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## Treasurer urges churches to switch to more secure credit card readers

By Jessica Brodie

South Carolina United Methodist churches that use older, less secure “swipe-and-sign” credit card machines are being urged to switch to a new system—or face fraud liability.

That’s the word from Conference Treasurer Beth Westbury, who encourages churches to be sure they are using the new type of credit card reader system that scans cards based on their secure chip and not on their magnetic strip.

More and more churches are accepting credit cards from their members for tithes, payments on capital campaigns and other financial transactions. But after Oct. 1, Westbury said, if a church is

using the old system and a person somehow experiences fraud because of this (such as if an outside party accesses that card because of the lower security), the church would bear full financial responsibility for the victim’s losses.

“We’re encouraging churches to do this to protect themselves and their members,” Westbury told the *Advocate*. “We need to protect the church’s good name and protect the security of our people.”

For more information and to implement this change, please contact the financial institution that provides your credit card processing services. You can also contact the treasurer’s office if you need additional assistance: 803-786-9486, ext. 323.



Photo by Jessica Brodie / South Carolina UMCs are asked to switch to a new, more secure “chip-based” credit card reader system by Oct. 1 or face fraud liability.