

THE UMRA CITATION OF MERIT

The writer of the Book of Romans says simply that we are to love one another with brotherly and sisterly affection outdoing one another in showing honor. Romans 12:10

Honor often is shown to persons and organizations in "high positions" with the result that persons on the "cutting edge" of living out the faith often are not recognized for their ministries and faith. The **UMRA CITATION OF MERIT** is a way to demonstrate honor to such persons or groups within the Church and community.

PURPOSE

The Citation of Merit shall be awarded for a specific contribution, service or achievement in the area of town and country ministries. The contribution, service, or achievement may be limited in scope or cover a short period of time, in contrast to the purpose described for the Honorary Life Membership, which is for more continuous service or for a longer period of time. The Citation may be used to provide recognition within the annual conference, the jurisdiction, or at the national level of the Church, depending on which level is most appropriate.

RECIPIENTS OF THE CITATION

A nominee for the Citation may be a lay or clergy person, or a group such as a staff ministry, a congregation, a pastoral charge, a cooperative parish ministry, a seminary, a community outreach or similar project.

NOMINATING PROCEDURE

A nomination, along with a written statement justifying the basis for the Citation, is to be forwarded by a sponsoring group or individual to the National Vice Chairperson of the UMRA. Upon receipt of the nomination, the Vice Chairperson shall carry out, or cause to be carried out, a careful review of the nomination before granting approval for a Citation to be awarded. Approval or disapproval of the nomination shall then be conveyed to the sponsor(s).

PROCEDURE FOR SPONSORS

(1) Collect from supporters of the Citation a minimum of \$250.00.

(2) At least three weeks prior to the presentation of the Citation, inform the National UMRA Vice Chairperson about the Citation to be presented. This shall include: name of the person or group to be honored, the location and date of the presentation, and the name of the person in the Annual Conference designated to cosign the Citation with the Jurisdictional Representative of the UMRA. (Normally UMRA Chapter Chairperson.)

(3) Provide an appropriate setting at which time the Citation shall be presented to the recipient.

PROCEDURE FOR THE JURISDICTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Immediately upon receipt of information that adequate funds are or will be available (assuming the nomination has been approved) and of information in sections 2 and 3 of the above paragraph, the Jurisdictional

Representative shall sign and forward the Citation of Merit Certificate received from the UMRA Vice Chairperson to the Chairperson of the sponsoring group whose responsibility it shall be to have the certificate signed by the appropriate person in the Annual Conference.

WITHIN TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF THE CITATION

(a) The sponsor(s) shall forward a minimum of one half of the amount collected, but not less than \$250, to the Vice Chairperson of the National UMRA. The remaining one half may be retained by an Annual Conference Chapter for its use.

(2) The sponsor(s) shall forward to the Vice Chairperson of the National UMRA the list of supporters of the Citation. The amounts contributed by individual supporters need not be indicated.

(4) The sponsor(s) may forward a list of contributors to the recipient. The amounts contributed by the supporters shall not be indicated.

(5) The Vice Chairperson of the National UMRA shall maintain: a record of each Citation of Merit recipient, the supportive basis for each Citation, and forward the amount received to the National UMRA Treasurer

(6) Each Citation of Merit carries a one year subscription to the UMRA e-BULLETIN.

(7) It is suggested that appropriate photographs be taken at the time of the presentation, and that along with a short news release the pictures be sent to the editor of the UMRA BULLETIN, to local media, and to conference news media.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

(1) Often it is desirable for supporters of the Citation to write letters of appreciation to the recipient and to present them in bound form at the time of presentation.

(2) The certificate for the Citation of Merit is attractively printed, is 8-1/2" by 11" in size, and is best presented in a frame.

(3) The presentation often is made at an annual UMRA banquet, on the conference floor, at a district gathering, or in a similar occasion.

INFORMATION SOURCE

If further information or names/addresses of jurisdictional or conference persons is needed, please contact:

Rev. Peggy Paige,
Vice Chairperson, National UMRA
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Ingalls, MI 49848
Cell Phone: 906-221-7677
Email: peggy4249@yahoo.com

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UNITED METHODIST RURAL ADVOCATES

Our Mission: To be an advocate for the work of Jesus Christ in rural and town & country communities.

Our Covenant: Believing God has called and gifted us for this, task, undergirded by the Practice of the Wesleyan means of Grace, we covenant together to grow in spirituality,

so that we may:

1. Lobby at General Conference
2. Provide models of sustainable, effective, replicable, generative ministry
3. Speak the truth in love to congregations (clergy & laity) and agencies within the United Methodist Church
4. Create a capacity to support new and emerging programs
5. Utilize technologies to:
 - a. build relationships and allies;
 - b. share information & resources
 - c. connect families

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The UMRA cooperates with General Church agencies in responding to the special needs of small membership churches and town and country churches and communities.

CITATION OF MERIT



**United Methodist
Rural Advocates**

**A way to honor those
carrying out vital
ministry and work
in town and country places**

2021