



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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15087

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Dublin, OH 43017

<<Name 1>>
<<Address 1>>
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<<Country>>

May 10, 2019

Dear <<Name 1>>:

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) is writing to inform you of an event that may affect the security of some of your personal information. We take this incident very seriously. As a precaution, we are providing you with information and access to resources so you can protect your personal information, should you feel it necessary.

The confidentiality, privacy and security of your personal information is one of our highest priorities. GBHEM has been and is taking steps to prevent this type of incident from happening in the future.

As a safeguard, we have arranged for you to enroll, at no cost to you, in an online credit monitoring service (*myTrueIdentity*) for two years provided by TransUnion Interactive, a subsidiary of TransUnion,® one of the three nationwide credit reporting companies.

How to Enroll: You can sign up online or via U.S. mail delivery

- To enroll in this service, go to the *myTrueIdentity* website at www.MyTrueIdentity.com and, in the space referenced as "Enter Activation Code," enter the 12-letter Activation Code <<Activation Code>> and follow the three steps to receive your credit monitoring service online within minutes.
- If you do not have access to the Internet and wish to enroll in a similar offline, paper-based credit monitoring service, via U.S. mail delivery, please call the TransUnion Fraud Response Services toll-free hotline at **1-855-288-5422**. When prompted, enter the six-digit telephone passcode <<Insert Telephone Pass Code>> and follow the steps to enroll in the offline credit monitoring service, add an initial fraud alert to your credit file, or to speak to a TransUnion representative if you believe you may be a victim of identity theft.

You can sign up for the online or offline credit monitoring service anytime between now and <<Enrollment Deadline>>. Due to privacy laws, we cannot register you directly. Please note that credit monitoring services might not be available for individuals who do not have a credit file with TransUnion or an address in the United States (or its territories) and a valid Social Security number. Enrolling in this service will not affect your credit score.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 24-MONTH COMPLIMENTARY CREDIT MONITORING SERVICE:

- Once you are enrolled, you will be able to obtain two years of unlimited access to your TransUnion credit report and credit score.
- The daily credit monitoring service will notify you if there are any critical changes to your credit file at TransUnion, including fraud alerts, new inquiries, new accounts, new public records, late payments, changes of address, and more.
- The service also includes access to an identity restoration program that provides assistance in the event that your identity is compromised and up to \$1,000,000 in identity theft insurance with no deductible. (Policy limitations and exclusions may apply.)

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft, to review your account statements and to monitor your credit reports and explanation of benefits forms for suspicious activity. Under U.S. law, you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. You may also contact the three major credit bureaus directly to request a free copy of your credit report.

You have the right to place a "security freeze" on your credit report, which will prohibit a consumer reporting agency from releasing information in your credit report without your express authorization. The security freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a security freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in your credit report may delay, interfere with or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a security freeze on your credit report. Should you wish to place a security freeze, please contact the major consumer reporting agencies listed below:

Experian PO Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com/freeze/center.html	TransUnion P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016 1-888-909-8872 www.transunion.com/credit-freeze	Equifax PO Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788 1-800-685-1111 www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services
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In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Your full name (including middle initial and Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. If you have moved in the past five (5) years, the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.);
7. If you are a victim of identity theft, a copy of either the police report, investigative report or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft.

The credit reporting agencies have one to three business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit file report, based upon the method of the request. The credit bureaus must also send written confirmation to you within five business days and provide you with the process by which you may remove the security freeze, including an authentication mechanism. Upon receiving a direct request from you to remove a security freeze and upon receiving proper identification from you, the consumer reporting agency shall remove a security freeze within one hour after receiving the request by telephone or within three business days after receiving the request by mail.

As an alternative to a security freeze, you have the right to place an initial or extended "fraud alert" on your file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a one-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any one of the agencies listed below:

Experian P.O. Box 2002 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com/fraud/center.html	TransUnion P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016 1-800-680-7289 www.transunion.com/fraud-victim-resource/place-fraud-alert	Equifax P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348 1-888-766-0008 www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services
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Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy.

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, security freezes and the steps you can take to protect yourself by contacting the consumer reporting agencies, your state Attorney General or the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC can be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20580; www.identitytheft.gov; 1-877-ID-THEFT (877-438-4338); and TTY: 866-653-4261. The FTC encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. You can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should be reported to law enforcement, the FTC, and the Massachusetts Attorney General.

We understand that you may have questions about this incident that may not be addressed in this letter. If you have additional questions, or need assistance, please call 855-424-0791, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Central Time.

We sincerely apologize for this incident and regret any concern or inconvenience this may have caused you.

Sincerely,



Allyson Collinsworth
Executive Director, Loans and Scholarships
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry