

## **L. THE COVENANT OF RELATIONSHIP**

**between the  
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
and the  
QUINCY UNITED METHODIST HOME, INC.  
UNITED METHODIST CONTINUING CARE SERVICES, INC., and its facilities:  
Laporte U.M. Home, Lewisburg U.M. Home, York U.M. Home  
THE UNITED METHODIST HOMES FOR THE AGING, INC., with facilities at  
Bethany Village and Epworth Manor  
THE UNITED METHODIST HOME FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.**

### **I. Preliminary Statement**

The *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (hereafter referred to as “The Discipline”) is the book of law of The United Methodist Church. It is a product of 200 years of the General Conferences of the denominations which now form The United Methodist Church.

*The Discipline* as the instrument for setting forth the laws, plan, polity, and process by which United Methodists govern themselves remains constant. Each General Conference amends, perfects, clarifies, and adds its own contribution to *The Discipline*. We do not see *The Discipline* as sacrosanct or infallible, but we do consider it a document suitable to our heritage. It is the most current statement of how United Methodists agree to live their lives together. It reflects our understanding of the Church and of what is expected of its laity and clergy as they seek to be effective witnesses in the world as a part of the whole Body of Christ.

This book of covenant sets forth the theological grounding of The United Methodist Church in biblical faith, and affirms that we go forward as “loyal heirs to all that [is] best in the Christian past.” It makes clear that The United Methodist Church is an inclusive society without regard to ethnic origin, economic condition, gender, age, or the handicapping conditions of its constituents. It asserts that all who are baptized and confirmed are ministers of Jesus Christ. It affirms the conciliar principle and connectionalism as distinctive marks of United Methodist ecclesiology, makes clear the global character of the Church’s mission, and declares interdependence with other Christian bodies both in spirit and cooperation. It affirms with John Wesley that solitary religion is invalid and that Christ lays claim upon the whole life of those who accept him as Lord and Savior.

The United Methodist Church is a connectional structure maintained through its chain of conferences. The Central Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church is one of several conferences which comprise the General Conference through elected representatives. The Central Pennsylvania Conference consists of clergy members and elected lay members from the United Methodist congregations within the prescribed geographical boundaries which can be generally described as the central portion of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from the New York border on the north to the Maryland border on the south, the western line of Blair County northward on the west, and Dauphin County northward on the east.

United Methodists historically have given high priority to helping and healing ministries as a vital part of their Christian mission, both at home and in overseas missions. United Methodists recognize the importance of operating, maintaining, and protecting these institutional ministries as a vital means of carrying out the Christian mission. The health care ministries embraced within this mission involve services in areas of child care, aging, health care, and handicapping conditions.

The people and churches of Central Pennsylvania have for nearly one hundred years understood the mission of the Church to care for the children and the aged that needed our care. First was the establishing of “orphanages” and then the need for the caring of the aged. The church and “church people” made it possible for these institutions to be built and maintained. They have supported the benevolent care that is given in all of the homes as caring and quality missions of Christian service.

The mission statement of the Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference continues this caring mission. “The Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference, through the ‘Commission on Health Ministries,’ consults with and assists the existing benevolent homes, and other emerging groups/ agencies, in providing caring and healing ministries for persons whose needs can be met only partially by the local church.”

Human service ministries related to The United Methodist Church within the boundaries of the Central Pennsylvania Conference are carried forward by non-profit corporations organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The purpose of this statement is to set forth the nature of that relationship.

In this Covenant of Relationship, the term, “Conference” refers to the Central Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church, and the term, “Institution” refers to the institutional human service ministry of The United Methodist Church within the boundaries of the Conference. At the present time, there are four such Institutional Corporations. They are: Quincy United Methodist Home, Inc.; United Methodist Continuing Care Services, Inc. with its facilities at Lewisburg United Methodist Home, Laporte United Methodist Home, and York

United Methodist Home; The United Methodist Homes for the Aging, Inc. with its facilities at Bethany Village and Epworth Manor; and The United Methodist Home for Children and Family Services, Inc.

The Conference hereby covenants and agrees with each Institution now or hereafter executing this Statement of Relationship who also covenants and agrees with the Conference that this Covenant of Relationship, including this foregoing Preliminary Statement, is an accurate statement of the relationship between the Conference and the Institutions and between the Church as a whole and the Institutions.

## **II. The Meaning and Purpose of Relationship**

A. Conference relationship with a human service ministry and the Conference's permission for that ministry to use the words "United Methodist" in its name signifies that its goals and activities are consistent with the mission and ministry of the Conference as outlined in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.

Through these relationships the Conference witnesses to the vitality and reliability of such ministries and publicly commends them as worthy ministries. It testifies that the services provided are worthy of the financial support of the United Methodist churches of the Conference, public and private organizations and individuals.

The Conference shall not be responsible, legally or morally, for the debts, contracts, or obligations or for any other financial commitments of any character or description created, undertaken, or assumed by any institution or interest related to a unit of The United Methodist Church, whether or not such institution or interest shall be approved, accepted, or recognized by the Conference, or shall be affiliated with the Conference, or whether or not the promotion or establishment of the same shall be approved by the Conference. No such institution or interest related to a unit of The United Methodist Church and no officer or member of the Conference shall have any authority whatsoever to take any action directly or by implication at variance with, or deviating from, the limitation contained in the preceding sentence hereof, except as the Conference may directly own and manage an institution in its own name.

B. The purpose of this Covenant of Relationship is to provide a clear and consistent mutually-agreed upon statement of the relationship between the Central Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and the human service ministries known as:

Quincy United Methodist Home, Inc. and all its facilities;

United Methodist Continuing Care Services, Inc. and all its facilities;

The United Methodist Homes for the Aging, Inc. and all its facilities;

The United Methodist Home for Children and Family Services, Inc. and all its facilities.

This covenant defines the ongoing responsibilities of each party to the other and supersedes any other prior understandings and relationships whether express or implied. All future relevant communications and contracts shall reflect the relationship as covenanted herein.

## **III. Responsibilities of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church to the Aforementioned Human Service Ministries.**

A. Permit the use of the name of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church including reference to the covenant of relationship, provided that an approved disclaimer is included on all documents.

B. Provide for the president or executive officer of each of the human services ministries' corporation or designee an ex-officio position with voice and without membership and vote on the Conference Commission on Health Ministries.

C. Provide each of the aforementioned human service ministries access to communication channels of the Conference, including the Journal, the Conference newspaper, the Conference's annual proceedings, as well as other means of furthering promotion and interpretation of its mission and program.

D. Provide access to the Conference's budget by giving consideration to the benevolent care needs of residents in each of the aforementioned human service ministries in its annual funding; Promote the Golden Cross offering in May and the Christmas offering in December to benefit the benevolent care needs of said ministries.

E. Encourage participation in peer review and self-evaluation programs which may be offered by the Program Department of Health and Welfare Ministries of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church and United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries and share resources which may be offered through these channels for enrichment and support of ministry.

F. Assist in maintaining awareness of spiritual and missional priorities in human service ministries.

G. Communicate changes in the *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* and/or Conference actions which may affect this covenant of relationship.

H. Maintain membership in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries.

## **IV. Responsibilities of the Aforementioned Human Service Ministries' Institutions to the Central Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church**

A. Present to the Conference at its annual session the following, to be preceded in the official Journal by the following sentence:

“The following information about (insert the name of the human service ministries’ corporation) is printed because the Conference has a common missional interest with this human service ministries’ corporation, although the Conference does not have any financial or legal responsibility for this corporation.”

1. A current mission statement and summary of the common religious heritage shared with the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Notification shall be made to the Conference of any amendments made to this mission statement.
  2. An annual report concerning the operations of the human service ministries’ corporation.
  3. An annual independent certified audit of finances, including those designated for benevolent care of residents.
  4. Notification of any changes in its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
  5. Notification of any changes in licensure or certification status.
- B. The Human Service Ministries’ Corporations invite the Bishop and the Bishop’s Cabinet of the Conference to appoint appropriate cabinet liaisons and the chairperson of the Conference Commission on Health Ministries to attend board of directors/trustees meetings with voice but without membership and vote for information and interpretation to the Conference.
- C. Present annually to the Conference Commission on Health Ministries the following:
1. All of the above in “A” for review no less than 60 days before the annual session of the Conference.
  2. A current copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
  3. Documents advising of any significant changes in program or direction.
  4. Any plans to solicit funds from the local churches of the Conference in addition to the annual Golden Cross offering and Christmas offering (see V. C). Such plans shall be reviewed and approved by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.
  5. Provide for the files of the Conference Commission on Health Ministries current samples of all promotional materials and other significant materials.
- D. Maintain membership in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries.
- E. Participate in peer review and self-evaluation programs which may be offered by United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries and utilize their resources wherever and whenever it is appropriate.
- F. A copy of this Covenant of Relationship shall be posted and made available to residents upon admission.
- G. In the event of dissolution of any or all of the aforementioned human service ministries institutions, consideration should be given the Central Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church, its successors and assignees in transfer of any assets which must be assigned as result of dissolution.

#### **V. Limitations on the Scope of This Relationship**

- A. Neither the Central Pennsylvania Conference nor the aforementioned human service ministries’ corporations have or accept any legal or financial responsibility for the operations or affairs of the other. Neither is the agent or servant of the other, neither shall represent that it is the agent or servant of the other and neither shall represent that the other is its agent or servant.
- B. Ownership and control of the assets and operations of the aforementioned human service ministries corporations resides totally and solely in the aforementioned human service ministries corporations.
- C. Any plans to solicit funds from the local churches of the Conference in addition to the annual Golden Cross offering and Christmas offering shall be subject to the following Conference policy:
  1. The human service ministries’ corporations related to the Conference may independently solicit funds from foundations, corporations, other businesses, community organizations, and individuals, provided that no special conference-wide appeal to the local churches for funds shall be made without approval of the Annual Conference upon recommendation of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration except in case of an extreme emergency when such approval may be given by a two-thirds vote of the district superintendents and of the Council, acting jointly.

#### **VI. Review Procedures**

This covenant of relationship shall be reviewed annually by the Conference Commission on Health Ministries and each of the aforementioned human service ministries’ corporations and revised as needed. Either party may terminate the covenant of relationship on one year’s written notice provided that the annual session of the Conference shall fall within that period of time. In the absence of revision or notification of termination, the covenant of relationship shall continue in force from year to year.

This Covenant establishing a relationship between the Central Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and each of the aforementioned human services ministries corporations, entered upon this 10th day of June in the year of 1994, is mutually subscribed to by the parties listed below, signing as authorized representatives of their respective organizations and/or corporations.

**Human Services Ministries Corporations**

by Roger H. Mentzer  
Chair, Quincy United Methodist Home, Inc.

by \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, United Methodist Continuing Care  
Services, Inc.

by Pierce B. MacKay  
Chair, The United Methodist Homes for the  
Aging, Inc.

by \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, The United Methodist Home for  
Children and Family Services, Inc.

**Central Pennsylvania Conference  
of The United Methodist Church**

by Felton E. May  
Resident Bishop

by William M. Brown  
Conference Secretary

by Phyllis J. Bard  
Chair, Conference Commission on  
Health Ministries

Date: April 21, 1995