years like 2015 remind us of the wisdom and benefit of using the 3 year market value average and a 4% distribution rate. Markets do go down form time-to-time, that is normal, but we stand firm in our long term view and commitment to low cost and diversification as core philosophies for investment success.

As 2016 begins the Foundation would also like to ask for your patience and prayers. Brenda Mills, our long serving and very dedicated Accounts Manager, was unexpectedly hospitalized on December 27. She has endured several surgeries and procedures and will continue on the road to recovery over the next several weeks. The rest of our staff (especially Rita) has rallied to cover Brenda's duties during this difficult period. Despite some expected delays we are adjusting. Please keep Brenda in your prayers and let us know how we might be of service.

Roger Redding
Executive Director



SAVVY LIVING

Paying Income Tax on Social Security Benefits

Will I have to pay federal income taxes on my Social Security benefits when I retire?

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PERSONAL PLANNER

Trusts to Protect Children

Trusts are an excellent way to provide for the support and care of children while protecting them. Two important reasons to create a trust are to care for minor children or [Read More](#)

YOUR PLAN

Linda Bird Wright

The Rev. Linda Bird Wright has been through so much in the last two years, one would expect her to... [Read More](#)

WASHINGTON NEWS

Dr. Ben Carson Proposes a Flat Tax

Following in the path of ten presidential candidates of both parties, Dr. Ben Carson published his proposed tax reform plan on January 5, 2016. [Read More](#)

FINANCES

Stocks - Sonic's Earnings Boom [Read More](#)

Bonds - China Woes Drive Treasuries Down [Read More](#)

CDs and Mortgages - Interests Rates Start 2016 Lower [Read More](#)

IRA ROLLOVER IS PERMANENT!

DID YOU KNOW...

That you can reduce your taxes by making a gift from your IRA to charity? An IRA rollover is a simple and easy way for you to use your IRA to help your local church.

WHAT IS AN IRA ROLLOVER GIFT?

Congress has reauthorized the IRA charitable rollover. This means that if you are 70½ or older you can make a charitable gift of up to \$100,000 from your IRA. Your gift will qualify for your required minimum distribution and you will not have to pay federal income tax on the amount given from your IRA to your church or favorite charity.



AN IRA ROLLOVER MAKES SENSE THIS YEAR!

If you are like many individuals, with the new tax law, you could be paying higher taxes this year. By transferring some of your IRA required distribution to your church, you can lower your taxable income. With lower taxable income, you could reduce your income and capital gains taxes this year. Check with your advisor to see how an IRA rollover gift could impact your taxes while helping the causes you care about.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE A LEGACY

Consider creating an endowment with the Holston Conference Foundation to impact your local church or other United Methodist ministry through a transfer of your IRA to the Foundation. Roger Redding or Paul Bowman will help you envision what a gift of \$25,000 or more can do as a perpetual funding source for the causes you care about. [Click her for endowment ideas](#) or contact the Foundation by clicking [here](#).