

**Communications Document**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton and Scout Troop 23**

**TOPIC:** Change in Charter Relationship with Troop 23

Over the past several months, the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton and Troop Leadership of Scout Troop 23 have been in dialogue concerning the charter arrangement our two organizations have enjoyed and cherished for over seventy years. From its inception as a troop, First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton has held the charter of the troop per Boys Scouts of America (and later Scouting America) guidelines. The charter was renewed on an annual basis.

Changes in the charter agreement, along with increased guidance from the Presbytery of Chicago and the PC(USA), resulted in various discussions to explore various ways to edit the charter agreement or change the relationship to a facilities use agreement (similar to what First Pres employs with other external organizations). Troop 23, still needing to find a chartering organization, was approached by the American Legion Cantigny Post 556 about becoming a chartering sponsor.

Through open collaboration and conversations, our collective team reached consensus to recommend that Troop 23 move from a charter relationship into a facilities use agreement with First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton and will pursue the charter sponsor with American Legion Cantigny Post 556. Troop 23 will continue meeting at First Pres and will maintain and store equipment within the facility even as the upcoming renovation and revitalization of the First Pres campus evolves. The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton approved this recommendation by MOTION at the March Stated Meeting of Session held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

This is a decision not entered into lightly by either Troop 23 or First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton. It is apparent, however, that this arrangement will protect the troop and the church while supporting the values of God and Country exhibited by scouts. It also engages a third organization into our relationship with the troop by allowing American Legion Cantigny Post 556 to sponsor the charter for Troop 23.

Questions can be addressed to Session and Troop 23 leadership. Additionally, FAQs are attached to this document.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Question:** Will the Troop 23 remain affiliated with First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton?

**Answer:** *Our two organizations have a long legacy and a valued relationship. Both parties have worked diligently to find a solution that protects our relationship while addressing today's challenges. The Charter Organization for Troop 23 will be American Legion Cantigny Post 556. The troop will maintain its relationship with First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton through a mutually approved facilities use agreement.*

- **Question:** What drove this change? Why now?

**Answer:** *The Charter Agreement included terms and conditions mandated by Scouting America, of which First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton, along with the Presbytery of Chicago and the PC(USA) could not adhere or agree. Ironically, these terms and conditions were never executed nor even requested by Troop 23. Nonetheless, including them in a contractual agreement was beyond the ability of the church to comply. Various options were considered and discussed but moving to a facilities agreement was most acceptable to all.*

- **Question:** Will Troop 23 Scouts be supporting First Pres activities and programs?

**Answer:** *The mission and vision of the troop and of First Pres continue to align. Our intent is to continue to support each other in valuable and appropriate ways. We will look for opportunities to advocate for each other and welcome a third partner in the American Legion post in sharing those values. As much as possible, First Pres will seek to encourage the troop and accommodate their needs and Troop 23 will continue to operate as good stewards of the facility and programs of the church.*