

Recommended Resolution for use by the Arkansas Annual Conference to support the healing of Survivors affected by the Boy Scouts of America

Whereas, the sexual abuse of children through the Boy Scouts of America is a tragic legacy that demands justice and healing; and

Whereas, some of this abuse has occurred through Boy Scout troops chartered by United Methodist congregations in the Arkansas Annual Conference and adult leaders associated with those congregations; and

Whereas, the Arkansas Annual Conference is committed to seeking justice and healing for those who have experienced sexual abuse through scouting;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. Is deeply sorry and apologizes for any harm that has been caused to individuals through scouting in troops chartered by United Methodist congregations and by any adult leaders associated with those congregations.
2. will pray for the survivors and their families who were sexually abused while participating in scouting.
3. will provide opportunities for those who were sexually abused through scouting to share their experiences with leaders in the annual conference as a means of healing, upon the approval of the final bankruptcy plan.
4. will work with appropriate partners to draw attention to the sin of sexual abuse of children as a means of eliminating it.
5. will remain vigilant in working to prevent sexual abuse for all children in our care.

Prepared Tuesday, December 29, 2021

Submitted (and approved by?) Bishop Gary Mueller, Kathy Conley, Rev. Jim Polk, Rev. Dr. Blake Bradford, Todd Burris, Amy Ezell, Rev. Rashim Merriwether, Rev. John Fleming, Rev. Edna Morgan, Rev. Dr. Ulysses Washington and Rev. Dr. Ann Ferris