



GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH HEALTHFLEX ENROLLMENTS

As deadlines approach for some UMC annual conferences to cancel the health insurance for pastors who have withdrawn from the UMC, it is understandable that folks are getting nervous about being covered for health insurance on their first day of appointment in the Global Methodist Church.

We hope that explaining the process for enrollment will help to allay some of those fears. **You will be covered on and from the date that you set on your HealthFlex enrollment form.**

Global Methodist Church pension and health benefits are only available to GM church pastors who are appointed to GM member churches (and approved extension ministries).

For us to even submit a health insurance form to Wespath, the following steps must be completed in order:

1. You notify your conference - in writing - of your withdrawal date.
2. Your conference benefits officer is notified internally and inputs your withdrawal into Wespath's database.
3. Wespath moves your membership and pension accounts over from UMC to GMC. This process can take 2 or 3 weeks after the completion of step # 2.
4. Wespath notifies the GMC Benefits Office when your Benefits Access account is ready for our final inputs.
5. The GMC Benefits Office submits your health insurance enrollment form to Wespath.
6. Wespath then processes the enrollment and orders your cards. Delivery of cards to you can take another 2 to 3 weeks after Wespath places its order. The GMC has no control over the time it takes from when Wespath order your cards until their delivery to you.

Wespath set up this process because getting the steps out of order caused unfavorable repercussions in their systems, including inadvertently cancelling the insurance of pastors who were enrolled early in the plan.

A delay in any of these steps will cause a delay in the receipt of your cards. Most of the delays occur in step #2 and step #3. Your GMC Benefits Office has no control over those steps.

Generally, a UM Conference Benefits Officer will record your withdrawal in Wespath's database on the last day of the month that you were a member of that conference. So, for instance, even if you were recognized as withdrawing on June 8, your conference membership will not be terminated in Wespath's database until June 30. You want it this way because cancelling your membership early will result in your insurance being cancelled before the end of the month.

However, neither Wespath nor the GMC Benefits office can process your transfer of membership (step #3) until you are released from the UMC.

Even though there is a delay inherent in this process, you are still covered from the enrollment date on your form. It is likely that in the current environment, we will enroll you retroactively to the date of your appointment.

If you have an emergency need on or after your enrollment date, call the Health Team at 1-800-851-2201 option 2. Sometimes they can issue a temporary card. If not, and you have to pay for a procedure, you can file a claim on the plan when you receive your cards and you will be reimbursed or the claim will be applied to your deductibles or copays.

We recommend that you fill all of the prescriptions that you are allowed to fill in your old plan prior to leaving it. We don't want you to run out of your medications.