



Memorandum of Understanding
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and
Boy Scouts of America

October 7, 2013



WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Boy Scouts of America have maintained a valuable and productive relationship on behalf of boys, young adults, and their families for many years; and

WHEREAS, It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law; and

WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts of America is desirous of lending its aid and support to the citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness of boys and young men and women through community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by love for God. Its mission is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name without discrimination; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is committed to teach and practice the Christian faith in ways that are fully compliant with and conformed to the Word of God as revealed in the Bible; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Boy Scouts of America will work cooperatively with each other within the policies and regulations of each organization to establish and nurture Scout units as an expression of the nurture and outreach ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod so that boys, young adults, and adults may grow in Christian character, citizenship responsibility, and with the personal fitness necessary to achieve their greatest potential; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Boy Scouts of America will respect the spiritual and moral responsibility of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's chartering congregations with the understanding that there is no Boy Scout authority which supersedes the authority of the local pastor and the congregation in any phase of the program affecting the spiritual welfare of those who participate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will respect the membership standard of the Boy Scouts of America, including the stipulation that membership in Scouting may not be denied to a child on the basis of sexual attraction alone, and the further stipulation that the local pastor of the chartering congregation and the leaders of the local troop have the authority to set boundaries, including the determination of whether a Scout is promoting a particular social or political agenda, advocating for a moral view that is inconsistent with the church, or becoming a distraction to the troop, and take such action to enforce set boundaries up to and including removal from the troop; therefore be it finally



RESOLVED, That it is agreed all member congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod may rely on the stipulations in this Memorandum of Understanding in operating under any charter they sign with the Boy Scouts of America.

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SIGNATURE WITHHELD FOR SECURITY REASONS
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Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Date

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SIGNATURE WITHHELD FOR SECURITY REASONS
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Mr. Wayne Brock
Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America

Date