

**WHAT BENEFITS DO  
SHEPHERD CHURCHES RECEIVE UPON  
CHARTERING/RE-CERTIFYING?**

1. Subscription to *Scouting News*, a quarterly publication of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. A copy will be sent to the pastor and local church scouting coordinator.
2. Notices of training events for scouting coordinators and other leaders.
3. An invitation to the United Methodist Scouter's Workshop, a week-long training experience conducted annually at one of BSA's high adventure bases.
4. Access to scouting ministry resources including books, supplies, and related items.
5. Up-to-date news from the Office of Scouting Ministries and access to additional information and resources on [www.umscouting.org](http://www.umscouting.org).

The United Methodist General Conference recognizes the Office of Scouting Ministry of the General Commission on United Methodist Men as the official organization responsible for scouting ministries.

***The General Commission will provide... support ...for the promotion of youth-serving/ scouting ministries within the United Methodist Church...***

— *The 2012 Book of Discipline* (§2302.5)

*Please list the number and type of unit(s) that your church sponsors (for example, BSA Pack 123, Girl Scout Troop 456, etc.).*

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**SPECIAL NOTE**

*The Shepherd Church Charter*

*Recognition is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Mildred Keeney, a long-time United Methodist scouter. She encouraged churches to utilize scouting as a way to attract and nurture young people with the love of Jesus Christ.*

*Mildred initiated the concept for this recognition.*

[www.umscouting.org](http://www.umscouting.org)

**SHEPHERD  
CHURCH  
CHARTER  
RECOGNITION**

*"I am the good shepherd and I know my sheep, and am known by my own."*

— John 10:14

"To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before the man and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."

— John 10:14

## PURPOSE

To annually recognize churches that provide outstanding scouting/youth mentoring ministry to their communities through sponsorship of one or more of the following civic youth-serving agencies: Boy Scouts of America (BSA), Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA), Camp Fire USA (CFUSA), 4-H, and/or Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBS). These churches welcome all youth and children; nurture them as they grow to become good citizens with a deeper relationship with God; and work with them in service to others.

*Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

— *Proverbs 22:6.*

### CRITERIA

1. Sponsor one or more of the following groups: BSA, GSUSA, CFUSA, 4-H and/or BBBS to meet the needs of youth and children in the congregation and in the community. The *2012 Book of Discipline* (¶256.4a) encourages churches to have signed partnership agreements.
2. Offer and encourage participation in the PRAY awards, a religious education program for youth and children, grades 1-12 (*2012 Book of Discipline* ¶256.4). For more information visit Programs of Religious Activities with Youth ([www.praypub.org](http://www.praypub.org)).
3. Observe a Scouting Ministries Sunday or conduct a separate Sunday service for each group.
4. Encourage each troop/group in the church to annually participate in at least one community service project. Service projects benefiting and in cooperation with the sponsoring church are encouraged.
5. Elect or appoint a scouting coordinator who reports regularly to the governing body of the local church (*2012 Book of Discipline* ¶253).

## SHEPHERD CHURCH CHARTER RECOGNITION FORM

The fulfillment of award requirements must be reviewed and evaluated by the pastor and the local church scouting coordinator. After the requirements have been met, please sign and return the charter application to the Office of Scouting Ministries, GCUMM, P. O. Box 440515, Nashville, TN 37244-0515. If you have any questions, please call 615-340-7145.

An attractive, embossed 8 -1/2 x 11 Shepherd Church certificate will be mailed to each sponsoring church upon receipt of the \$25 sponsorship.

The charter may be renewed annually.

Please check one:

- This is an application for a new charter.  
 This is an application for an annual recertification.  
 This is a recertification of a lapsed charter.

Church \_\_\_\_\_  
*As the name will appear on the charter certificate.*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional:** Number of children and youth receiving PRAY awards in past 12 months: \_\_\_\_\_. Please include photos for potential publication in *Scouting News* or other publications.

**Optional:** In one or two paragraphs, please describe service projects in which your youth group has engaged. Please include an action photo.

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$25.

*Your \$25 sponsorship covers all units (troops, packs, crews, clubs, etc.). A rapid-processing fee of \$25 will be charged for certificates needed with less than a 30-day notice.*

Please charge my credit card:

\_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ M/C \_\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_\_ Discover

Credit Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder name as it appears on credit card

\_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date charter certificate to be presented \_\_\_\_\_

This church meets all qualifications and criteria stated in the brochure.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Local Church Scouting/Mentoring Coordinator

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_