

Insurance Commission Report to the 225th Annual Diocesan Convention

The Insurance Commission of the Diocese of New Jersey met twice during 2008. At its September meeting the commission voted to accept the following three renewals for the calendar year 2009: 1.) Life insurance through the Church Medical Trust with no rate change over 2008; 2.) Medical Insurance - a choice of six plans through the Church Medical Trust with an 8% rate increase for all plans except the CIGNA Pos plan, for which there was a 3% decrease from 2008 rates; and 3.) Dental Insurance through Delta Dental with no rate change over 2008.

Two other decisions of note were made by the commission. The commission voted to continue in-force the Standard Prescription drug plan coverage offered by the Church Medical Trust. The decision not to change to the Premium Plan was based on the fact that currently 85% of Medical Trust participants have the Standard Plan, and that switching to the Premium Plan would involve an additional cost of \$10/single and \$23/family per month.

The commission also voted to continue the Delta Dental Plan for 2009 instead of changing to that offered by the Church Medical Trust, even though billing would be simplified by having all three insurance plans (life, medical, and dental) billed through the Church Medical Trust. The reason for not changing at this time was the additional cost of the Church Medical Trust's PPO plan with Orthodontia, which the commission felt would be an unwelcome burden for many smaller parishes, and the fact that the Church Medical Trust plan has a smaller provider network than the Delta plan.

The commission agreed that an actuarial study of deferred benefit obligations relating to health insurance for retired clergy and their widows was not the responsibility of the Insurance Commission.

The issue of the compliance of current practices of handling insurance program finances with Canon 36 requirements, as they relate to billing and collection from member parishes, was reviewed. Further discussion may occur in the future.

I wish to thank the current members of the commission for their commitment and dedication this past year, as well as our valuable consultant, Bill Bloor. Members include the Reverend Debra Brewin-Wilson, the Rev. Alan K. Salmon, the Rev. Frank Jago, the Rev. Canon Lee Powers, Canon Wanda Greene, Ardelle Zervos, Cynthia Miller, and David Mulcahy. The Rev. Elmer Sullivan was an observer.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Philip W. Stowell, Chair
2008 Report