



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
HARRISBURG AREA – SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE

303 Mulberry Drive, Suite 100 • Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-3198  
Phone (717) 766-7871 • Fax (717) 766-3210 • Email: [bishoppark@susumc.org](mailto:bishoppark@susumc.org)

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park

**Christy Mackey**  
Executive Admin. Asst.  
[cmackey@susumc.org](mailto:cmackey@susumc.org)

**Rev. Gregory C. Myers**  
Clergy Assistant  
[gmyers@susumc.org](mailto:gmyers@susumc.org)

**Rev. Dr. Thomas Salsgiver**  
Clergy Assistant  
[tsalsgiver@susumc.org](mailto:tsalsgiver@susumc.org)

**Sarah Filizzi**  
Admin. Assistant  
[sfilizzi@susumc.org](mailto:sfilizzi@susumc.org)

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Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Annual Conference,

Grace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Healer of our Brokenness, and Hope of the World!

**I am writing this letter to you with the utmost urgency. It is critically important you and our churches are aware of the bankruptcy of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the potential affect it may have on churches.** The bankruptcy action was taken because of the claims against the BSA regarding the accusations of sexual abuse.

This action could have liability issues for any local church that is named in the lawsuit. This includes congregations that are now or have ever been a chartering organization for a Boy Scout troop, Cub Scout Pack, Webelos, Blazer Scouts, Venturing Crew, Sea Scouts, STEM Scouts, Explorer post, or other BSA-related program.

If your congregation has ever sponsored or chartered one of the above groups, it is important for you to quickly file a Proof of Claim (POC). This POC will ensure that your congregation's rights to applicable insurance, indemnification, or contributions are preserved.

Upon legal counsel recommendation, I am strongly encouraging congregations that have chartered any of these groups to file a POC immediately. This should be done even if your church does not currently know of any potential claims against it.

**Time is of the essence. The deadline for receiving your request is *November 10, 2020.***

The Susquehanna Conference is offering to assist any of our churches in filing a proof of claim. If your church would like the conference's help, please let us know by filling out the request form at [susumc.org/boy-scouts-bankruptcy-claims/](http://susumc.org/boy-scouts-bankruptcy-claims/). After we receive your request, we will forward it to the Bentz law firm, which is handling these requests for churches in the Western Pennsylvania and Susquehanna Annual Conferences.

*We must receive your request no later than November 10, 2020.* This enables us to meet the court's deadline to receive all forms by November 16.

Churches may file their own proof-of-claim form. The conference's offer to help is optional. Our connectional relationship enables us to assist churches in this way.

As an Annual Conference, we care deeply for any children and youth who may be suffered abuse. We also care deeply to ensure that we follow the guidelines of the bankruptcy court so that victims are heard as well as the assets of a local church are protected.

Please do not neglect this critical filing. Submit your request today so that you do not miss the deadline of November 10, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact your District Superintendent.

I know how much good our churches do in children and youth ministry because of the scouting program. It is devastating that this action must be taken. However, we must be do everything we can to ensure that people and our churches are cared for.

In Ministry with You,

  
Jeremiah J. Park