

Covenant of Affiliation between Evergreen Retirement Community, Inc. and the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church

The primary objective of the Covenant of Affiliation (Covenant) between the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church (Conference) and Evergreen Retirement Community, Inc. (ERC), a United Methodist related health and welfare ministry within its borders, is to identify mutually agreeable expectations for each party. This Covenant will replace the Covenant Establishing Affiliation Relationship signed in June 1986. The Conference Health and Welfare Ministries Committee (Committee) will function as the point of contact between ERC and the Conference.

Conference Expectations

1. Communicate to ERC the requirements and changes in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (current edition), the rules of the Conference, and the actions of the Conference and the General Conference of The United Methodist Church which may affect ERC.
2. Communicate to ERC the rules and regulations established by the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church regarding use of the name “The United Methodist Church” and the “Cross and Flame” insignia of The United Methodist Church.
3. Maintain membership and active participation in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries (UMA).
4. The Resident Bishop will designate a liaison to work with ERC to facilitate information sharing and mutual accountability for the expectations agreed to by both parties.
5. Support through the liaison, ERC’s efforts to maintain accreditation through the Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading Toward Excellence (EAGLE) Accreditation Program of the UMA.

ERC Expectations

1. Be guided in decision making by The United Methodist Social Principles (current edition), The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (current edition), and the investment policies of The United Methodist Church.
2. Abide by rules and regulations established by the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church regarding use of the name “The United Methodist Church” and the “Cross and Flame” insignia of The United Methodist Church.
3. Maintain membership and active participation in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries (UMA).
4. Involve in all ERC board meetings and other activities a liaison person designated by the Resident Bishop to facilitate information sharing and mutual accountability for the expectations agreed to by both parties.
5. Continue accreditation through the Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading Toward Excellence (EAGLE) Accreditation Program of the UMA.

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6. Periodically review the relationship of the Conference and ERC and reaffirm the relationship as long as both parties are in compliance with the expectations agreed to in the Covenant of Affiliation.
7. Advocate and promote ERC's mission and programs through the communication channels of the Conference, including the Conference Journal, the Conference proceedings, the Golden Cross appeal, the Conference magazine or newsletter, and other means.
8. Encourage collaboration among health and welfare ministries, Conference entities, and local churches to respond to health and welfare needs within the Conference.
9. Assist ERC in making high quality spiritual life resources available to its clients.
10. Make available to ERC: (1) advice and assistance with the recruitment of a chief executive officer; (2) information regarding the availability of grants; (3) information regarding general resources available through Conference staff and General Church boards and agencies; (4) assistance from the Conference's foundation with wills, trusts, and other methods of planned giving; and (5) fair consideration of requests for conference wide fundraising appeals.
11. Celebrate annually at the Conference session the contribution of ERC to the mission of the church.
12. Give consideration to the financial needs of all Conference related health and welfare ministries in the Conference's annual budget setting process.
6. Periodically review the relationship of ERC and the Conference and reaffirm the relationship as long as both parties are in compliance with the expectations agreed to in the Covenant of Affiliation.
7. Inform the Annual Conference session whenever ERC begins a new program of service in response to emerging trends and community needs, particularly initiatives related to racial/ethnic groups, people with disability conditions, the disenfranchised, and undocumented immigrants.
8. Cooperate with the Committee, the Conference Board of Global Ministries, and congregations in the ERC service area in creating new and expanded health and welfare ministries within the Conference.
9. Provide high quality spiritual life resources to ERC residents.
10. Provide to the Conference for publication in the Yearbook and Journal an annual summary of operations including the financial amount of benevolent care provided.
11. Seek written approval of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration prior to engaging in conference-wide fund raising efforts.
12. Provide to the committee the ERC mission statement and other foundational statements and amendments made from time to time.
13. Provide to the committee ERC articles of incorporation and by-laws and amendments made from time to time.
14. Provide to the Committee a dissolution clause for the real property of ERC which is consistent with The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (current edition).

13. Make training resources available to the ERC staff and board of directors in mutually identified areas of interest, for example: (a) board membership and responsibilities; (b) planned giving; (c) providing spiritual life resources to clients; (d) connectionalism within The United Methodist Church; (e) strategic planning.
14. Instruct the Conference District Superintendent of the Winnebago District to engage in a face-to-face conversation with the CEO of ERC at least once a year in order to be familiar with, and supportive of the ERC focus and outreach.
15. Instruct pastors appointed to the Oshkosh area that one of the missional reasons for their appointment to that community is to be involved in developing an active relationship between their congregation and ERC.
16. Have churches in ERC service area annually report to the annual Church/Charge Conference their support (financial, promotion, volunteer, leadership, etc.) of ERC.
17. Indemnify and hold ERC harmless from and against any claims, causes of action, and costs (including reasonable attorney's fees) which may arise from any Conference operations.
18. Carry general liability insurance in coverage amounts sufficient to insure the conference, its officers, employees, volunteers, and constituent boards and agencies from and against any claims by third parties for activities undertaken by the Conference.
15. Link ERC to the Annual Conference session by electing to the ERC board of directors one or more lay or clergy members of the Annual Conference.
16. Elect members of the United Methodist Church to at least one-third of the positions on ERC's board of directors.
17. Arrange an annual on-site visit with the Conference District Superintendent of the Winnebago District.
18. Encourage local United Methodist pastors to participate in ERC programs through the ERC Spiritual Resources Coordinator.
19. Provide to the Committee annually a list of names, addresses, and church affiliations (if known) of members of the ERC board of directors.
20. Identify in promotional materials that ERC is affiliated with the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church.
21. Indemnify and hold the Conference, its boards and agencies, volunteers, employees, and members harmless from and against any claims, causes of actions, and costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) which may arise from any ERC operations.
22. Carry professional and general liability insurance in coverage amounts sufficient to insure ERC, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, and constituent boards and agencies from and against any claims from third parties for activities undertaken by ERC.

Resident Bishop
Wisconsin Conference of UMC

Date: _____

Board Chair
Evergreen Retirement Community, Inc.

Date: _____