

# Seeking peace of mind

## *Everence 2014 report*

Allegheny Mennonite Conference  
Celebration of Congregations and Conference  
August 1-3, 2014

*Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

2 Corinthians 13:11

When you and your congregation turn to Everence for help with stewardship and financial matters, you're encouraging peace of mind through our planning and products. That's because your members are working with people they trust to focus on their best interests when it comes to cooperatively creating a plan and executing it. There are many ways you and Everence can help people find peace of mind, and you'll see a few of them in this report.

### **Sharing Fund helps people like Noah**

What does the Everence Sharing Fund do? Congregations see a need in their communities and decide to provide financial help. They ask Everence for Sharing Fund money to match their donations. The money is used for everyday living expenses or a specific need, such as the partnership of Noah and Dexter.



Noah's church helped his family add Dexter to the household, with assistance from the Sharing Fund. Dexter is being trained to provide alerts if Noah's blood sugar drops to dangerous levels.

### **Making an impact**

Everence Association, Inc. now offers the Advantage Select High Impact Annuity, a fixed annuity with competitive rates. It's designed to help people achieve peace of mind as they secure income for retirement while making an impact on the world in the process. With the Advantage Select High Impact Annuity, you can be part of a larger effort to:

- Help emerging and socially engaged congregations grow their missions and ministries.
- Help nonprofit organizations make environmentally friendly improvements.
- Support community development needs across the country and around the world.

Call (800) 348-7468 or talk with your local Everence representative to learn more.



### **Finances change with life events**

Your financial situation likely will change when important life events occur. That's why Everence offers your congregation a new *Life Events Guide* and updated life event education on our website.

Getting married, having a baby, going to college, retiring soon and getting started as a young adult are examples of these life events. Contact your Everence church relations representative about the guide or visit [everence.com/life-events/](http://everence.com/life-events/) for additional information.

### **Using this credit card supports missions**

Everence Federal Credit Union donated \$14,000 from its Rebate for Missions™ program in 2013 to Mennonite Disaster Service and Mennonite Mission Network. Everence members voted online to choose the recipients. Rebate for Missions™ is supported by the credit union's 10 percent tithe of income generated when people use their Visa credit cards. Credit union branches also distribute Rebate for Missions™ money in their own communities. Since the program started in 1995, Everence Federal Credit Union has provided more than \$300,000 in grants.

### **Found Faithful**

All that we have is a gift from God. A four-part worship series called *Found Faithful* can help us recommit ourselves to be wise and generous stewards of all that we have been given – the gift of time, the gift of talents and the gift of money and material goods. A scripture passage, sermon starter and children's lesson are included for each session. Visit [everence.com](http://everence.com) for more information.

### **Guidance for end of life planning**

Everence is putting together a curriculum to help people think and talk about important end-of-life issues. The information grew out of *Final Arrangements* and *Natural Dying* workshops developed by members of Akron (Pa.) Mennonite Church (pictured).



Issues include preparing a will, naming a medical power of attorney and talking with family members about your wishes. Peace of mind often comes from knowing that your wishes are understood and your family will know what to do when the time comes. Learn more by contacting Beryl Jantzi, Everence Director of Stewardship Education, at [beryl.jantzi@everence.com](mailto:beryl.jantzi@everence.com) or (800) 442-7930.

### **A better way to explain church finances?**

Does your congregation use a line-item or narrative budget when church leaders present financial information to your members? Many churches are finding that narrative budgets better describe how revenues and expenses relate to carrying out the congregation's mission. Find the *Congregational Stewardship Resource Manual* at [everence.com](http://everence.com) to see examples of each type of budget and learn about the most effective and least effective ways to report congregational finances.

### **Bringing investing and stewardship together**

What is shareholder advocacy? It's basically using your position as a shareholder, or part owner, in a company to push for improved corporate environmental, social and governance practices. Shareholder advocacy is part of the Everence stewardship investing philosophy of financial decision making. This philosophy is informed by faith convictions, and it balances social and financial considerations so people can find the peace of mind that comes from investing in companies they feel comfortable about. Learn more at [everence.com/Stewardshipinvesting/](http://everence.com/Stewardshipinvesting/).

### **Benefits of congregational endowments**

Setting up an endowment fund can help your congregation stretch its outreach. The fund is invested, with the earnings available for supporting your ministry. Everence Charitable Services can help make the endowment process easier for you. We'll help to educate and train your endowment commission – something few financial institutions offer. And your congregation's mission and values will be incorporated into the investment selection process. Visit [everence.com](http://everence.com) for details.

Everence offers credit union services that are federally insured by NCUA. Investments and other products are not NCUA or otherwise federally insured, may involve loss of principal and have no credit union guarantee. All products are not available in all states.