

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Office of the Bishop

North Georgia Conference
United Methodist Center
1700 Century Circle NE, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30345

Rev John Smith
Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church
123 Main St,
Atlanta, GA 30305

Dear Rev Smith:

I am writing to let you, and all clergy and lay leaders in the Conference, know that I am very interested in utilizing the Scout program in the United Methodist Church to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. As you may know, the Scout program in the UMC includes Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Big Brothers Big Sisters and is a relevant, viable and useful means of serving the children, youth, and families in our churches and in our communities. I feel that I should rightly lend my assistance in its greater development within the churches in the North Georgia Conference.

The ideals and values shared in these Scout programs are the Christian foundations desperately needed by modern youth - responsibility to God, to family, to neighbor, and to the civic community. Its religious, vocational, and educational aspects, along with a strong commitment to form a Christian conscience in youth, are important elements of the program. It is also an effective force in developing sound adult Christian leadership.

Representatives of the UMCOS (United Methodist Committee on Scouting) may soon be contacting you, or your lay or Scout leaders, if they haven't already, about including one or more of these programs into your Youth ministries. I would appreciate it if you would please give them your full attention.

On April 28, I will host a Bishop's Lunch for Scouting at Peachtree Road UMC and would like to invite a few key leaders from your congregation to attend. The lunch will begin at 11:00 am and end at 1:30 pm. I am extending an invitation to you and other key leaders of your church to attend (such as Chair of Administrative Board, Chair of Council on Ministries, President of your United Methodist Men, Youth Minister [lay or staff] and/or your Scout Coordinator if you have one). The purpose of the event will be to help us learn more about these worthwhile programs and how they can be used beneficially by our churches to serve the children, youth and families, in our churches or in our communities.

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I would appreciate it if you could take the time to email us your intention to attend favorably or unfavorably. Please include the names of those attending with you. Send your email to jcarsonccc@aol.com. We would like to hear from you no later than April 13th. There will be no cost to attend the luncheon. Should you have questions about the luncheon, please feel free to contact Jeff Carson (jcarsonccc@aol.com).

Assuring you of my grateful appreciation of your anticipated cooperation on behalf of our conference program, I remain,

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson