

BBT organizational friends and family,

With the ever changing and intensifying aspect of the coronavirus pandemic, I want you to know that the safety and wellbeing of our members and clients as well as our BBT team is foremost on my mind.

An important aspect of BBT's risk management plan includes provisions to ensure business continuity in the event of significant disruptions. Our team members of experienced professionals are prepared to continue their service to you and your organization even as they prepare to work away from our Elgin office. Indeed, at least through March 27 and perhaps beyond, staff have been given the option to work from home, and many are using that opportunity to participate in social distancing, a key to helping curb the coronavirus.

Through April 1, I have suspended all BBT corporate travel. This travel ban may also be extended as appropriate. I am confident that our technology and communication processes will continue to allow BBT to serve you with minimum, if any, interruption. Our team will offer audio and video conferencing in place of face-to-face meetings to stay connected with you. Here are some messages to our specific members and clients —

Brethren Medical Plan members

Brethren Medical Plan members are well served by our strategic partner Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, and we encourage you to stay tuned to the regular updates and helpful information that it has to share. Please know that there is no out of pocket expense to get a coronavirus test, but at this time, members are responsible for office, urgent care, or emergency room costs associated with getting the test. If this requirement changes, we will quickly adapt the changes. Consultations provided through our virtual medicine benefit is provided at no charge through June 13. Call the customer service number on the back of your insurance card for more information.

Brethren Pension Plan members

It can be unnerving to watch the investment markets during a time of volatility, as we currently are experiencing. Just remember that if you are invested for the long term, and are not trying to use these funds at this moment you will have years ahead during which to invest your retirement funds, and during that time the markets will go up and down but over the long-term, history would suggest the markets will trend up. Thus, the best course of action is to stick with the investment plan you made prior to this crisis. If you are concerned about your investments during this time or if you are nearing retirement, you should consult a financial planner, either through Brethren Pension Plan and its partnership with Financial Engines, or with an adviser on your own.

Asset Management and Deferred Gifts clients

Organizations should be investing with both short- and long-term goals in mind. If your organization is invested for the long term, you have not suffered losses that are realized. The markets will go up and down and history suggests that over time they will trend up. So, stick with the plan that was established prior to the outbreak of the coronavirus. Seek out an investment professional if you desire asset allocation advice. In the meantime, inquiries and regular business can be completed through our usual channels.

Church Workers' Assistance Plan

If you are an employee of a Church of the Brethren congregation, district, or church camp and are being adversely impacted financially by the coronavirus, we may be able to help. Call us at the number listed at the end of this letter.

One last bit. In times of significant market volatility, it is tempting to withdraw your funds or change your investment allocations to "safer" choices, which means you might lock in or realize the losses that currently just show up on paper. BBT's Chief Financial Officer, John McGough, CIMA®, offers market insight and encouragement for how investors should approach today's investment environment —

Market turbulence continues as a result of investor uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus, as well as the recent oil price dispute between Saudi Arabia and Russia. The Federal Reserve Bank has unleashed extraordinary measures in an effort to stabilize the markets and support the U.S. economy, dropping the Federal Funds Rate by 1.5 percent down to zero over the past two weeks. BBT is in constant communication with its investment managers and consultant, who are monitoring the markets. A consistent theme emanating from their messaging is that no one knows with any real certainty how much, or for how long, the coronavirus will impact the U.S. economy. But it will have an impact. We ask that you remain disciplined to your long-term investment goals, in terms of your investment objectives, risk tolerances, time horizon, and liquidity needs.

As each new day brings additional safety precautions and restrictions and perhaps prompts questions about the financial markets and what that means for our future, we are here to serve your financial well-being. Thank you for your continued trust in BBT. It is our privilege to partner with you — working through these present challenging times together. Please know that you are in our prayers.

All the best,

Nevin Dulabaum

Nevin Dulabaum
BBT President

BBT Contact Information		
Brethren Pension Plan	866-723-0001	pension@cobbt.org
Brethren Insurance Services	800-746-1505	insurance@cobbt.org
Asset Management	888-311-6530	bff@cobbt.org
Deferred Gifts	888-311-6530	bfi@cobbt.org
Church Workers' Assistance Plan	847-622-3391	pension@cobbt.org