

# Faithfully yours

## *Everence 2012 report*

Allegheny Mennonite Conference  
August 3-5, 2012

Every generation needs to be reminded to serve God faithfully as it receives God's faithfulness in turn. We may not always feel "all is well," but ultimately we can always serve and trust. At Everence, this call to faithfulness extends to our relationships with you. In this report, we discuss some ways we help you and your congregations manage finances in tune with how you are being faithful to God's call.

*"... I will proclaim  
your faithfulness to  
all generations."  
-Psalm 89:1*

### **Members respond to new name**

In 2011, Everence surveyed its members on a wide range of issues, including our name change. When MMA and Mennonite Financial Federal Credit Union moved to the Everence name, 60 percent of members surveyed supported the change, 32 percent were neutral, and 8 percent disagreed with the change. In the same survey, almost 90 percent of the members gave Everence one of the top two customer satisfaction ratings; 94 percent considered Everence trustworthy.

### **Conflict behind cell phones**

What do cell phones have in common with the Democratic Republic of Congo? Conflict minerals. Miners – including children – are violently forced to extract minerals essential in manufacturing common devices like cell phones. You can voice concerns at [Everence.com](http://Everence.com).



### **New stewardship manual and educational resources**

The new *Congregational Stewardship Resource Manual* is available for treasurers and others who make congregational financial decisions. *Stewards of Grace*, a primer on holistic stewardship, is now available in Spanish. Watch for *But It's Only a Story* early 2012 to help small groups talk about money. Download these free resources from the "Congregational education" section of [Everence.com](http://Everence.com).

### **A simple, new gift fund**

Your charitable giving is now easier with the simple new online tools of the Mennonite Foundation's Donor Advised Fund. To learn more and apply online, search for "donor advised fund" at Everence.com. Your Everence charitable services representative can also help.

### **Looking for advisors**

Everence is recruiting financial advisors to serve in offices around the United States. Learn more by visiting Everence.com or calling (800) 348-7468 ext. 3281.

### **Global agencies receive credit card mission rebates**

Everence Federal Credit Union donated \$12,700 to the global agencies of Brethren Disaster Services and Mennonite Mission Network last year. The credit union's Rebate for Missions™ program tithes to church and mission work from income realized by members' use of its credit cards. Funds were also donated to local charities close to credit union branch offices. Learn more about the credit cards at Everence.com.

### **New features enhance church retirement plan**

Mennonite Retirement Trust, the retirement savings plan for Mennonite Church USA and related organizations, has

enhanced its services. MRT, administered by Everence, is offering broadened investment options and new online and educational services to pastors and other church staff.

### **Food and financial aid through congregations**

In 2011, the Sharing Fund assisted churches to feed hungry children and adults. This is only one of many needs that the Everence Sharing Fund helped congregations meet for over 2,000 families through its \$900,913 in matching grants.



### **Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity**

Everence church relations representatives are engaged in advanced training by the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, a division of The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. During 2012, they will provide pastors with an overview of the *Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity* seminar. Using a diagnostic approach, the seminar presents practices and tools that help pastors and ministry leaders to encourage

faithful generosity within their congregations. Contact your church relations representative to learn if this seminar is available in your area.

### **Everence can help**

Our representatives can help you manage your finances to reflect your faith. They can assist you and your church members with services mentioned in this report and other services including loans, insurance, and savings options. You can contact your church relations representative to support stewardship ministries within your congregation. You can reach Steve Bustos at 574-533-9511 or toll free 800-348-7468.

*Everence helps individuals, organizations and congregations integrate finances with faith through a national team of advisors and representatives. Everence offers banking, insurance and financial services with community benefits and stewardship education. Everence is a ministry of Mennonite Church USA and other churches.*

Everence offers banking products that are federally insured. Everence also offers securities and other products that are not federally insured and are subject to the loss of principal. All products are not available in all states.