



Did you know that the Great Lakes Region offers voluntary dental and vision plans to every employee at each one of our churches? You do not need to be full time to qualify; anyone who is on paid-staff can join. Our dental plan is with Delta Dental of Michigan and our vision plan is with Vision Service Plan (VSP). Both plans offer exceptional coverage with a wide range of participating doctors. Even if you live in Illinois, your employees can still participate. They would just need to make sure that their doctors are “in-network” which can easily be found on the Delta and VSP websites.

Our open enrollment period for the plans is January 1 – 22, 2019 with coverage beginning February 1st, 2019. If you would like more information, please visit our website at www.westmichigandistrict.com (the new GLR website is still under construction©) and click on the “reports/forms/insurance” link. There will be a drop down tab from there and you will want to choose “insurance.” The insurance tab has links to the vision and dental plan descriptions, along with enrollment forms. If you decide to join simply fill out the enrollment forms and return them to me within the open enrollment window. You can send them to via email to sbrown@theglr.org, fax them to 616-827-9451, or mail them to Great Lakes Region, attn. Shari Brown, 1200 60th ST SE, Kentwood, MI 49508.

The monthly premiums for the plans for February 1, 2019 – January 31, 2020 are approximately as follows (the carriers have provided us with the new rates but not the additional, minimal amounts they will need to collect for taxes):

	Vision	Dental
Single coverage	\$8.56	\$41.24
Couple coverage	\$13.07	\$79.12
Family coverage	\$23.43	\$155.03

Since vision and dental plans are outside the realm of health care reform, churches can choose to pay for these premiums for their employees as a non-taxable fringe benefit. However, churches are not required to pay the premiums. Unless a church offers this as a benefit, any employee that chooses to enroll is expected to personally pay for the premiums on a monthly basis (monthly invoices are mailed out).

If you have questions, please contact me at 616-827-9450 or by email at sbrown@theglr.org.

In Christ,

Shari Brown
Finance and Benefits Coordinator
Great Lakes Region of the Wesleyan Church