



August 16, 2021

Dear North Georgia United Methodists and Friends of Scouting,

We write to update you regarding information you may have received about a change in relationship between the Boy Scouts of America (Scouts BSA) and The United Methodist Church. We want to assure you that our partnership remains strong and that we are working to see that this partnership, which has borne so much fruit and ministered to so many young people, continues to flourish for years to come. Scouting is an important and vibrant ministry of the church. As such, we celebrate the large number of churches in the North Georgia Annual Conference that have a scouting presence and would love to see that number continue to grow.

That said, representatives of The United Methodist Church are reviewing the charter agreement program that has been in place for years and have been working to draft agreements that better reflect the relationship between the local church and its BSA packs, troops and crews today. While churches typically provide facilities and support, and clergy and church members may help with programs like P.R.A.Y. (God and Country) and serve as scout leaders, churches do not run or oversee the activities of a scout unit. We expect future agreements will likely resemble Facility Use Agreements, such as ones most churches use with other organizations (e.g. YMCA) and better reflect today's needs.

While our representatives are working on a new document, we ask that churches not extend their current charter agreements with the BSA beyond December 31, 2021. We expect a new agreement to be developed and made available by the end of the year. Your 2021 charter agreement with the BSA extends through December 31, 2021. So, nothing needs to be done for this year.

Please continue your strong recruitment efforts as Cub Scout recruiting is upon us and is important to maintain and grow your scouting programs. Please monitor the North Georgia Annual Conference website for developments, documents (e.g. a Facilities Use Agreement) and Q&As as they arise (www.ngumc.org/BSA-updates). We will keep you informed and answer questions on that webpage.

We have enjoyed working together to improve and expand the scouting ministry of the North Georgia Annual Conference and look forward to a continued vibrant and important partnership. We wish you a great year of scouting!

Yours in Scouting and in Christ,

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
North Georgia Conference

Chris Karabinos
Conference Scouting Coordinator