

**SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE OF SDA**  
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**TO:** ALL PASTORS, CHURCH TREASURERS, PATHFINDER DIRECTORS, SCHOOL PRINCIPALS,  
AND DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS

**FROM:** RANDALL B. TERRY, TREASURER

**SUBJECT:** **INSURANCE COVERAGE ON 15-PASSENGER VANS**

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 21, 2007

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In the interest of safety, the Southern New England Conference advises departments, churches and schools against the purchase, lease, rental or use of fifteen-passenger vans for sponsored activities. If you choose to rent a fifteen-passenger van, there is no liability coverage available through the conference. You must ensure that the company you wish to rent the vehicle from has insurance available for you to purchase and that it meets the North American Division's minimum policy requirement of \$1,000,000 per occurrence. If they do not offer that amount of insurance, then you should not rent the vehicle.

The Southern New England Conference recommends that currently owned fifteen-passenger vans be sold or disposed of no later than December 31, 2008.

Currently owned fifteen-passenger vans shall be properly maintained and the driver is required to conduct a pre-trip inspection to determine if the vehicle is in safe operating condition.

Fifteen-passenger vans shall not be allowed to tow a trailer or use a roof mounted luggage/equipment rack.

It is recommended that all drivers who operate a fifteen-passenger van be licensed with a minimum of a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) or better in accordance with Federal or State laws in the local jurisdiction.

The recommendations above are in response to the nation-wide record that clearly shows that fifteen-passenger vans are involved in more frequent and more serious accidents than other classes of passenger-carrying vehicles. It has been shown that the design and weight distributions of these vans, coupled with the inexperience of the driver, have made them very unsafe.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.