



## Mountain Sky Conference The United Methodist Church

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Wyoming District

**Chris Carr**  
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Trinity District

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District Superintendent  
Peaks Pikes Peak District

**Elizabeth McVicker**  
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Utah/Western Colorado  
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**Jessica Rooks**  
District Superintendent  
Metro Mile High District

**Jan Witman**  
District Superintendent  
Montana West District

**Mountain Sky Conference of  
The United Methodist Church**  
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TO: ALL LOCAL CHURCHES IN THE  
MOUNTAIN SKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FROM: BISHOP KAREN OLIVETO  
CONFERENCE TREASURER, ANGELA THOMAS  
CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR, RICHARD A. MARSH

DATE: OCTOBER 2020

**URGENT AND IMPORTANT: IF YOUR CHURCH HAS EVER CHARTERED OR HOSTED A BOY SCOUT TROOP, CUB SCOUT PACK OR VENTURING CREW, YOU NEED TO IMMEDIATELY READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, WHICH INCLUDES A FILING DEADLINE OF NOVEMBER 16, 2020.**

Earlier this year, the Boy Scouts of America (“BSA”) filed for bankruptcy to protect itself against a growing number of sexual abuse claims made against it. This bankruptcy process would allow the BSA to deal with these claims – they would be paid from a victim’s compensation fund – and still continue its operations. As is typical in bankruptcy proceedings, the court has established a “Bar Date,” which is the deadline for potential creditors to file claims against the BSA (the debtor). The Bar Date in this case is **November 16, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. eastern time.**

This deadline does not only apply to claims of potential victims, but also to any other individual or entity that may have a related claim against the BSA, **including chartered organizations** that have, or potentially could have, claims for indemnification, contribution, or insurance coverage. This is a critical piece of information for our denomination, as United Methodist local churches make up the largest collection of chartered organizations in the country. And given that the BSA has provided some level of insurance coverage to chartered organizations for approximately 35 years, the rights/interests of a United Methodist local church that is currently, or was previously, a chartered organization may be impacted by this bankruptcy process, even if it has not yet been threatened with a lawsuit related to its current or former troop.

If your church has ever chartered or hosted a Boy Scout troop, Cub Scout Pack or Venturing Crew in the past, or if it hosts one of these now, it should file a “Proof of Claim” with the court by the November 16, 2020 Bar Date. Again, even if you do not know today of any potential claim against your church, your church should still file a Proof of Claim. If your church ~~does not~~ does not file a Proof of Claim by the Bar Date, and a claim is later filed against your church relating to sexual abuse that occurred before February 18, 2020, the BSA and its insurance companies are likely to refuse to participate in the resolution of the sexual abuse claim. This

would leave the local church as the primary and likely sole defendant in the sexual abuse lawsuit.

Filing a Proof of Claim does not guarantee payment should a future claim arise. **However, failure to file a Proof of Claim now will bar any recourse against BSA should a future claim arise relating to sexual abuse that occurred before February 18, 2020.**

IMPORTANTLY, the annual conference cannot file Proofs of Claim on behalf of local churches. Instead, **your local church must file its own Proof of Claim with the Bankruptcy Court.**

### **HOW TO FILE YOUR PROOF OF CLAIM:**

There are two way to file a Proof of Claim – online or U.S. mail. Remember that your Proof of Claim must be **received** on or before the Bar Date at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

#### **ONLINE:**

- Google “[BSA file proof of claim online](#)”
- Click on “[Boy Scouts of America-Standard Claim Form-Our Cases](#)”
- Click on the “[General Proof of Claim Form](#)” link
  - Fill out the PDF and save it on your computer
- Scroll down to “[Submit a Claim Online](#)”
- Follow the instructions to submit the PDF you saved. **This requires you to create an account and password.** Once you have created your account, log into it and submit the PDF.

#### **U.S. MAIL:**

Boy Scouts of America Claims Processing  
c/o Omni Agent Solutions  
5955 De Soto Ave., Suite 100  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Once your church has completed and submitted its Proof of Claim, **please let the conference know it has done so by [instructions on who to email or call]**. Having a complete list of churches that have filed Proof of Claims will be important as the bankruptcy proceeding moves forward. Thank you for attending to this important matter.

Thank you for attending to this important matter.

Bishop Karen Oliveto

Conference CFO

Conference Chancellor

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Bishop Karen Oliveto

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Angela Thomas

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Richard A. Marsh

This communication is intended solely to provide information to local churches about an important issue. By sharing this information, the conference is not engaged in providing legal advice, and no attorney-client relationship has been created. If your local church determines it needs legal advice on this issue, it should seek the services of a licensed attorney.

## LINE-BY-LINE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT PROOF OF CLAIM

Attached to this letter is a SAMPLE Proof of Claim intended to provide guidance for your church to fill in the blanks in the Proof of Claim form. What follows is a line-by-line description of what is in the Proof of Claim form and how to complete it.

<b>Box in upper left hand corner of page 1d:</b>	Select the box beside "In re Boy Scouts of America, Case No. 20-10343 (LSS)"
<b>Line 1: Who is the current creditor?</b>	Insert the name of your local church.
<b>Line 2: Has this claim been acquired from someone else?</b>	Select "No"
<b>Line 3: Where should notices and payments to the creditor be sent?</b>	Insert the address and responsible person of your church (e.g., ("Treasurer, ABC UMC"))
<b>Line 4: Does this claim amend one already filed?</b>	Select "No"
<b>Line 5: Do you know if anyone else has filed a proof of claim for this claim?</b>	Select "No"
<b>Line 6: Do you have any number you use to identify the debtor?</b>	Select "No"
<b>Line 7: How much is the claim?</b>	Enter "UNKNOWN" and select "No" as to whether this includes interest
<b>Line 8: What is the basis of the claim?</b>	Enter "INDEMNIFICATION UNDER CHARTER AGREEMENT"
<b>Line 9: Is all or part of the claim secured?</b>	Select "No" and move on to Line 10
<b>Line 10: Is this claim based on a lease?</b>	Select "No"
<b>Line 11: Is this claim subject to a right of setoff?</b>	Select "No"
<b>Line 12: Is this claim for the value of goods received...?</b>	Select "No"
<b>Line 13: Is all or part of the claim entitled to priority under 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)?</b>	Select "No"
<b>Person completing the proof of claim?</b>	Select "I am the creditor"

**LAST STEP**  
**AFTER YOU HAVE FILED THE PROOF OF CLAIM,  
PLEASE LET THE CONFERENCE KNOW  
THAT YOU HAVE FILED THE CLAIM.**

Send email to: Angela Thomas  
Conference CRO  
[athomas@mtnskyumc.org](mailto:athomas@mtnskyumc.org)

Or call: Angela Thomas  
Conference CFO  
(303) 325-7051