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## Instructions to United Methodist Church Units

### Overview

The United Methodist Church in West Virginia has recommended local United Methodist Churches **not** charter Scouting units. They recommend use of an Affiliated Agreement, or the Facilities use Agreement. After a detailed review of these two options, the Executive Board of the Buckskin Council has determined that the Affiliated Agreement is not a viable option for our council. As a result, United Methodist units will have to be chartered by another entity if they follow the recommendations of West Virginia United Methodist Church officials. Those that do so and still desire to allow scout units to utilize their facilities will need to execute a Facilities Use Agreement

Given that a number of existing church units will need to be rechartered as a result of these developments, the Council Executive Board has authorized the formation of a Group of Citizens to act as the chartering partner for any units who are losing their current chartering partners and are unable to identify an alternative chartered partner. This entity, known as the Central Appalachian Scouters' Association, will be established as a separate entity with its own EIN and will function as any chartering partner would function.

Listed below are the steps each unit currently registered to a United Methodist Church will have to follow to identify its charter status. Selection of the appropriate step and submission of the required documentation must be completed by December 31, 2022.

### Actions Steps

1. Unit leaders determine the status of their relationship with the United Methodist Church to which they are currently chartered and do one of the following:
  - a. Confirm in writing that church officials have elected to continue as the chartering partner. No further action is needed if this option is selected and your church signs the charter agreement.
  - b. Identify a new suitable chartering partner, have them sign a new unit application form and submit the completed form to the Council Office; **or**
  - c. Submit a new unit application indicating the Central Appalachian Scouters' Association as the rechartering organization.



2. If either option 1b or 1c is selected, the unit will also need to:
  - a. Confirm in writing that the unit's existing United Methodist Church chartering partner will allow the transfer of ownership of the assets being utilized to support their unit (see attachment A).
  - b. Have the location where your unit intends to meet (church or other suitable location) complete a Facilities Use Agreement (attachment B).
3. If your unit will be chartered by the Central Appalachian Scouters' Association, submit with your charter paperwork the most recent copy of your unit bank account and an inventory of all unit equipment that will be transferred from your former chartering partner to the new chartering partner. Once this is completed, you will receive an EIN number which will allow you to open a new unit banking account. Although the assets of your unit will technically belong to the Central Appalachian Scouters' Association, the physical assets will remain with the unit for use by the unit.
4. If your unit has a lot of equipment or a unit trailer, you may need to secure insurance for items of value. The Central Appalachian Scouters' Association may be able to assist you in securing insurance, but it is the unit leader's responsibility to confirm adequate coverage.

It is not known at this time if use of the Central Appalachian Scouters' Association as a chartering partner will be authorized beyond 2023. The Council will be working to identify a permanent solution for these units should permanent use of this rechartering approach not be authorized.

We recognize this is a burden for our United Methodist Church sponsored units and will work closely to help shepherd you through this process. Your point of contact for questions is your District Executive or Commissioner. Alternatively, you can contact Kelly Thaxton at 304-340-3663.