

Covenant of Affiliation between The United Methodist Hospitals Ministry 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 The United Methodist Hospitals Ministry (UMHM), a United Methodist health spiritual care ministry within its borders, 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 UMHM and the Conference.

Conference Expectations

1. Communicate to UMHM 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 UMHM.
2. Communicate to UMHM 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. Periodically review the relationship of the Conference and UMHM and reaffirm the relationship as long as both parties are in compliance with the expectations agreed to in the Covenant of Affiliation.
4. Advocate and promote UMHM’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, electronic and other means.

UMHM 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. Periodically review the relationship of UMHM 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.
4. Furnish to the Conference a mission statement and philosophy delineating the historic roots and heritage of the UMHM and provide any amendments and to update or certify it annually.

5. Encourage collaboration among health and welfare ministries, Conference entities, and local churches to respond to health and welfare needs within the Conference.

Make training resources available to the UMHM Chaplain and the UMHM'S committee members 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.

6. Assist UMHM in making high quality spiritual life resources available to its patients and their families.
7. Make available to UMHM: (1) advice and assistance with the UMHM's recruitment of a new Chaplain when position becomes vacant; (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.
8. Give consideration to the financial needs of all Conference related health and welfare ministries in the Conference's annual budget setting process.

Have churches relating to UMHM annually report to the annual Church/Charge Conference their support (financial, promotion, volunteer, leadership, etc.) of UMHM.

5. Inform the Annual Conference session whenever UMHM 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 and the connection it provides United Methodists to faith and healing in the hospital setting.

Cooperate with the Committee, the Conference Board of Global Ministries, and congregations in the UMHM service area in creating new and expanded health and welfare ministries within the Conference.

6. Provide high quality spiritual life resources to UMHM patients, their families and clergy/congregations touched by this ministry.
7. Provide to the Conference for publication in the Yearbook and Journal an annual summary of operations and a financial statement including an annual audit.
8. Seek written approval of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration prior to engaging in conference-wide fund raising efforts.

9. Celebrate annually at the Conference session the contribution of UMHM to the mission of the church.
 9. Provide to the Committee the UMHM mission statement and other foundational statements and amendments made from time to time. and provide evidence in the promotional materials of the Ministry that it is identified as “Christian”.
 10. Instruct the Conference District Superintendent of the Capitol District to engage in a face-to-face conversation with the chairperson and/or Chaplain of UMHM at least once a year in order to be familiar with and supportive of the UMHM focus and outreach.
 10. Link UMHM to the Annual Conference session by electing to the UMHM Committee one or more lay or clergy members of the Annual Conference and appoint a liaison to the Health and Welfare Committee. At least one third of the members of the UMHM Committee will be members of The United Methodist Church.
 12. Inform, instruct and encourage pastors appointed in the Conference to be involved in developing an active relationship between their congregation, the Chaplain and the UMHM as one of their church’s health mission priorities.
 12. Encourage local United Methodist pastors and congregations to participate in UMHM programs and ministry through the Chaplain and to contribute to the funding of this ministry through the mission budget of the church and individual contributions.
 13. Indemnify and hold UMHM harmless from and against any claims, causes of action, and costs (including reasonable attorney’s fees) which may arise from any Conference operations.
 13. 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 UMHM operations.
- 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.
- Carry professional and general liability insurance in coverage amounts sufficient to insure UMHM, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, and constituent boards and agencies from and against any claims from third parties for activities undertaken by UMHM. (A part of the Annual Conference Ministry coverage)
14. Provide to the Committee annually a list of names, addresses, and church affiliations (if known) of members of the UMHM committee.

15. Identify in promotional materials that UMHM is affiliated with the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church.
16. Provide to the Committee a dissolution clause for any real property of UMHM which is consistent with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (current edition).

Resident Bishop
Wisconsin Conference of UMC

Date: _____

Committee Chairperson
United Methodist Hospitals Ministry

Date: _____