



“From Where I Sit ...”

The Expanded Key Person Insurance Plan!

Twenty-Five years ago, the CME Church established a Key-Person Insurance Plan and funded it at the Connectional Level for Bishops and General Officers as a model for local churches to insure the life of their pastors and employed lay persons. Due to the costs at that time, the local church initiative failed to follow the model.

However, three years ago, under the leadership of Bishop Kenneth W. Carter, the Sixth Episcopal District joined with the Connectional program in a remodeled Plan with Unum Insurance Company that saw the plan grow from 25 insured persons to over 250. During this time, the Sixth Episcopal District received from five claims over \$600,000 that was shared with the beneficiaries of deceased ministers. *(There were no deaths in the Connectional Plan during this period.)*

After the three successful years of partnering with the Sixth Episcopal District, the Connectional Plan is currently expanding nationwide and offering benefits of \$100,000 and \$50,000 with allocated annual costs of \$990 and \$590 respectively. What is notable about this Plan is that as a group term program, it is offered on a **“guaranteed issue”** basis (*meaning no medical questions*). Also, there is no waiting period! New enrollees are insured from day one of enrollment!

In addition to a life benefit, the Plan offers a double indemnity benefit for accidental death and a dismemberment benefit for loss of eyesight or limbs.

To be eligible to enroll in this Plan, a participant must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Be under the age of 71 (*the amount of coverage and costs are automatically reduced by 50% on the 1st day of the month following the insured’s 75th birthday*).
- 2) Be continuously employed by the CME Church working 20 hours per week, i.e.:
 - a. Clergy – must be a presiding elder or pastor receiving a salary.
 - b. Laity – must be employed by a local church (*or the connectional church*) and receiving a salary.
- 3) Be willing to pay (or have paid) a yearly allocation either annually (in January) or semiannually (in January and July – a \$20 installment fee will apply). Costs may be prorated for persons enrolling at other times.

Automatically included in this Plan is a \$10,000 minimum benefit for the Employer/Administrator at no additional cost.

Persons interested in this Plan may request the necessary enrollment documents from the General Board of Personnel Services by calling (901) 345-4100 or via email at GBPSKeyPerson@gmail.com. With such a low cost, guaranteed issue benefit that is only available to the ministers and employed laity of the CME Church, it is doubtful a better plan can be found elsewhere. *Or at least that’s the way it looks to me...*

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(Copies of earlier articles may be found on the

Personnel Services Webpage of the CME Website at www.thecmechurch.org)