

**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM MEETING WITH ADENA UNITS SPONSORED
BY UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES**

Comment:

My understanding talking to my pastor is that the Annual Conference has asked UMC to divest of the equipment because of possible future liability. I think it is more about future lawsuits against the BSA and if we have stuff that was "purchased with scout money" then it is something litigants could come after ALL church property.

Response:

This should not be a new concern for charter organizations. This liability existed before the BSA bankruptcy. The topic of liability has become much more real for some of our charter organizations. Yet BSA has provide general liability coverage to our charter organizations. That general liability insurance coverage will continue for our charter organizations. The same general liability coverage will also be provided to other organizations who enter into Facility Use Agreements with scouting units.

Comment:

If we already found another charter partner, do we just fill out a new charter agreement or do we also have to complete a new unit form?

Response:

There are four documents which a unit needs to supply if your are sponsored by a United Methodist Church.

1. Release of Scout Unit Ownership - the church will use this form to release ownership of the unit number, cash, and assets (trailers, camping equipment, stives, lanterns, etc) which are managed and possessed by the scout unit and its leaders.
2. Facilities Use and Indemnity Agreement - if the church is willing to let you continue meeting at their facility, this agreement needs to be executed. The agreements outlines the general liability provisions which BSA will continue to provide.
3. New Unit Agreement - to be submitted for the new charter organization which will sponsor your unit.
4. Annual Unit Charter Agreement - to be completed by the new charter organization and the scouting unit leadership.

Comment:

What are the responsibilities of a chartered partner?

Response:

The basic responsibilities of a charter organization are outlined in the Annual Unit Charter Agreement. A copy of this agreement is in the information materials the district provided to each UMC sponsored unit. A link to the form is https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Annual-Charter-Agreement-Charter-Organizations_Short-Version_8.26.2022.pdf

Comment:

I asked the local school board about becoming a chartered partner and the superintendent said, oh that would be great! But I haven't heard

more back from them after a month because they had to get the lawyers to approve the liability. And I don't think anyone WANTS the liability.

Response:

Schools have been good charter partners in the past. One thing you may need to be aware of, many schools now have after-school programs. These schools are often looking for other local resources to support these after-school programs, seeking these organizations to provide staff and program that supplements the after-school experience for their students.

Comment:

What will it cost to be a charter organization?

Response:

There is no direct cost necessarily. In the past, some units have requested payment of the re-charter fee, assistance with membership fees or other expenses the unit may experience (i.e. equipment replacement, summer camp fees, etc). There is no obligation on the part of the charter organization to contribute to any of these.

Comment:

What legal liability should we be sharing with potential charter organizations that they will be exposed to? Should they ensure they have any specific kinds of protections or insurance policies in place?

Response:

The Annual Unit Charter Agreement outlines the responsibilities of the charter organization. The charter organization would be accountable for their adherence to executing and maintaining these responsibilities.

Comment:

Besides approving leaders, it sounds like there is a good bit of administration (inspections, inventories, etc.) demands that charter organizations take on. Are there any enticements we should be discussing with potential charter organizations?

Response:

The scouting unit needs to maintain a good relationship with its charter organization. It would be reasonable that the scouting unit would assist the charter organization with some events or activities conducted by the charter organization as long as the unit's participation is consistent with BSA rules, regulations and policies as indicated in the Annual Unit Charter Agreement.