

September 2016

2017 UCC Medical and Dental Benefits Plan Rate Announcement

We hope this letter finds you in good health, and in peace.

Thank you for being a part of the UCC Medical and Dental Benefits Plan, which assists thousands of clergy and lay employees, and their eligible dependents, in meeting ever-increasing healthcare costs.

We are pleased to report that the Plan is in a stable financial position, with adequate reserves to cover unexpected high claims and contingencies. The Plan also continues to benefit from the purchasing power created by group purchasing partnerships with the health benefit plans of other denominations.

For the 2017 Plan Year, the Non-Medicare Plan and the Medicare Supplement Plan with Rx will experience a rate increase of 9%. There is No Change to Deductibles and Pharmacy Co-Pays. This rate action reflects the increased use of medical services by our members and the increased cost of medical care, including increased costs associated with specialty medications. Individual contribution rates will vary, depending upon changes to tier and/or age bands as of January 1, 2017.

Rates for the Vision and Dental Plan will remain unchanged from 2016 levels.

Please note the following benefit enhancements for the 2017 Plan Year:

- Opposite-Gender Domestic Partners: the UCC Medical Plan will expand its eligibility guidelines to include coverage for opposite-gender domestic partners. Applications will be available on November 1, 2016 for coverage that begins January 1, 2017. Visit www.pbucc.org for more information.
- New Mental Health/Behavioral Health Vendor/Partner: Effective January 1, 2017, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield will become the mental health/behavioral health vendor/partner for the UCC Medical Plan, replacing Beacon Health Options (formerly known as ValueOptions). Look for more information in the coming months.
- New Identification Cards: with the transition to Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield as our mental health/behavioral health vendor partner, all Non-Medicare Plan participants will be mailed new identification cards.

Specific contribution rates will be sent to churches/employers and participants in early Fall. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at **1.800.642.6543, ext. 2806** or by e-mail at floiacono@pbucc.org.

Sincerely,



Frank Loiacono
Director, Health Plan Operations