

Information Forwarded to Colonial Virginia Council regarding the United Methodist Church's thoughts on the recent National Membership Policy change:

Within the structure of the United Methodist Church, the General Commission on United Methodist Men is the agency which is the connecting point between UMC and the Boy Scouts of America. We are a denomination whose numbers of youth in scouting are growing. Currently we have 327,000 youth meeting in 10,100 packs, troops and crews in 7,000 UM churches.

Local churches who invite BSA into a relationship to serve the youth of their church and of the surrounding community, create a committee as the Charter Organization to serve that scouting ministry within that church. This committee selects the scout leaders, who select the youth who they serve. Throughout the changes in BSA membership standards which have taken place in the last several years, we have trusted that local churches and their committees are selecting the scout leaders that best serve the church and community, and who in turn select the youth to participate in scouting in that context. We do not see a need to change our current policy which empowers the local church in their scouting ministry through BSA.