

**RELATIONSHIP STATEMENT**  
Lone Oak United Methodist Church  
AND  
Western Kentucky United Methodist Family Services, Inc.

**Introduction**

The Lone Oak United Methodist Church ("Church") and Western Kentucky United Methodist Family Services, Inc. (hereinafter "Ministry") celebrate a valuable relationship designed to enhance United Methodist involvement in welfare ministry. It is a relationship based on mutually shared goals of promoting health and welfare services to foster children and foster parents in the Purchase District of the Church. The relationship is mutually beneficial, with each organization drawing strength from the other.

**Purpose**

The parties view this covenant as setting forth elements of a dynamic relationship that is fundamentally important to both. The Ministry is committed to this relationship in order to be steadfast in its identity as a values-driven, faith-based organization that is committed to service in the community. The Church is committed to this relationship as a critical opportunity to make a difference in the delivery of the Ministry's services by sharing core United Methodist values.

The parties commit to the following in the furtherance of this relationship:

The Ministry commits to:

1. Prayers: Supporting the Church through focused and intentional prayer;
2. Presence: Participating in the Church (for purposes of awareness, accountability, and mission development); and providing information annually, including a mission statement, operational/financial reports, and any charter or bylaws amendments;
3. Gifts: Demonstrating indicators of fruitfulness;
4. Service: Advancing the strategic initiatives of the Church;
5. Witness: Reflecting a United Methodist identity in the community.

The Church commits to:

1. Prayers: Supporting the Ministry through focused and intentional prayer;
2. Presence: Providing at least three designated representatives to the Ministry's Board of Trustees
3. Gifts: Considering the Ministry for budgeted funding opportunities;
4. Service: Serving as a thought partner focused on mission development, awareness, and spiritual support;
5. Witness: Offering the Ministry an opportunity to submit a report to the Church and communicating with members of the Church about the work of the Ministry in order to nurture missional development and build awareness.

**Communications**

Ministry shall relate to the structure of the Church primarily through the Church Council. The Ministry and the Church are committed to transparency and sharing of relevant information. In cooperation with the Church, the Ministry will also communicate with the membership of the Church for purposes of awareness, accountability, and mission development.

**Board Representation and Church Involvement in Ministry Activities**

The Ministry shall be governed by its own Board of Trustees. The Ministry's Board shall include three designated representatives of the Church, as selected by the Church's Council. The Trustees shall be nominated by the Ministry's Board of Trustees subject to approval by the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference.

The Ministry shall provide annually the mission statement and any amendments, copies of regular operational and financial reports, and copies of the by-laws, including any amendments and articles of incorporation. The Church shall provide encouragement and support, including financial support to the extent deemed appropriate and feasible by the Church, and an opportunity for the Ministry to report to each regular Annual Conference session of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference.

#### **Legal and Financial Independence**

Both the Church and the Ministry are legally and financially independent organizations under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. As such, there is no requirement that the Church financially support the Ministry, nor any expectation that either would make financial contributions to the other, other than such opportunities and/or other contributions or grants as may be approved by the Church from time to time. This legal and financial independence does not limit the parties from working together on projects of mutual interest. The Church shall not be legally responsible for the debts, contracts, or obligations, or for any other financial commitments of any character or description created, undertaken, or assumed by the Ministry, absent the express consent of the Church.

#### **Structure**

The Ministry and the Church are both tax exempt nonprofit corporations.

#### **Relationship Review**

The Ministry understands that in order to use the term "United Methodist" or the United Methodist "cross and flame" insignia, it must either be an official United Methodist agency pursuant to Paragraph 807(10) of the 2016 Book of Discipline or must acquire approval from the General Council on Finance and Administration for use of same.

On a periodic basis, but at least every four (4) years, this statement of relationship will be reviewed by the Ministry with the Church as one part of the ongoing communication and cooperation between the Church and the Ministry. Any change in this statement would require approval of both the Church and the Ministry.

Lone Oak United Methodist Church

Signature: David M. Pope

Name: DAVID M. Pope

Position: Chair LOUMC Council

Date: 12-15-2025

Western Kentucky United Methodist Family Services

Signature: Freeda Thompson

Name: Freeda Thompson

Position: Board Chair - WKUMFS

Date: 12-15-2025