



WESLEY BY THE SEA

## Because They Serve—A retirement housing initiative for our beloved pastors

Imagine: You are a 60 year old United Methodist pastor considering retirement within the next 2-8 years. You will have a modest pension and Medicare to sustain you in your senior years, but you have no home. Church polity has required you to live in parsonages, homes owned by local congregations, throughout your career. You are grateful for these homes; however with no equity and a salary that has been *adjusted* to account for the fact that your housing has been provided, the parsonage system presents some challenges for your retirement plans. What do you think you would do?

If you are like most retiring pastors, you have two basic options: Seek an extremely affordable rental home for your retirement years, or buy a home by drawing down a significant portion of your pension monies for the down payment, closing costs, and needed repairs. The later choice will give you your own place for the first time ever, but it will also substantially reduce your monthly income as the remaining money is annuitized into your monthly pension check. This is a difficult decision and many pastors simply do not have the resources or the luxury to choose a comfortable home for retirement.

The **Preachers' Aid Society of New England**, a 182 year old foundation dedicated to enriching the lives of retired and active pastors, has begun a program to **offer a third choice**. We have two communities for pastors and spouses beginning their active retirement years — **Wesley Woods** (Gilford, NH) and **Wesley by the Sea** (Wells, ME). These homes offer a secure and affordable opportunity to enjoy retirement in a stable residential community provided by our Society. **We have begun building this vision in ministry, but to complete it we need the help of those of you who have known and loved your pastors throughout your lives. Please consider making your own commitment toward our goal of \$3,000,000 to support this work of love and appreciation for our clergy families. Additional details can be found in brochures located in your church or on our website at <a href="www.preachersaid.org">www.preachersaid.org</a>. <b>We encourage you to give joyfully to this effort in celebration of your most beloved pastors.** Our staff welcome any questions you have and/or the opportunity to speak with you regarding your interest in gifts of appreciated securities. Thank you and please say a prayer for your pastor today!