



The Bishop's Five-Star Award of Excellence



Download this form before filling it out, or you will lose your work.

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 both small churches and large churches to receive recognition.

Criteria (The Five Stars)

Increase in Sunday School attendance and/or enhancement of Christian Education Ministry

To qualify for this star, a church 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.

One percent increase in members received by profession of faith or rededication

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 percent of youth to camp, having 50 percent of youth workers attend youth workers' training events, supporting the Youth Service Fund, and increasing attendance of UMYF by 10 percent. Credit will be given to programs that demonstrate emphasis on growing youth ministry.

All apportionments paid in full for previous year

Or a 25 percent increase in apportionment payments year-to-year.

How to nominate a church

Complete the nomination form on the other side of this page and email it to dseals@umcsc.org by **April 5**.

A subcommittee of the Evangelism Committee of the Discipleship Area of Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church will review the applications and notify the qualifiers.



The Bishop's Five-Star Award of Excellence



Nomination Form | Annual Deadline: April 5

This award provides an incentive for churches – small and large – to embrace new ministries each year geared toward growth and outreach. Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee of the Discipleship Area of Connectional Ministries of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. (See criteria on other side of this form.)

Church/Charge: _____ District: _____

Pastor: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Church membership: _____

Christian Education

Average Sunday School Attendance 2022: _____ Average Sunday School Attendance 2023: _____

Write a paragraph (≤ 100 words) describing enhancement of Christian education programs:

Church Growth

Church membership at the beginning of 2022 (*according to the Journal*): _____

Number of members received by profession of faith or rededication in 2023: _____

Percentage increase from 2022 to 2023: _____

Write a paragraph (≤ 100 words) describing a new program and how it has impacted growth in your church:

Youth Ministry

Write a paragraph (≤ 100 words) describing a new program and how it has impacted your church's youth ministry:

Apportionment giving

Total apportionments requested (2022): _____

Total apportionments paid (2023): _____

Total apportionments paid (2022): _____

Percent paid: _____ Percentage increase (2023 over 2022): _____