



United Methodist Church Minimum Insurance Requirements

Rev. May, 2019

During the 2016 General Conference in Portland, OR, Petition 60158, relating to adequate insurance coverage, was adopted. This Petition amends ¶ 2533.2 in *The Book of Discipline (2012)* and alters the responsibilities of a local church's board of trustees as it relates to their report to the charge conference. The current *Book of Discipline* does not provide for any standards to be made available to assist local church trustees in their annual review of insurance coverages. The paragraph now states:

The board of trustees shall annually compare the existence and adequacy of the church's insurance coverages to an insurance schedule annually published by the General Council on Finance and Administration. The purpose of this review is to ensure that the church, its properties, and its personnel are properly protected against risks. The board shall include in its report to the charge conference (¶ 2550.7) the results of its review and recommendations needed to timely bring the church into compliance with the published schedule.

Typical "a la carte" programs designed for businesses allow churches to pick and choose their coverage, which often leads to gaps in coverage. Churches need a package that covers all of the lines of coverage important to a ministry – i.e., sexual misconduct, employment practices, directors', officers' & trustees, employee benefits liability, and coverage for volunteers. This allows for focus on more important aspects of ministry.

Therefore, in representing the denomination's trust interest, the following minimum insurance requirements are adopted for local churches:

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY & LIABILITY PACKAGE POLICY, to include the following minimum limits:

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Property

- Buildings, Pipe Organs & Contents - Insured to Replacement Value, "Special Risk" Coverage
- All Church buildings should have an updated replacement cost valuation every five (5) years.
- The replacement cost valuation must be updated within 180 days if additional square footage is added.
- A Church building may be insured on an actual cash value basis where replacement cost valuation is not an option available to the Church. The Church should understand that it is being insured on an actual cash value basis and use its best efforts to complete the necessary upgrades and renovations required to qualify for replacement cost valuation coverage.

Liability

• Commercial General Liability	Occurrence	\$1,000,000	Aggregate	\$3,000,000
• Pastoral Counseling Liability	Occurrence	\$1,000,000	Aggregate	\$3,000,000
• Hired and Non Owned Auto Liability	Occurrence	\$1,000,000	Aggregate	\$3,000,000
• Employee Benefits Liability (EBL)	Occurrence	\$1,000,000	Aggregate	\$1,000,000
• Medical Payments		\$10,000		

Sexual Misconduct Liability

• Church Membership of 500+	Occurrence	\$1,000,000	Aggregate	\$2,000,000
• Church Membership under 500	Occurrence	\$250,000	Aggregate	\$500,000
• Crime / Employee Dishonesty	Occurrence	\$25,000		

DIRECTORS' & OFFICERS / EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY, to include the following minimum limits:

- Directors' & Officers \$1,000,000
- Employment Practices Liability – Option 1 \$1,000,000 (including Sexual Harassment)
Required for churches with 500 or more members or any church with a preschool, school, or camp
- Employment Practices Liability – Option 2 \$250,000 (including Sexual Harassment)
For churches with fewer than 500 members that do not have a preschool, school, or camp

UMBRELLA / EXCESS LIABILITY, An Umbrella / Excess Liability policy is suggested for all churches and required for those with a membership of five-hundred (500) or more.

If applicable, this excess policy must extend over Commercial General Liability, Pastoral Counseling, Employee Benefits Liability, Owned Auto, Hired & Non-Owned Auto and Workers Compensation. A higher per occurrence limit may be appropriate based on specific risk characteristics such as church size and/or scope of operations and ministries.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION / EMPLOYERS LIABILITY INSURANCE, as required by state law:

- Bodily Injury by Accident Each Accident \$1,000,000
- Bodily Injury by Disease Policy Limit \$1,000,000
- Bodily Injury by Disease Each Employee \$1,000,000

COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY, applicable only if the church owns an automobile; to include the following minimum limits:

- Limit of Liability \$1,000,000

This change provides guidance and empowerment to local church boards of trustees in ensuring that the assets of the denomination are protected by adequate insurance coverages. [Click here](#) to access the current minimum insurance requirements from GCFA. These dedicated (non-shared) limits provide a starting point for churches as they are entrusted to be good stewards in protecting God's assets.

