



# Upper New York Conference

The United Methodist Church

To live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

Dear Pastor and Chair of Trustees:

Since early this year, the UMC Ad Hoc Committee, comprised of eight conference chancellors, four general agency staff, and two bishops, has been working on behalf of all annual conferences to negotiate a release for congregations from future lawsuits pertaining to any Boy Scout-related abuse injury from 1940 through 2020. These negotiations are ongoing and involve mediation with other groups involved in the BSA bankruptcy.

Based on previous legal counsel received from the UMC Ad Hoc Committee, we had urged UNY congregations serving as chartering organizations for local Boy Scouts of America (BSA) troops to replace their current charter agreements with facilities use agreements to safeguard the interests of the congregation as negotiations progressed. We anticipated this new arrangement would be temporary until UMC and BSA found a way forward which protected all of our interests.

Based on more recent conversations, the UMC Ad Hoc Committee and the BSA have agreed to the following joint statement regarding the status of units chartered by United Methodist churches:

*The Boy Scouts of America and United Methodist leadership continue to work together to resolve matters related to BSA's financial restructuring and have agreed, in the best interest of the young people who participate in Scouting, **to strongly recommend to United Methodist chartering organizations and Boy Scout Councils to extend existing charter agreements and facility use agreements in force at this time through March 31, 2022.** There will be no additional fee required from those chartering organizations through March 31, 2022. This will pause new chartering, re-chartering and the use of facility use agreements with United Methodist churches. This automatic extension will allow Boy Scouts of America, United Methodist leadership, and other parties in the bankruptcy case time to resolve important issues affecting chartered organizations, including a favorable release for chartered organizations for any Scout abuse claims.*

For UNY congregations, this means whatever arrangement **currently in place** between the congregation and local scout troop, including charter agreements or facilities use agreements, is acceptable and can continue **until March 31, 2022**. Any work on initiating a new charter or renewing an old charter should be put off until after that date. It is hoped this extension will provide all parties sufficient time to resolve all the issues before us.

In addition to pausing all new chartering and rechartering through March of 2022 and continuing with the present charter or facilities use agreement, today we ask that you pray for the survivors' healing. We also ask you to pray for those leading this effort. God has gifted us with compassion and wisdom to reach just settlements and faithfully steward the resources of the UMC.

In Christ,

Pam Klotzbach  
(Chair, Conference Board of Trustees)

Peter Abdella  
(Chancellor, Upper New York Conference)

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