

Insurance Committee
Report to the 229th Diocesan Convention

Throughout the course of the past year the Diocesan Insurance Committee met seven times. Our major accomplishment was to rewrite Canon 36 so that it reflected and incorporated current practices and diocesan philosophy. At the same time parts of Canon 40 were incorporated into the revised Canon 36, and the rest of Canon 40 was eliminated. The revised Canon 36 is not included in this report since it occurs in the report of the Constitution and Canons Committee and is recommended for adoption at this convention. We also undertook to amend the Retired Clergy and Lay Health Insurance Benefits Policies document originally approved by our committee in November 2004 to clarify the need for approval of Convention for any change to the Diocesan funding level for retiree health benefits.

The Committee voted to approve for 2013 the renewal of the group life insurance plan with no rate change, the continued offering of the existing six medical plan options through the Church Medical Trust, and the current Delta Dental Plan. Five medical plans (Aetna HMO, United Health Care Choice and Choice Plus, Cigna HMO, and Cigna Open Access), will have an approximate 5.5% rate increase and the Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan will have a 4.2% increase. The Delta Dental Plan will have a 5.2% rate increase guaranteed for two years with an increase in the annual maximum benefit from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

The Committee also discussed recommending to the Bishop the establishment of a committee to oversee the area of property and casualty insurance coverage for member institutions in the Diocese. The need for increased communication and interaction between the Insurance Committee and the Committee for Clerical Compensation, since benefits are an important part of overall clergy compensation. It was noted that the 77th General Convention of our church in July reaffirmed the original implementation date for participation in the Denominational Health Plan to be January 1, 2013, but the period for achieving parity in cost-sharing for healthcare benefits between clergy and lay employees be extended to December 31, 2015.

The chair wishes to express his gratitude to fellow committee members David Mulcahy, Cynthia Miller, and the Reverends Alan Salmon, Jeffrey Kirk, Frank Jago, and William Feus. The committee is also indebted to diocesan staff members Canon Phyllis Jones and Canon John Sosnowski. A special thanks is owed to Paul Ambos and the members of the Constitution and Canons Committee for their tireless work in helping us in the revision of Canon 36. As always invaluable counsel and insight was provided by our consultant Bill Bloor of Smith Benefit Services.

Implementing Resolution

Resolved, that the 229th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey set the percentage of premium cost for the insurance coverages established by Canon 36, Sections 3(a), 3(b), 3(c)(1) and 3(c)(3), as amended by this Convention, at 100%, pending any future resolution of the Convention.

Submitted By,

The Rev. Philip W. Stowell
Chair