

# ***Covenant of Affiliation between Hillcrest Family Services 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 Hillcrest Family Services (Ministry) is to identify mutually agreeable expectations for each party. The Conference Health and Welfare Ministries Committee (Committee) will function as the point of contact between Ministry and the Conference.

## **Conference Expectations**

1. Communicate to Ministry 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 Ministry.
2. Communicate to Ministry 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 Conference membership and active participation in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries (UMA).
4. The Resident Bishop will designate a member of the Ministry Board of Directors as the liaison between the Conference and the Ministry Board to facilitate information sharing and mutual accountability for the expectations agreed to by both parties.
5. Encourage Ministry efforts to obtain external accreditation to verify reasonable compliance with industry operating standards.

## **Ministry 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 Ministry membership and active participation in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries (UMA).
4. Nominate a member of the Ministry Board of Directors to be designated by the Resident Bishop as the liaison between Ministry and the Conference to facilitate information sharing and mutual accountability for the expectations agreed to by both parties.
5. Be regularly accredited through an external accreditation organization.

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6. Every 4 years in the spring following the UMC General Conference, review the relationship of the Conference and Ministry and reaffirm the relationship as long as both parties are in compliance with the expectations agreed to in the Covenant.
7. Advocate and promote Ministry mission and programs through the communication channels of the Conference, including the Conference Journal, the Conference proceedings, the Golden Cross appeal, the Conference publications and website, and other means.
8. Celebrate annually at the Conference session the contribution of Ministry to the mission of the church.
9. Encourage collaboration among health and welfare ministries, Conference entities, and local churches to respond to health and welfare needs within the Conference.
10. Assist Ministry, when requested, in identifying persons to serve in spiritual leadership roles.
6. Every 4 years in the spring following the UMC General Conference, review the relationship of Ministry and the Conference and reaffirm the relationship as long as both parties are in compliance with the expectations agreed to in the Covenant.
7. Provide for publication in the Conference Journal:
  - (1) the Ministry mission statement and other foundational statements as amended from time to time;
  - (2) an annual summary of operations including the financial amount of benevolent care provided;
  - (3) a list of names, addresses, and church affiliations (if known) of members of the Ministry Board of Directors; and
  - (4) descriptions of programs and services in response to emerging trends and community needs, particularly noting initiatives related to racial/ethnic groups, people with disability conditions, the disenfranchised, and undocumented immigrants.
8. Identify in promotional materials that Ministry is affiliated with the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church.
9. Cooperate with the Committee, the Conference Board of Global Ministries, and congregations in the Ministry service area in creating new and expanded health and welfare ministries within the Conference.
10. Provide high quality spiritual life resources to Ministry residents.

11. Make available to Ministry:
  - (1) information regarding the availability of grants;
  - (2) information regarding relevant resources available through Conference staff and General Church boards and agencies;
  - (3) assistance through the Wisconsin UM Foundation with fund raising through grants, wills, trusts, and other methods of giving;
  - (4) training resources for Ministry staff and Board of Directors in mutually identified areas of interest, for example governance and planning; and
  - (5) fair consideration of requests for conference wide fundraising appeals.
12. Give consideration to the financial needs of all Conference related health and welfare ministries in the Conference's annual budget setting process.
13. Instruct the Conference District Superintendent to engage in a face-to-face conversation with the CEO of Ministry at least once a year in order to be familiar with, and supportive of the Ministry mission and ministry.
14. Instruct pastors appointed to the community in which Ministry is located that one of the missional reasons for their appointment to that community is to be involved in developing an active on-going relationship between their congregations and Ministry.
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 a dissolution clause for the real property of Ministry which is consistent with The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (current edition) and acceptable to the Conferences in which service is provided.
13. Arrange an annual on-site visit with the Conference District Superintendent.
14. Link Ministry to the Annual Conference session by electing to the Ministry board of directors one or more lay or clergy members of the Annual Conference.

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| <p>15. Have churches in Ministry service area annually report to the annual Church/Charge Conference their support (financial, promotion, volunteer, leadership, etc.) of Ministry.</p> <p>16. Indemnify and hold Ministry harmless from and against any claims, causes of action, and costs (including reasonable attorney's fees) which may arise from any Conference operations.</p> <p>17. 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.</p> | <p>15. Encourage local United Methodist pastors to participate in Ministry programs.</p> <p>16. 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 Ministry operations.</p> <p>17. Carry professional and general liability insurance in coverage amounts sufficient to insure Ministry, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, and constituent boards and agencies from and against any claims from third parties for activities undertaken by Ministry.</p> |
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Resident Bishop  
Wisconsin Conference of UMC

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2/19/10

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Board Chair  
Hillcrest Family Services

Date: \_\_\_\_\_