

Scouting Ministry BOARD REPORT

August 27, 2024

Connection to grow again and meet servants where they are

Scouting has been through a season. The church is still in the midst of the desert season. People still need the gospel. They still need a place and a path to live out their commitment to God. They want to be disciples and make disciples.

Traveling to share the good news that greater things are yet to come has been the direction and reconnection in a fractured place.

There is an excitement for something that is beyond the strain of the recent years. There is a hope that the church can now move into a place of accepting people and sharing God, -first.

Over a decade ago, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, and Big Brothers, Big Sisters each took steps to incorporate all youth and all adults.

The binder of those who remained was not their politics or comfort with others.

Our binding is found in a shared love of people and service.

The good news that God still cares. The good news that servants of God are still ready and willing to give, work, and share together is a cold refreshing drink in the desert time of the church.

There is a promised land, and we are heading there together. We still have battles to face and miles to go, but to be in God's land is worth the journey.

5 Keys to a Successful 2025 and beyond :

1. Build up those who serve
2. Call others to service
3. Keep the path achievable
4. Widen the message
5. Open new paths to serve and live in relationship with Christ and others



Engaging with the Trends in the church :

Building Those Who Serve

As the church ages, we need to find a way to build up and connect the generations. Aging congregations need ways to be involved as they change. Younger generations need to be valued and accepted by the elders.

Calling Others to Serve

Focusing on goals keeps us motivated. The first goal is being in relationship and service. The second goal is to share the blessing of relationship and service. Giving others the opportunity as well is the great commission.

Keeping the Path Achievable

Learning is a trail that servants and those served need to take together. For the trail to be taken it needs to be achievable. The Learning Trails section of Camp Is My Parish is a key target for 2025.

Widening the Message

People who are serving already see the blessing. Frequently pastors, trustees, and conference leaders are not sure how the partners fit with spiritual growth and faith. Time to change that.

Opening New Paths

Building relationship and serving the church needs to grow in new paths: safety, new partnerships and a world wide reach are all critical places to go in ministry,



*“Like cold water to a
person faint from
thirst is good news
from a distant land.”*



August 27, 2024

Details



DIR. STEVEN SCHEID

Here's what has happened in the last year and what's to come!

Welcome to our Scouting Ministries! We are thrilled to share with you the latest developments in our mission to make a positive impact in lives, churches, and communities.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to the United Methodist Men's Foundation. The UMMF has been the difference between hundreds of thousands of youths having a place in the church and an accelerated decline within the church. We are grateful for volunteers who have continued to support youth and ministry. Generosity and dedication have allowed for God to be seen in lives and ministry lived.

In terms of our recent activities, we have successfully opened a new initiative to connect men with youth through resources and support. This year will be the first year where three UMM Conferences will directly open the door to Scouts during their annual gatherings. West Virginia, South Carolina, and

Northern Illinois are all putting ministry where the men are.

We are also excited to share that the Bishop's lunch for Scouting in North Georgia was a success. Bishop's events work best when partnership of local and agency come together.

General Conference, BSA National Annual Meeting, Girl Scout CEO conversation, P.R.A.Y. work, Youth Protection, and Religious Relationships Week training are all a standard part of the work. The United Methodist Church leads in youth ministry in so many ways.

Read the next pages to see, help celebrate, and preview more opportunities coming.

Finally, we want to remind everyone that our work relies on the kindness and support of our community. If you are able to donate your time or resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

In this report
you can expect:

Community
Purpose

Volunteer /
Event Spotlight

Eternal Impact

Unto ALL the
World

New
Connections -
Are You Ready

On the Slate



Community Purpose

Scouting Ministries is a community of servants and served. There is an ongoing process of engaging in fun, experiencing awe, learning to serve, and building faith. This process is unique to the scouting ministries. It is fun that brings youth in. Taking them to places of awe utilizes the rocks crying out where the disciples have lost their voices or ability to speak into the lives

of those who have come for the fun. Experiencing awe changes people. They serve more, give more, and are more kind. In service, they live the will of God to serve others. This opens the experiential place of living with God in action. Faith is built on a solid foundation. It is not just scriptures, but stories lived and experienced. It is a way to see God and share.



Amanda Vogt



Susan Lawyer and
Christine Stewart

Volunteers in the Spotlight

There are so many servants who make the ministry work. Jesus started with twelve.

Amanda Vogt - You likely know Amanda already. She has served BSA and GCUMM. Amanda was the course director for the Religious Relationships Week. It brought several faith groups together to learn and share - a true witness of Methodism in action.

Christine Stewart - Christine is a long time Girl Scout leader and United Methodist. She received the Silver Torch for her dedicated service, including her representing the United Methodist at the Girl Scout Convention. She is awesome!

Susan Lawyer - Susan serves on the GCUMM Board and is a long-time servant through Girl Scouts and Scouting America. She makes the work fun!



Bishop's Scout Lunch

North Georgia Conference

March 9, 2024

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Peachtree Rd UMC (Atlanta, GA)

Event Spotlight

In the midst of a new episcopal appointment and preparing a conference for General Conference, Bishop Dease took time out to celebrate the ministry that is Scouting.

These opportunities connect the church to the community and beyond. Tom Carden, a commissioner for BSA said, "All three of us from Foothills District were still talking about the presentations on our way back. None of us are Methodist (one Catholic, one Presbyterian, and one Lutheran). As leaders of the Foothills District, we attended thinking the luncheon topic would be focused on rechartering from the UMC perspective. Man, were we ever wrong! All three of us are men of faith. We learned some valuable lessons that we will carry to our respective churches and other faith traditions long before the next Scout Sunday. From Matthew 25:23--"Well done, good and faithful servant!"

SCOUTING AMERICA'S

SAFEGUARDING YOUTH SYMPOSIUM



UMM Foundation

PRAESIDIUM

Praesidium

Las Vegas, Oct 8-9, 2024

The risk of abuse remains in all organizations, but it is not inevitable – prevention is possible.



Register

Scouting.Org

Eternal impact: New paths to safely grow

Scouting Ministries has been a light in the world ministry for Methodist long before the United Methodist Church existed. It is still an outreach work of God and the church.

The United Methodist Men's Foundation has directly supported the ability to reach hundreds of thousands of youths. Each year since 1982, a grant has put hands and feet into our communities. The Foundation has changed as time has changed. Faith, skills, and character are no longer enough. There must be well-researched and developed safeguards to protect children so they can grow.

The Foundation has set a new precedent. The Foundation is a proud supporter of the SAFEGUARDING YOUTH SYMPOSIUM for 2024. This symposium brings law enforcement, researchers, psychologists, faith leaders, and youth-serving organizations together. The sharing of information and building the network of youth defenders grows.

United Methodists are proud to have a Council of Bishops representative, chancellors, pastors, general agency leaders, and professionals come together to build a safer place for youth to grow.

The UMMF's faithfulness in this area has now opened connections that the church has truly never had before. Our new partner, Protect Children Finland has brought child protection resources in sixteen languages to the table. As a worldwide connection, we can open the door to safety across the whole church for the first time in the native languages of the people of God.

We stand with Christ as he proclaims, "Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me."

For more information go to:

www.safeguardingyouthsymposium.org

To support to a better future:

www.UMMF.org

Thank you for being the light!

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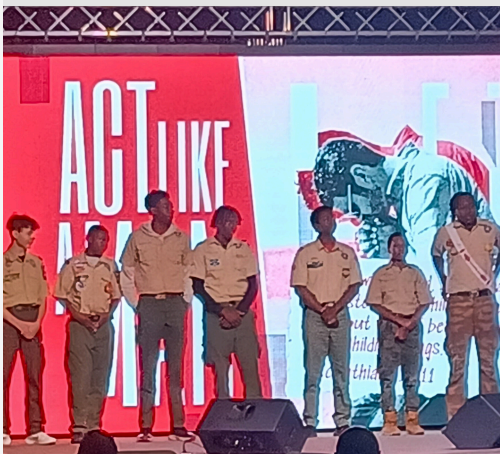
COMING SOON

PROJECTS, GOALS, AND TARGETS

2025

UNTO **ALL** THE WORLD

General Conference spoke a message of inclusiveness. It was a time and space to meet the whole church. The number of people from around the world seeking a place for their youth to grow is high. Their request: “Help us with Scouts.” We are working with WOSM open those doors through a Methodist Affiliation Group.



NEW CONNECTIONS

Partnership has its privileges. United Methodist Men who seek partners grow. The Men’s and Scouting Ministry are in lock step to connect with you and with the next generation. If you are ready to help do the work and get the investment, get ready for growth again. Current work: SC, WV, and Ill.

WORK IN **PROGRESS**

Camp is my parish has launched but the digital capacity and resources are limited within the GCUMM. Next year travel will not include General Conference or the World Methodist Council. This changes the time available for further development of Camp Is My Parish. Next year the learning trails will launch.



ON THE SLATE

ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR 2025

How far out do you plan? We have events and connections planned through 2027 already. Here is preview of 2025.

Feb. - Men's and Scouting Event- South Carolina

March - NACP - Supporting Men and Scouting

April – Youth Protection Committee - serving to represent the church and partners in keeping youth safe - Texas

May - BSA National Annual Meeting – Florida

June – National Men's and Scouting Gathering - Georgia

July - Wesleyan Family Gathering – a Scouters connection and training for pan methodist- New Mexico

Sept. - The 36th Annual Circuit Rider - West Virginia

Sept. - Men's and Scouting Event - Illinois

Oct. - Conference Scouting Coordinator Gathering - TBD

Oct. – Youth Protection Committee -serving to represent the church and partners in keeping youth safe - Texas

Oct. - Youth Protection Symposium - *Faith and Abuse: An Honest Conversation* - Georgia

THESE ARE THE PRE-SCHEDULED PLANS-IF YOU ARE IN THE NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION OR THE SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE MEN'S AND SCOUTING EVENT FOR YOUR JURISDICTION.

From the director

2024 BOARD REPORT | SCOUTING MINISTRIES | 615-620-7261



First and foremost...

Every youth needs a safe place to belong and grow. We have been growing the partnerships that will open the door for safety across the church worldwide. It is not limited to the Scouting Ministry. Learning and sharing about how to be safe is a basic. If church and ministry are not safe, then the message and relationship are lost.

As a worldwide church resource, we need to be able to meet people in their context and language. The new partnerships provide valuable tools to the church in languages and resources. While we cannot do it alone, we can do it together.

It will require work, healing, and honest conversation. It requires everyone be engaged.



Continuing the work

What began in 2018 as a way to learn more, has become an active part of how the ministry is run. I serve on the Youth Protection Committee for BSA. I am an active member of APSAC. I am always building the network of experts, practitioners, survivors, and volunteers. We need to be informed and to inform others. The threats to ministry are changing every day. The threats to children are more complex and more frequent.

Along with changes in the threats, children and youth still have the same basic human need to be loved and accepted.

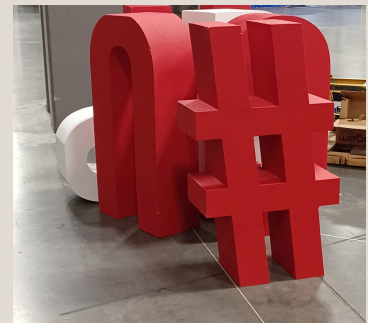
The church and Scouting can and should be one of those safe places for that acceptance and growth.

"For God gave us a Spirit who produces not timidity, but power, love and self-discipline." - 2 Tim. 1:7

What we do today - in learning the hard facts.

What we do today - in doing what God wants instead of what we want.
What we do today - in caring for others.
What we do today - in being the church that Jesus pastors still.

What we do today opens or closes the door for a tomorrow where God's kingdom reigns.



Reflecting on a hashtag

Steven Scheid
Dir. Scouting Ministries

I saw the **#BeUMC** before it was organized staged for General Conference. Finding the snark, I posted a picture of it on my social media.

The responses were swift but surprisingly kind for the humor. That is not always the case for social media. Most got the gravity of General Conference and the humor of who we are as a Methodist people.

My favorite response came from a friend who simply noted: "It is good to see you are fitting in well."

The last few years have still held the right letters even if they were not in the right order. If you look now, you will see the order forming. God is not done with us.

Let's start with **"Be."** As we learn or practice **"Being"** in God, the rest of the letters will fall in place.

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