



Richard A. VanGiesen
Conference Treasurer & Benefits Officer
Illinois Great Rivers Conference of The United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794-9207
Phone 217-529-2132, Fax 217-529-4107, RVanGiesen@igrc.org

June 19, 2009

To: Local Churches, Pastors, Church Treasurers
From: Rick VanGiesen, Conference Treasurer
Re: **Attorney General Registration under the Charitable Trust and Solicitation for Charity Acts**

Dear Friends:

The Illinois Attorney General in order to help protect the public from entities which purport to be charitable organizations, but which in reality are not, requires all charitable organizations, including churches, to register their name with the Illinois Attorney General's Charitable Trust Bureau and submit certain information to that Bureau which serves to validate their respective charitable nature.

In order to ensure that all local United Methodist Churches located within the geographic boundaries of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference are deemed to be in compliance with this law, the Conference Treasurer's office with the assistance of the Conference Chancellor recently notified the Illinois Attorney General's Charitable Trust Bureau of the names and addresses of every United Methodist Church located within the boundaries of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and established to the Attorney General's satisfaction the charitable purposes of all local churches affiliated with the United Methodist denomination.

As a result of these efforts, individual registration by your local church with the Illinois Attorney General's Charitable Trust Bureau is no longer required. Your church is now deemed to be in compliance with these laws due to its status as a United Methodist organization with relationship to our Annual Conference.

Some local United Methodist churches have previously individually registered with the Illinois Attorney General's Charitable Trust Bureau. The actions taken by the Conference Treasurer's office described above have no impact on those registrations. Those local churches will continue to be reflected in the Illinois Attorney General's records as individually registered charitable organizations.

If, however, your church has never registered with the Attorney General's office, your church as a result of the action described above need not make an individual registration going forward. The Illinois Attorney General is now aware of your Church's existence and its charitable nature. To the extent proof of your Church's registered charitable status is required, please refer the individual seeking proof to the Office of the Attorney General, Charitable Trust Bureau, and reference charitable organization blanket registration CO#01055875.

If you do not know whether or not your church is already registered with the Attorney General, you can look up the information on the Internet at:

<http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/charities/index.html>

You may need to try several different permutations of your church's name or former name.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Rick VanGiesen