

Fellowship of United Methodist Spiritual Directors and Retreat Leaders (FUMSDRL) / Hearts on Fire

PARTNERSHIP GUIDELINES

Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is:

- To clarify the importance of partnerships;
- To set forth criteria for choosing with whom to enter a partnership;
- To outline general expectations of a partnership.

Procedure

Reason for Partnerships

As the awareness of the ministry of spiritual formation increases within the faith community at-large and The United Methodist Church in particular, more organizations are surfacing which support and promote the ministries of spiritual direction and contemplative retreat leadership. Recognizing that we are called to work together with all who do this ministry, Hearts on Fire: The Fellowship of United Methodist Spiritual Directors and Retreat Leaders (FUMSDRL) affirms our intention to support those ministries which compliment and sometimes overlap with our ministry by establishing official partnerships with other organizations that are also willing to do so with a spirit of cooperation and mutually.

Criteria for Choosing a Partner

We are clear that our purpose is to connect, resource, and support spiritual directors and retreat leaders within The United Methodist Church. Organizations that we may establish partnerships with include groups that connect with spiritual directors and retreat leaders in other denominations and faith groups. Partner organizations may also be those who offer training and continuing education for spiritual directors and retreat leaders and organizations that provide opportunities for individual spiritual formation.

Mutual Expectations of a Partnership

A partnership relationship will mean that:

- Partners will have a link on their websites for the partner organization;
- Partners will promote events of the partner organization on their websites and through newsletters;
- Partners will refer those seeking a specific service to the appropriate partner organization.
- Partners will support each other in areas such as, but not limited to, offering joint conferences or retreats, providing consultation, obtaining guest speakers, and contributing to the newsletter of the partner organization.
- Partners will commit to praying for each others' ministries.

Decision to Enter a Partnership

After discussion with a representative of a potential partner and after a period of discernment, the decision to enter a partnership will lie with the Board of FUMSDRL. If both parties agree to a partnership, then both partners will sign a letter of agreement stating the expectations of the partnership.

Dissolving a Partnership

If either party feels the partnership is no longer benefiting its organization as a whole and/or its individual members, then the partnership may be dissolved by having the Chair of the Board of FUMSDRL or the President/Chair of the Board or CEO of the organization with whom FUMSDRL has a partnership write a letter to the partner organization stating the wish to dissolve the partnership. Once the letter is received by the partner organization, the partnership will be dissolved.

Review of Partnerships

Partnership agreements will be review every 2 years.

Review of these Guidelines

These guidelines will be reviewed every 2 years.

Approved by the Board, November 30, 2017

Reviewed and approved by the Board with minor changes, March 15, 2018

Reviewed and approved by the Board, July 30, 2019

Reviewed and approved by the Board with minor changes, April 13, 2021