



To live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We write with news about our 2015 Conference Insurance Plan that we believe will please you. The Trustees have spent the last year listening to you and building upon the important work done in 2014 to improve our Conference Insurance Plan. The goal was to find ways to reduce premiums for local churches while assuring proper levels of protection. To that end, the following changes have been approved for 2015:

- Churches now have the **OPTION** of choosing an 80 percent specific approach or a modified replacement value approach rather than the current 90 percent blanket replacement cost coverage plan. This will allow some churches to realize cost savings.
- Churches are now allowed to drop Inland Marine coverage. This will create additional cost savings where the church determines such coverage is not needed.
- Medical Payment coverage across the board has increased to \$15,000 per person. This is much more coverage than was previously available.
- Most local churches will be able to drop Employment Benefits Liability (EBL) coverage. (IF all of your employee benefit plans are provided through the Conference, you no longer need this coverage.)
- Local churches will be removed from the shared \$1 million Conference-wide umbrella policy. This will result in overall savings of approximately \$150 per church. Some churches may determine that their financial situation makes it prudent for them to purchase their own umbrella coverage with Church Mutual.
- Instead, the Conference has increased General Liability limits for churches to \$2 million per occurrence and \$5 million in aggregate. While this does not exactly replace the coverage provided by the General Liability and Umbrella combination, for most churches it results in increased General Liability protection and in most cases lower net cost. It is strongly suggested by Church Mutual that if you have a Church automobile, day care or numerous youth activities that you purchase additional umbrella liability protection.

A glossary of insurance terms and more detailed information about these changes has been posted to the Trustees section of the Conference website (www.unyumc.org).

If you have not already, you will soon be receiving your first 2015 bill from Church Mutual. Be aware the changes mentioned above will not be implemented until later in the month of January. Please pay your January invoice as you have received it, and subsequent premium change will be shown on future bills.

Also, please keep in mind that several of these potential cost savings require action on your part. To explore your options and make changes, contact your Church Mutual insurance representative at (800) 554- 2642 so that you fully understand these options and how they affect your risk. Your specific representative is highlighted on your 2014 policy.

In addition to these changes, we are continuing the Financial Assistance program for churches that are in need of transitional support. You can learn more about the Financial Assistance program on the Conference website.

Also, we heard your concerns about unresolved valuation disputes and have worked out a possible solution with Church Mutual. Details will be available on the Conference website when they are fully developed.

These changes provide more options for each church's particular situation, provide more appropriate protection, and in most cases provide significant cost savings. Our hope is that this will allow you to focus on the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

It is our responsibility and an honor to serve and support you and your ministry. We are always eager to assist you in any way that we can.

Grace and Peace,

On behalf of the Conference Board of Trustees

Kevin Domanico, Conference Treasurer