

TIME-SENSITIVE IMPORTANT NOTICE

YOUR URGENT RESPONSE IS REQUIRED BY NOVEMBER 11, 2020

On February 18, 2020, the Boy Scouts of America (“BSA”) and its affiliate, Delaware BSA, LLC, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in a case styled *In re Boy Scouts of America and Delaware BSA, LLC*, case no. 20-10343, pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. BSA filed their bankruptcy case to address the significant liability it faces from sexual abuse claims asserted (or to be asserted in the future) by Scouts and former Scouts.

BSA, which has numerous affiliated Local Councils, ultimately operates through organizations authorized to host scouting units as “Chartered Organizations.” Many of the churches in The Western PA Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (“WPAUMC”) currently serve, or have served, as a BSA Chartered Organization. Historically, BSA has indemnified, reimbursed, insured against, or otherwise covered any sexual abuse claims asserted by Scouts against Chartered Organizations. It is too early in the bankruptcy case to tell how the claims of Chartered Organizations will be addressed and what types of protections, if any, Chartered Organizations will be provided with respect to any abuse claims that may be asserted by Scouts in the future. **However, in order to preserve its rights to participate in the bankruptcy case and any valuable rights that may be afforded to Chartered Organizations, it is necessary for EACH Chartered Organization (local church) to file what is known as “proof of claim” in the BSA bankruptcy case.**

The Bar Date, or final deadline, for filing proofs of claim in the BSA bankruptcy case is November 16, 2020.

If your church was at any time, or is currently, a Chartered Organization for the Boy Scouts, then your church may potentially be named as a defendant in future litigation as the result of its operation of a Scouting unit. Even though such litigation has not yet been, and may never be, filed, your church has what is considered a “contingent and unliquidated” claim against BSA for the as yet undetermined amount of damages that might be awarded in future Scouting-related abuse claims asserted against your church. **If your church was at any time, or is currently, a Chartered Organization, you should file a proof of claim in the bankruptcy case with the court-appointed claims agent in order to preserve the church’s claim and protect the church’s rights. If your church is or has been a Chartered Organization, your church may lose valuable rights if it fails to timely file a proof of claim in the BSA bankruptcy case by the November 16, 2020 Bar Date for filing proofs of claims.**

To facilitate the proof of claim filing process, WPAUMC retained Bentz Law Firm, P.C. to file proofs of claim on behalf of any church in the Western PA Annual Conference that is or has been a Chartered Organization for the Boy Scouts. To have Bentz Law Firm file a contingent and unliquidated proof of claim on your church’s behalf in the BSA bankruptcy case regarding Scout abuse claims, then **NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 11, 2020** you **MUST** [visit the Western PA Conference website \(www.wpaumc.org/FinanceAnnouncements\)](http://www.wpaumc.org/FinanceAnnouncements), follow the link that says “BSA Proof of Claim Authorization”, and indicate that you authorize Bentz Law Firm to file a proof of claim on your church’s behalf. **If your church does not authorize Bentz Law Firm to file a proof of claim, Bentz Law Firm will not file a proof of claim on your behalf.**

If you have any questions about this procedure, please contact Attorney Len Spagnolo, Bentz Law Firm, P.C., at lspagnolo@bentzlaw.com.
