



## THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

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### IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

Dear Virginia Annual Conference:

On October 26, 2020, you received a letter with several attachments from the Chancellor for the Virginia Conference as it relates to the Boy Scouts of America (the "BSA") bankruptcy process. On October 27, 2020, CFA voted to approve the payment by the Conference of the attorneys' fees and costs associated with filing a Proof of Claim for each chartering organization within the local church. Some local churches have one charter for the BSA Troop that use their space and some churches have multiple charters for various BSA Troops using their space. A Proof of Claim must be filed for each charter held by the local church.

The Conference highly recommends that you work with the Treasurer's office to complete the forms (those are attached to this letter) necessary to file a Proof of Claim if the local church charters a Troop or has ever chartered a Troop. Even if the local church is unaware of any potential claims against the Troop it currently charters or has chartered, many of us have seen commercials from law firms actively seeking clients who have not yet brought claims. With all the media attention, a claim against the local church could easily be filed in the future. Even closed or discontinued churches should file Proofs of Claim if those closed or discontinued churches held charters for the BSA at one time.

If the local church has a particular lawyer with whom it consults, please do so. If the local church does not have counsel readily available, the Conference has engaged the Bradley Firm of Tampa, Florida to assist in filing Proofs of Claim and other matters on behalf of the local churches. If you wish to work with the Bradley Firm, please complete the attached Board of Trustees Resolution, the Revised Memorandum of Understanding, and the Required Information form and return it, via email, to David Dommissie ([daviddommissie@vaumc.org](mailto:daviddommissie@vaumc.org)) no later than **November 2, 2020**. Also, a revised FAQ provides more information and I have attached it too.

The Board of Trustees needs to decide whether the local church wishes to work with the Bradley Firm, whether the local church wants to consult another bankruptcy attorney, or whether the local church will file a Proof of Claim without seeking legal counsel. **The Conference is not responsible if the local church misses the November 2, 2020 deadline above.** If the local church misses the November 2, 2020 deadline to have the Bradley Firm file the Proof of Claim, then the local church must file the Proof of Claim on their own by **November 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern**. The Chancellor provided the instructions in his letter on October 26, 2020 on how to file a Proof of Claim without using a lawyer.

Peace and Blessings,  
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

Enclosures