

References to Scouting in the Book of Discipline 2016

¶226 4.

4. It shall be the duty of the pastor, the parent(s), guardian(s), sponsor(s), or godparent(s), the officers and teachers of the church school, the local church scouting coordinator, and all members of the congregation to provide training for the children of the Church throughout their childhood that will lead to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to an understanding of the Christian faith and the meaning of baptism. Building on the preparation that youth have received throughout their childhood, the pastor shall, at least annually, organize them into classes to the end that they may profess their faith and be confirmed (¶ 216). This instruction shall be based on materials produced by The United Methodist Church or on other resources that present the mission, history, doctrine, and beliefs of The United Methodist Church for this purpose. When youth so prepared shall give evidence of their own Christian faith, and understanding of the meaning and practice of membership, they may be received as professing members. The God and Me and God and Family portions of the Program of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) program may be available to elementary children as an additional resource (¶ 256.4).

¶253 *Age-Level, Family, and Specialized-Ministries Coordinators*

(see also ¶ 252)—The charge conference may elect annually a coordinator of children's ministries, a coordinator of youth ministries, a coordinator of adult ministries, and a coordinator of family ministries. Where young adult and specific age-level ministries would be enhanced, coordinators of young adult and/or older adult ministries may be elected. Where camps and retreats are part of faith formation across the age span, a coordinator of camp and retreat ministries may be elected. Where there are civic youth-serving agencies or scouting ministry units present there may be elected a scouting coordinator. Where needs for specialized areas of ministry arise (for example, single adults or persons with addictions, mental illness or disabilities), coordinators of these areas of ministry may be elected.

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4. Scouting ministry through civic youth-serving agencies offer another setting for ministry to children, youth, their leaders, and their families. The Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) award program is available to all appropriate age-level participants of the local church education program including the church school, youth ministry, and scouting ministry. *a)* Each local church may have a local church scouting coordinator (or the central conferences equivalent) who shall relate to the church council, the superintendent of the church school, the coordinator of children's ministries, the coordinator of youth ministries, and all the various youth-serving agency structures. The local church scouting coordinator (or the central conferences equivalent) may relate to the district scouting coordinator and annual conference scouting coordinator who are resource and training advisors. All churches shall be encouraged to have a signed partnership agreement with all the units of these agencies which are part of their ministry.

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2. The conference lay leader shall relate to the organized lay groups in the conference such as United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Youth, and Scouting Ministries, encourage and support their work, and help them coordinate their activities. The conference lay leader shall also have the general responsibility in: (1) developing the advocacy role for laity in the life of the Church; (2) increasing the participation of laity in the sessions and structure of the annual conference; and (3) encouraging laypersons in the general ministry of

the Church.

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Conference Board of Laity

3. The following membership of the board is recommended: the conference lay leader, associate conference lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, the conference scouting coordinator, and the presidents and two representatives elected by each of the conference organizations of United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Young Adults, and the conference council on youth ministries; and in addition, the district lay leaders, two laymen, two laywomen, and two youth elected by the annual conference upon nomination of the conference nominating committee, a district superintendent designated by the cabinet, the director of the conference council on ministries, and the presiding bishop. Special attention shall be given to the inclusion of people with disabilities and racial and ethnic persons. All members shall be professing members of local churches.

¶1119 Age-level, life-span, and Family Ministries

1. Comprehensive Children's Ministries—The board will assist congregations and conferences in developing comprehensive ministries for and with children. Such ministries may include, but shall not be limited to, the following: Sunday school and vacation Bible school, weekday ministries for preschool and elementary ages, fellowship and neighborhood groups, scouting ministries, and short-term studies and activities within and outside the church facilities. Ministries should focus on biblical foundations, prayer and spiritual formation, community service, personal worth through Jesus Christ, human sexuality, values, United Methodist studies, creative and fine arts, multicultural awareness, outreach to others, and celebration of significant moments in children's lives. Responsibilities may include such supportive tasks as: assisting congregations to be advocates on behalf of children; identifying the needs and concerns of children, their families and congregations; assessing the status of ministries with children in The United Methodist Church; collecting and disseminating pertinent data on issues, models, and programs that inform the leaders in congregations and church structures to strengthen the quality of life of children.

¶2302 Purpose of the GCUMM

5. The General Commission will provide resources and support for the office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Ministries: a) to provide training of local church, district, annual conference, and jurisdictional scouting coordinators; b) to promote and counsel with youth-serving organizations selected at the discretion of the commission; c) to coordinate, promote, and resource as needed annual conference Bishop's Dinners for Scouting.

Book of Resolutions: Resolution 8019

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Be it further resolved, that United Methodist churches be encouraged to charter Scout troops and to add other youth-serving ministries as a way to reach unchurched youth and as a way to minister to young people within their faith communities; and *Be it further resolved*, that local churches encourage members

to become scouting ministry specialists as a way to expand their ministries through youth-serving agencies; and *Be it further resolved*, that local churches are encouraged to provide funding to enable one or more of their members to become men's ministry specialists and to utilize the services and resources of those already accredited as men's ministry specialists. *Be it further resolved*, that one of the most effective means of making disciples takes place when men meet in weekly groups, using the "Class Meeting" model of Wesley as described in the book by Dr. Kevin Watson with the same title. These meetings can be either face-to-face or in an e-meeting format. Here men don't talk about a "historical" relationship with Jesus, but answer transformational questions as to where they have intersected with Christ in the last week.

ADOPTED 2012

AMENDED AND READOPTED 2016

RESOLUTION #8019, 2012 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS