

125 YEARS OF BRIDGING THE UNEXPECTED

THE EARLY YEARS

1895



1895 Ira Chase, minister and former governor of Indiana, dies and leaves behind a blind widow and several children with no means of support. A.M. Atkinson forms the Board of Ministerial Relief and raises an initial \$2,165.31 for the purchase of a home owned by Wabash Christian Church for the surviving Chase family members. William R. Warren serves as the initial board president.



1919 The Pension System is inaugurated by the Board of Ministerial Relief. The Pension System would initially provide \$500 per year to 3,663 eligible ministers.

1915

1928 The International Convention approves the development of a new pension plan, closes the Board of Ministerial Relief, and authorizes a new board of trustees, to be named *The Pension Fund of the Disciples of Christ*, tasked with managing both ministerial relief and pensions.

1935



1928 The first elected trustees: C.M. Rodefer,* I.J. Cahill* E.L. Jouett* Oreon E. Scott* Samuel Ashby* W. A. Shullenburger* William R. Warren* Thomas C. Howe* Robert A. Long, Mrs. D. W. Morehouse, Mrs. William F. Rothenburger, A.D. Harmon, Frank Buttram, B.A. McKinney, and J.R. McWane *Pictured (left to right)



1930 A.E. Cory named director of Pension Fund.

1931

The current iteration of the Pension Plan is launched during The Great Depression. In the first nine months, four ministers died, and death benefits were paid.

1955

GROWING AND EXPANDING

1945

Paul Preston named executive secretary of Pension Fund.



1951 Dr. Hollis Turley is named president of Pension Fund. The Supplemental Gifts program begins.

1953

The Student Gift membership program begins.



1954

Pension Plan survivor benefits are increased through family protection plan.

1969

D. Ervin Sheets is named president of Pension Fund upon the retirement and subsequent death of Dr. Hollis Turley.



1971

William Martin Smith is named president of Pension Fund.



1973

The first Special Apportionment is awarded to members.

1983

Lester D. Palmer is named president of Pension Fund.



1993

Pension Fund passes \$1 billion in assets under management.

1996

Art Hanna is named president of Pension Fund.



1999

Pension Fund passes \$2 billion in assets under management.

2004

James P. Hamlett is named president of Pension Fund.



1975

1995

INNOVATING AND EXCELLING

2009

Pension Fund is approved as a Non-Bank Trustee to offer Individual Retirement and Savings Products.

2013

Pension Fund passes \$3 billion in assets under management.

2015

Pension Fund launches the Excellence in Ministry program through its partnership with Lilly Endowment Inc.

2016

Rev. Dr. Todd Adams, a former Associate General Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is named president and CEO of Pension Fund.



2017

Pension Fund opens IRAs and Benefit Accumulation Accounts to members' spouses.

2018

Pension Fund awards members a historical \$144 million in Special Apportionments and Good Experience Credits. Pension Fund Board of Directors approves plan to expand the Ministerial Relief & Assistance program. Pension Fund launches online portals for members and employers which allow for online transactions and additional self-service.

2015

2018

Today

Pension Fund currently manages more than \$3.3 billion in assets, for more than 14,000 members. In 2019, Pension Fund paid out more than \$129 million in annual pension benefits. As of



2020, Pension Fund has paid more than \$2 billion in pension benefits to our members throughout its history and tens of millions of dollars in ministerial relief and assistance.



2020