

Scouters Roundtable

Key Outcomes

The meeting served as a relaunch of the **Methodist Roundtable**, which will now occur every two months to share updates and resources for Methodist Scouters. ¹ Steve emphasized that the movement is a **mosaic** of individuals, families, and churches, and that the group's goal is to strengthen the connection between Scouting and Methodist ministry. ² Key updates included a new **faith safety framework**, upcoming **Northern Tier Open Faith Conference**, and a push for more consistent **Scout Sunday** celebrations. ³ ⁴ ⁵

Decisions & Agreements

- **Roundtable Cadence:** The Methodist Roundtable will meet every two months to provide updates and share ideas. ¹
- **Resource Hub:** Meeting notes and resources will be posted to MethodistScouter.org. ¹
- **Scout Sunday:** The group will promote a **Scout Sunday mosaic patch** and provide liturgy for churches to celebrate Scout Sunday separately for Scouts and Girl Scouts. ⁵ ⁶
- **Recharter Alignment:** National is moving toward a single recharter season in **February** between 2027 and 2028 to align with insurance cycles. ⁶ ⁷

Progress & Status

- **Girl Scout Interfaith Committee:** The committee is meeting quarterly and growing quickly, with Methodists playing a leading role. ¹
- **Northern Tier Open Faith Conference:** Scheduled for **September 2027**, this event is open to all faiths and those with questions about faith. ⁴ Tentative dates are Sept. 2- 6th.
- **Grand Slam of Faith Patch:** A patch will be available for those who attend a faith conference at all four high adventure bases. ⁸
- **Virtual Pray Program:** Currently has **463 registered youth** and is being used by some churches with no children of their own. ⁹ ¹⁰

- **Affiliation Status:** The board renewed affiliations with **Girl Scouts, Scouting America,** and **Pray; Big Brothers Big Sisters** and **Campfire** are still endorsed but not currently signed affiliates. 11

Risks & Opportunites

- **Conference/Chancellor Hesitation:** Some conferences and chancellors are hesitant about **affiliation agreements** due to liability concerns and a lack of clear guidance from the Council of Bishops. Relationship, communication, and working on the future are important as the church and ministry change.
- **Communication Gaps:** Alan reported not hearing about the **virtual Pray program** until after it started, highlighting a need for better information sharing with conferences.
- **Adult Awards Awareness:** Many adults are unaware of how to earn **religious award knots** or the process for adult recognition.

Open Questions

- **Bishop's Award of Excellence:** Steve plans to work with **Bishop Holston** to update and revitalize this award. 12
- **Duty to God Patches:** The idea for council-level **Duty to God patches** was paused but may be restarted. 13
- **Scouting Ministry Champions:** Steve is developing a concept for trained individuals to lead hard conversations about church/council/council relationships. 14
- **Methodist Virtual Pray:** There is interest in creating a Methodist-specific version of the virtual Pray program, potentially focusing on the first three levels. 15

Action Items

- **Steve:** Nail down a date for the **Northern Tier** trip next week. 16
- **Steve:** Talk to **Bishop Holston** about revising the **Bishop's Award of Excellence.** 12
- **Alan:** Share the **faith and AI** virtual course details with the group once dates are locked. 17

- **Participants:** Fill out the **Google form** with needs, wants, and ideals to help shape future goals. 14 18 19