

## **United Methodist Church & BSA Unit Options**

The United Methodist Church and the Boy Scouts of America have been partners in serving youth for over one hundred years. Our goal is to continue this relationship for another century. To keep Scouting strong in your local community, we encourage the Local Council, unit, and United Methodist Church leadership to schedule a meeting together to discuss the THREE OPTIONS listed below. These are extraordinary times for the BSA, and the United Methodist Church and we are both resolved to keeping Scouting strong and continuing the ministry with the United Methodist Church.

All three options listed below are covered by BSA's comprehensive general liability insurance policy. This coverage provides primary general liability coverage for registered volunteer Scouters with respect to claims arising out of official Scouting activities, which are defined in the insurance policy as activities that are consistent with the values, Charter and Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, operations manuals, and applicable literature of the Boy Scouts of America. This insurance coverage responds to allegations of negligent actions by third parties that result in personal injury or property damage claims and provides protection for Scouting units and chartered organizations on a primary basis. The three options provided below have different banking and reporting requirements, which are briefly described in the corresponding agreements.

### **THREE OPTIONS (choose one that fits the needs of the Church, Unit and Council)**



#### **Council Registered Units**

This method has been created to allow the Local Council to register a unit when a charter organization is not available in the community. Council Registered Units can sign an Affiliation Agreement or a Facilities Use Agreement with the local United Methodist Church to define the church's level of involvement.

- The Local Council should provide the unit with the Council EIN and permission to use the EIN to open a bank account in the name of the unit, which would be managed by the unit.
- The Local Council should provide the unit with the BSA Fiscal Policies and Procedures for Units and the Local Council's financial reporting requirements.
- Agreement: either Affiliation Agreement; OR Facilities Use Agreement



#### **New Charter Organization (other than United Methodist Church)**

The Local Council, unit, and local United Methodist Church can secure a new charter organization that aligns with the principles, policies, and leadership standards of the Boy Scouts of America. Under this method, the approved Facilities Use Agreement with the local United Methodist Church will enable the unit to continue to meet at the church and to store equipment at the church's discretion.

- The new charter organization should provide the unit with their EIN and permission to use the EIN to open a bank account in the name of the unit, which would be managed by the unit.
- The new charter organization should provide the unit with its financial reporting requirements.
- The local council should provide the unit with the BSA Fiscal Policies and Procedures for Units.
- Agreements: (1) Charter Organization Agreement; AND (2) Facilities Use Agreement



### **Group of Citizens**

While the formation of units in connection with existing organizations is preferred, when conditions warrant, the Local Council may grant a charter for the formation of a unit independent of any relationship with an existing organization. Groups of Citizens Units are intended to be a short-term option to enable units who have lost their charter organization time to secure a new charter organization, or in the alternative, to transition to a Council Registered Unit. In such cases, the obligations upon the applicants for a charter are the same as those required for traditional charter organizations. Group of Citizens Units can sign an Affiliation Agreement or a Facilities Use Agreement with the local United Methodist Church to define the church's level of involvement. This option is not without risks, and those considering this option should consult their own legal and tax advisors.

- The group of citizens should obtain their own tax and legal advice before applying for an EIN to open a bank account in the name of the unit.
- The Local Council should provide the unit leadership with the BSA Fiscal Policies and Procedures for Units.
- Agreements: (1) Charter Organization Agreement; AND (2) either Affiliation Agreement OR Facilities Use Agreement

\*BSA units may not incorporate or seek tax exempt status.