

Bethany found a balance

GuideStone offers the right balance of coverage, service and benefits for your budget.

Kathy Huizingh, finance director of Bethany Community Church, rests assured. She's found a solution that provides quality benefits to Bethany's staff while respecting the employees' and church's budgets.

Huizingh set out to find a balance between rising healthcare costs and budget constraints. She researched carriers closely and asked for creative benefit options. Even though she was happy with her broker relationship, she considered options outside his recommendations. Her search stopped at GuideStone.

She and her GuideStone insurance representative worked together to develop the right solution. The church selected a \$1,000 deductible plan and continued to offer a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) to their employees. This tailored solution saves the church approximately \$27,000 each year, without reducing their benefit level for employees.

Non-profit knowledge

Working with a provider that understands the unique needs of non-profit organizations was a priority for Huizingh. Prior to moving their insurance benefits to GuideStone, they moved their 403(b) retirement plans. "The financial services company we were with before wasn't focused on non-profits. They couldn't answer my questions. They made us fill out paperwork that didn't apply to us. They just didn't know how to deal with us. It was frustrating," Huizingh said.

"GuideStone knows who I am, and knows how to deal with non-profits," Huizingh said. She appreciates the ease of benefits administration with GuideStone.

"My job could be so much more complicated – GuideStone helps me. I really appreciate the quality of administration. For example, my renewal packet gave me step-by-step instructions. It was all so easy – and in plain English," Huizingh said.

Bethany Community Church

Tempe, Arizona

Church statistics:

- 26 employees covered under group health benefits
- 2-year relationship with GuideStone
- Other GuideStone products:
 - 403(b) Retirement Plan

Challenge

- Cost-effective solution including rich benefits
- Find the right benefits provider

Solution

- Trustworthy relationship with GuideStone
- On-site visit to help employees understand their benefits package

Results

- Selected a \$1,000 deductible plan
- Offered an optional FSA
- Saved \$27,000 per year

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Beyond the call of duty

Huizingh knows how important it is to find a provider that cares about the ministry and provides exceptional customer service, especially after signing on the dotted line.

“Anytime I’ve called GuideStone, for insurance- or retirement-related questions, every person knows their stuff,” Huizingh said.

Huizingh was tired of the run-around. “With other companies, it was a challenge to get answers from my assigned representative.”

She asked her GuideStone representatives to visit the church in person to help educate the employees.

“Sometimes it’s easier to hear it from someone else. Wade Wilkerson and Donna Brower answered questions and explained the plan,” Huizingh said. Because of the on-site training, the staff was well informed about their new benefits package and plan options.

Advice from one church to another

“Do your homework. Find out what’s out there. If you’re looking at a plan that’s low cost, make sure that company’s worth dealing with. You want a pleasant experience,” Huizingh said.

Experience the difference

Bethany Community Church has been experiencing the GuideStone difference. And so have many others churches just like yours.

A heart for ministry

We understand ministry and our recommendations aren’t motivated by profit.

Creative solutions to your benefits challenges

We’ll help you find the right balance of cost and benefits so you can focus on your ministry objectives.

Above and beyond at all times

We want to build a relationship with you through your GuideStone representative. Whatever your challenge, we’ll work with you to find your best solution.

GuideStone would like the opportunity to work with your ministry to create an employee benefits program that’s just right for you. The right employee benefits program should protect your employees and support your ministry by sharing your values, reflecting your goals and helping you stretch your ministry dollar.