

ANNUAL REPORT, INSURANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SACKETS HARBOR

To: Clerk of Session, United Presbyterian Church, Sackets Harbor  
From: David B. Geurtsen, Chair, Insurance Oversight Committee  
Date: February 3, 2010

**SUMMARY OF COVERAGE**

I have reviewed the Certificate of Insurance for our church=s property and liability coverage from John S. Willson, LUTCF, our agent in Yarmouth, Mass. The combined building and property **damage limits on the manse and church buildings are subject to a blanket limit of \$856,710, which may be increased by up to 25%, or \$1,000,000, whichever is greater, under certain conditions of the policy pertaining to catastrophic loss. The blanket limit increased by nearly \$58,000 this year.**

A copy of the Certificate of Insurance and policy are maintained in my offices in Watertown, and are available for the review of Session. You will note that premiums for this coverage went down slightly again this year, following trends in the industry, and are currently **\$3,784.00 annually, a decrease of \$217** from the previous year's rate, for the **coverage year, October 1, 2009 through October 1, 2010.** Our coverage is provided under a master policy issued to the Presbytery of Northern New York by GuideOne Mutual Insurance Company.

As in the past, I must advise that the contents of our church are severely underinsured in the event of a catastrophic (ie. serious fire) loss, and that we would be unable to replace our stained-glass windows, bells or organ for the amount of coverage in place(\$50,000, \$55,000, and \$100,000 respectively). Likewise, I have advised in the past and still believe we could not replace our church building for the insured limits on the building, though I believe we could construct a serviceable replacement structure for the policy amount.

We can purchase more coverage for the building(s) and contents, if it is within our means I also note that our boilers were inspected this year, as required by our insurer.

The policy also contains **general liability limits of \$1 million dollars per occurrence** for personal injury claims, director's and officer's liability, with lower limits for certain types of claims against church officers or personnel, with **aggregate liability limits of \$3 Million dollars.** WeThe **deductibles range from \$250 to \$500,** depending on the loss or occurrence. I have a copy of the Evidence of Insurance for reference in the event specific activities, claims and applicable coverage limits need to be reviewed in detail.

**CLAIMS FOR COVERAGE IN 2009**

I am not aware of any claims made against our policy this past year. I ask the Session and our membership to please advise me immediately of any actual or potential claims for 2009

or this year, so that our insurer can be promptly informed as required by our policies.

### **TOPICS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

1. In 2005 the Session adopted policies and procedures for screening volunteers and staff working with church youth, as required our insurance carrier. I would like to remind those involved in our youth ministry that new paid and volunteer youth ministry workers are subject to background screening procedures, under my direction, and thus that I request that new workers submit a screening authorization before they begin any work with our youth.

2. Three years ago we instituted the use of Facility Use Agreements, and in some cases required proof of additional insurance, when our property was used for outside organization's events, such as the Historical Society summer concert series. We continue to see requests for the use of our facility from outside groups. While the use of the church by outside groups presents great community outreach opportunities, I urge the Session to continue the practice of obtaining use request forms and proof of insurance from former and new users of our facilities for my review well in advance of the planned uses/events.

I am happy to continue serving as the Insurance Oversight Chair for the coming year, and am happy to answer any questions arising from this report, or any other insurance related issues of interest to the Session.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Geurtsen, Elder