

THE BISHOP'S

Five-Star Award of **EXCELLENCE**

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



IN SOUTH CAROLINA

CRITERIA

- ▶ **Increase in Sunday School attendance and/or enhancement of Christian Education Ministry**
To qualify for this star you must have an increase in Sunday School attendance, an increase in attendance at Christian Education events, or the addition of Christian Education programs, not necessarily on Sunday (example: programs including Bible Studies, spiritual formation small groups for all ages).
- ▶ **A “new work” that impacts growth**
Examples of acceptable programs include new Sunday School classes, preschool groups, day care programs, Scouting projects, and lay visitation programs. Credit will be given for programs that demonstrate effectiveness in church growth.
- ▶ **Members received by profession of faith or rededication (1% increase)**
One new member received by profession of faith or rededication for every 100 members.
- ▶ **Emphasis on youth ministries**
Examples of acceptable programs include conducting a confirmation class, starting a youth group, starting a youth choir, sending 10% of youth to camp, having 50% of youth workers attend youth workers' training events, supporting the Youth Service Fund, and increasing attendance of UMYF by 10%. Credit will be given to programs that demonstrate emphasis on growing youth ministry.
- ▶ **All apportionments paid in full for 2015, or a 25% increase in apportionment payments compared to 2014**

PURPOSE

- ▶ To provide incentive for churches to embrace new ministries each year that are geared specifically toward growth and outreach. The award is designed to enable small churches -- as well as large churches -- to receive recognition.

OTHER INFORMATION

- ▶ The award will be applied for each year based on the prior year's statistics.
- ▶ Recognition will be given to the pastor and one lay member at a breakfast during Annual Conference. The award will be suitable for display in the local church receiving the award.

APPLICATION

- ▶ Application (on reverse side of this page) and accompanying documents should be sent to:
CCM, Attention: Connectional Ministries, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia SC 29203.
Submit applications by April 1, 2016 to be considered for the award.

AWARDS

- ▶ A subcommittee of the Conference Board of Evangelism will review the applications and notify the qualifiers.

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APPLICATION

DEADLINE APRIL 1, 2016

CHURCH _____

CHARGE _____

DISTRICT _____

PASTOR _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP _____

▶ YOUR AVERAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE 2014 _____

YOUR AVERAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE 2015 _____

OR A **PARAGRAPH** THAT DESCRIBES THE ENHANCEMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(Increase in attendance or a paragraph describing a new Christian Education or Spiritual formation ministry.)

▶ WRITE A **PARAGRAPH** THAT LISTS ONE NEW PROGRAM THAT IMPACTS GROWTH IN YOUR CHURCH. DESCRIBE THE PROGRAM AND HOW IT HAS IMPACTED YOUR CHURCH'S GROWTH.

▶ LIST YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT THE BEGINNING OF 2014 (according to the Journal): _____

LIST THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS RECEIVED BY PROFESSION OF FAITH OR REDEDICATION

IN 2015: _____

PERCENT INCREASE: _____

▶ LIST ONE NEW PROGRAM THAT ENHANCES THE YOUTH MINISTRY OF YOUR CHURCH. DESCRIBE THE PROGRAM AND HOW IT HAS ENHANCED YOUTH MINISTRY.

▶ LIST TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS REQUESTED FOR 2015: _____

LIST TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS PAID FOR 2015: _____

LIST TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS PAID FOR 2014: _____

PERCENT PAID: _____ OR PERCENT INCREASE: _____