



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

July 1, 2024

Pastor, SPRC Chair, Finance Chair:

Greetings; I pray you are doing well and will find time for vacation/renewal this summer.

As the new appointment year starts, I want to take this opportunity to highlight several billing items you may see on your billing statement. While some/all of these may not be applicable now, you could see them in the future particularly with the upcoming new pension program, Compass, which I will further explain below. Please take the time to review this in full.

A detailed description of all billing items is attached and will be posted on our website as in the past. I want to highlight the following items:

- **Participant Premium**
- **Vision**
- **Cigna**
- **FSA/HSA**

Unlike other billing expenses (property insurance, workers comp, etc.) that are paid through the church's operating budget with income from tithing, rent or other sources, these are optional benefit expenses that are the Pastor's responsibility to cover through payroll deductions. These options are selected by the pastor during Annual Election, which is typically two weeks in November of each year. The Finance Chair, or person responsible for payroll, is to make the deductions and pay the billings using the normal remittance form. It is critical everyone understands this differential and process as unpaid bills could result in loss of the Pastor's benefits.

While 2026 may seem like a long way off, the new UMC pension plan, Compass will begin in January 2026. If you are currently unfamiliar with payroll deductions like the examples above, I encourage you to speak with your payroll provider and/or an accountant to become familiar as nearly every Pastor will have a payroll deduction with this new plan and we will be following the same billing process. We will be communicating more information over the next 18 months as we prepare for this significant change in the pension program. Please be on the lookout for information via email, the Digest, Information Sessions, etc.

In the meantime, if you have any questions/concerns about any of the information above, please reach out to Alexa Taylor (ataylor@gnjumc.org; 732-359-1038) or myself (rzuckerman@gnjumc.org; 732-359-1030).

Thank you.

Blessings,
Rob Zuckerman
CFO/Treasurer