

## Religious Freedom Protection<sup>SM</sup> Coverage

*Religious Freedom Protection Coverage* (BGL-66) protects your ministry against emotional injury claims resulting from the ministry's religious communications, religious activities, belief-based decisions, and discriminatory acts.

Coverage includes protection against claims of emotional injury listed above, and also includes legal defense reimbursement, reimbursement for expenses incurred in response to a challenge to your ministry's tax-exempt status, and declaratory action reimbursement.

This coverage applies to various emotional injury claims, including:

- Oral or written religious communications, including Internet communications that cause alleged injuries.
- Religious activities that are allegedly injurious.
- Allegations of discriminatory acts committed by your ministry.

### What Does This Coverage Offer?

- Financial protection from damages that the ministry may be obligated to pay to other people due to:
  - Religious communications.
  - Religious activities.
  - Discriminatory acts.
- Reimbursement for legal expenses incurred in defending the ministry against legal action that results from belief-based decisions or actions.
- Reimbursement for expenses incurred in filing a declaratory judgment action in order to enforce your right to impose or pursue a belief-based decision or practice.

### How Does It Benefit My Ministry?

- Provides financial resources to pay damages if you are legally obligated to pay as the result of the ministry's religious communications, religious activities, or discriminatory acts.
- Pays to defend against legal challenges to your ministry's tax-exempt status.
- Pays to defend against attacks on your ministry's belief-based decisions and practices.

### How Do Limits Apply?

#### Covered claims of emotional injury

- The full liability occurrence limit of the coverage will apply.

#### Defense Reimbursement

- \$175 per hour, \$100,000 per targeted action, \$300,000 aggregate

#### Declaratory Action Reimbursement

- \$175 per hour, \$50,000 per declaratory action, \$100,000 aggregate

#### Tax Exempt Challenges Reimbursement

- \$25,000 per challenge, \$25,000 aggregate

### Examples of Claims Covered

**RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION:** As part of his job responsibilities, a pastor performs a funeral service for a relative of a parishioner. During the funeral service, the pastor indicates that he doesn't know if the deceased is in heaven or not. This causes several family members to become upset, and a claim is made against the church and the pastor for emotional distress. As religious communication, this claim is covered under *Religious Freedom Protection Coverage*.

**RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY:** A local church holds a communion service on Good Friday. During the course of the service, the pastor states that only members within the church's denomination may take communion. A member from another congregation comes forward to take communion, but the pastor believes that the person is no longer a member of the denomination, and asks the person to be seated. The congregant becomes very upset, leaves the church, and calls an attorney. The attorney sends a letter claiming that the pastor's error caused great humiliation and emotional harm to the congregant. This claim is covered under *Religious Activity Liability Coverage*.

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