Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped and sent to transform lives, communities, and the world.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

IF YOUR CHURCH HAS <u>EVER</u> CHARTERED OR SPONSORED A BOY SCOUT TROOP, CUB SCOUT PACK OR VENTURING CREW, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, WHICH REQUIRES YOUR RESPONSE NO LATER THAN <u>NOVEMBER</u> **5, 2020**.

Earlier this year, the Boy Scouts of America ("BSA") filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware to address the growing number of sexual abuse claims made against it. The bankruptcy process is intended to allow BSA to deal with these claims, while continuing its operations.

BSA operates scouting units through "Chartered Organizations," pursuant to agreements between the organization and a Local Council. Many of your Churches currently or have previously served as Chartered Organizations. Historically, BSA has provided some level of insurance coverage to Chartered Organizations. Therefore, a Church's rights may be impacted by the bankruptcy process, even if the Church has not been threatened with a lawsuit at this time.

If your Church is now or has ever been a Chartered Organization, a Proof of Claim should be filed in the bankruptcy case to preserve the Church's claim. Your Church may lose valuable rights if it fails to timely file a Proof of Claim. If your Church already knows of a specific claim that may be, or has been filed against it relating to an allegation of sexual abuse associated with the Boy Scouts, we strongly recommend that you consult with an attorney immediately.

The "Bar Date," or final deadline, for filing proofs of claim in the BSA bankruptcy case is quickly approaching. This deadline applies to any claim against BSA including claims that Churches could have for indemnification, contribution, or insurance coverage. If your Church was at any time, or is now a Chartered Organization, your Church may be named as a defendant in future litigation based on its operation of a Scouting unit. Even though such litigation has not yet been, and may never be filed, your Church has a "contingent and unliquidated" claim against BSA for the undetermined amount of damages that might be awarded in a claim that may be asserted against your Church.

The law firm of Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP has agreed to assist local Churches by filing proofs of claim on behalf of any local Church in the Arkansas Conference that is or has ever been a Chartered Organization for the Boy Scouts. There is no cost to the local church for this legal service but to use this service, you must complete the attached Information Request and Authorization to indicate you authorize the Friday Firm to file a proof of claim on your Church's behalf. Filing a Proof of Claim does not guarantee any payment should a claim exist or a future claim arise; however, failure to file a Proof of Claim by November 16, 2020, will bar the Church's recourse against BSA should a claim exist or arise related to sexual abuse that occurred before the bankruptcy case was filed on February 18, 2020.

This matter requires your urgent action and response before November 5, 2020. If the Authorization is not received by November 5, 2020, your Church will be responsible forpreparing and filing its own Proof of Claim no later than the November 16, 2020, Bar Date.

Attorney <u>Lindsey Emerson Raines</u> has been retained to assist in the limited scope of preparing and filing the Proofs of Claim. If you would like to engage the Friday Firm to represent your Church in the BSA bankruptcy case beyond this limited scope, you may contact Ms. Raines directly to further discuss any legal services needed. Questions may be directed to Ms. Raines at 501-370-3302.

Grace and Peace,

Michelle Ator, ARUMC Chancellor

Lime Ho

Todd Burris, ARUMC Director of Administrative Services

Polk, ARUMC Director of Connectional Ministries

INFORMATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR LEGAL SERVICES

١.	DISTRICT.	
2.	Church Name:	
3.	GCFA Number:	
4.	Church Physical Address:	
5.	Church Mailing Address:	
6.	Does your church currently charter a Boy Scout Troop, Cub Scout Pack, or Venturing Crew?	
	Yes	No
7.	Troop or Pack Name and/or Number:	
8.	Did your church previously charter a Boy Scout Troop or Cub Scout Pack?	
	Yes	No
9.	Previous Troops or Pack Names and/or Numbers:	

- 10. The Board of Trustees of the above-mentioned church authorizes Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP to file a Proof of Claim in Case No. 20-10343 in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware ("Bankruptcy Court") on behalf of the church using the information provided herein, all of which is true and correct to the best of undersigned's knowledge. The claim is based on the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) potential obligation to provide insurance coverage, indemnification and contribution to the church under BSA's policies of general liability insurance, and all other agreements, documents, and laws providing such rights to the church.
- 11. This engagement does not include any representation in connection with the bankruptcy case beyond filing the proof of claim. By signing below, the Board of Trustees acknowledges and agrees this is a limited scope of representation and understands that Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP has been retained only to assist individual local United Methodist Churches in filing their Proofs of Claim in the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy, which is pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (Case No. 20-10343). If a local Church seeks to expand the scope of engagement to other matters in connections with the bankruptcy case, including actions related to the defense of and negotiations related to this claim, the local church must contact Lindsey Emerson Raines directly to discuss terms of a separate agreement.
- 12. Names of Board of Trustee Members:

13. Name of Church secretary or other contact person designated to receive Notices from Bankruptcy Court on behalf of the local church:	
Name:	
Title:	
E-mail Address:	
Phone Number:	
am the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees and am authorized to execute this agreement on behalf of the local church.	
Printed) Chairperson of the Board of Trustees	
Signature) Chairperson of the Board of Trustees	
E-mail Address:	
Phone Number:	

THIS COMPLETED FORM MUST BE EMAILED TO LINDSEY EMERSON RAINES AT LRAINES@FRIDAYFIRM.COM
NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 5, 2020.