

# Boy Scouts faring well a year after easing ban on gay adults

NEW YORK (AP) — There were dire warnings for the Boy Scouts of America a year ago when the group's leaders, under intense pressure, voted to end a long-standing blanket ban on participation by openly gay adults. Several of the biggest sponsors of Scout units, including the Roman Catholic, Mormon and Southern Baptist churches, were openly dismayed, raising the prospect of mass defections. Remarkably, nearly 12 months after the BSA National Executive Board's decision, the Boy Scouts seem more robust than they have in many years. Youth membership is on the verge of stabilizing after a prolonged decline, corporations which halted donations because of the ban have resumed their support, and the vast majority of units affiliated with conservative religious denominations have remained in the fold — still free to exclude gay adults if that's in accordance with their religious doctrine.



AP Photo/Mary Altaffer

**In this June 25 photo, Cub Scouts watch a race during the Second Annual World Championship Pinewood Derby in New York's Times Square. Nearly 12 months after the Boy Scouts of America National Executive Board's decision to end a long-standing blanket ban on participation by openly gay adults, the Boy Scouts seem more robust than they have in many years.**

Catholic Bishop Robert Guglielmo of Charleston, South Carolina, whose duties include liaising with the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, says he knows of no instances where a Catholic unit — there are more than 7,500 — has taken on an openly gay adult leader since the policy change. Gay sex and same-sex marriage are considered violations of church teaching.

The Boy Scouts' national leadership "has been wonderfully supportive," Guglielmo said.

Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention were unhappy with the BSA's easing of the ban on gay adults, but did not call on individual churches to disaffiliate with troops that they sponsored.

A year later, the number of Southern Baptist churches that did cut ties with Scouting is "in the double digits," far outnumbered by those who continued their sponsorships, according to Ted S. Spangenberg Jr., president of the executive board of the Association of Baptists for Scouting.

"We kind of like the way it looks," Spangenberg said. "If you're faith-based, it's within your right to select the adult leaders who are going to uphold the tenets of your faith."

Also pleased with the developments is Richard Mason, president of the BSA's Greater New York Councils, serving nearly 50,000 youths in the New York City area.

In April 2015, the NY Councils played a key role in the BSA policy change, defying the ban by hiring an 18-year-old gay Eagle Scout to work at one of its summer camps.

Mason said the aftermath of the change has been overwhelmingly positive in New York. Some corporations and liberal religious groups that cut ties with the Scouts have restored them, he

said, while the Catholic archdiocese has remained fully active.

Until last year, the Boy Scouts had adhered to a ban on gay adults for more than three decades, even taking a case to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000, when it won a 5-4 decision upholding its right to have exclusionary membership policies.

That ruling fueled protests against the BSA by gay-rights supporters.

After internal debate, the BSA leadership decided in 2013 to allow participation by openly gay youth. But it faced continued pressure to ease its ban on gay adults serving as paid staff or volunteers.

At the urging of Robert Gates, the former defense secretary who was BSA president at the time, the Scouts' National Executive Board voted 45-12 on July 27, 2015, to end the blanket ban on gay adult leaders while allowing church-sponsored units to maintain the exclusion for religious reasons.

About 73 percent of Scout units are sponsored by churches, some of them open to participation by gay adults.

Like several other major youth organizations, the Boy Scouts have experienced a membership decline in recent decades. Current youth participation, according to the BSA, is about 2.35 million, down from 2.6 million in 2013 and more than 4 million in peak years of the past.

However, Gates, in a speech in May before stepping down as BSA president, said there were encouraging trends, with the overall rate of decline slowing and an increase in the number of boys joining Cub Scouts.

"We are on the threshold of a significant historical event — a return to positive national growth for the first time in decades," Gates said.

There are no official statistics on how

many gay adults have been accepted as BSA leaders since the ban was eased.

"We do not inquire about the sexual orientation of our youth members, adult volunteers or employees," said BSA spokeswoman Effie Delimarkos.

Though the policy change did not trigger massive defections, there were some emphatic departures.

The Catholic bishop of Bismarck, North Dakota, David Kagan, announced his diocese would end its affiliation. In addition, about 20 individual Catholic parishes around the country dropped their sponsorship of Scout troops, according to Guglielmo.

In Appleton, Wisconsin, Faith Lutheran Church severed its ties with Boy Scout and Cub Scout units it had sponsored for 60 years. Pastor Dan Thews said he couldn't accept the idea of gay adults having influence over boys in the unit.

In Utah, where most troops are sponsored by Mormon churches, the change appears to have had modest impact.

The Mormon Church, which sponsors more Scout units than any other organization in the U.S., initially said it was "deeply troubled" by the policy change but later committed to sticking with the Boy Scouts.

One of the groups that campaigned against the BSA's bans on gay youths and adults — Scouts for Equality — is trying to build a national network of Scout units that publicly identify as welcoming gays. Zach Wahls, a co-founder of Scouts for Equality, said this program is now active in 31 states, with participation by more than 4,800 youths and 2,300 adults.

"We still have a ways to go," said Wahls, 24, an Eagle Scout who was raised by lesbian mothers in Iowa.

## BOARDMAN'S LIMY PASTOR

### Toiling under the sun

I can't help it. I'm not excited by our dismal politics, but I'm excited for my son, about to be married. Matthew and his wife-to-be shall then make a trip back to London, England, for their honeymoon. My sister, Sarah, is flying in from



**COLIN BROWN**  
Faith

me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity."

Yet, I feel that my son, the one who will be my successor in my ambitions, has carefully observed the obvious mistakes of his father,

and rather than copying them, is charting a path of wisdom and prudence. Our mistakes can be blessings to those who follow us because they outline what not to do. I am very good at being an example of that kind.

The most important thing is that my son has an innate kindness and holiness. He is kind to his mother, and to his wife-to-be, Kylene. He leapt into the breach when Kylene lost her brother to a drowning accident in the Molalla River and stepped in for her grieving parents and has continued to comfort and support them ever since.

Of him, it is also said in Ecclesiastes: For the one who pleases him, God has given wisdom, knowledge and joy.

I pray that my son and his wife will flourish wherever they are planted. I pray also for your heirs, dear readers, and that your children will inherit the promise of the Living God also.

Please feel free to come and visit me at church, at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Summer is thinning out the flock temporarily and your company would be most welcome.

France with her new husband Yvon, landing in Canada and then driving down to us in Oregon for the event. There's a lot of dinosaur juice being invested in this affair.

My old schoolfriend, Colin Vaines, is going to meet with them in Buckinghamshire in England and take them to see him making a movie at Pinewood Studios. Other family members are going to greet them and take them around London with its palaces, and lesser known bits of limey land.

I'm performing the wedding ceremony in Champoe Park, next to the Willamette overlooking the water from an elevated ledge. What a wonderful symbol of marriage above the tumult of water with a vision of prosperity and abundance.

It is a wonderful thing to be stepping into this part of their future. It feels like a handover of sorts. I can still remember when he was small, so small, and I had no idea of the fine guy he would become.

My Old Testament reading this week, strangely enough, is from Ecclesiastes, which is eerily pertinent:

"I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun. Seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after

## BRIEFLY

### Missionaries to share message at Faith Center Church

PENDLETON — Jim and Masako Millard, missionaries to Japan and Asia, will present a message at the Faith Center Church, 108 S. Main St., Pendleton.

The couple will share about "Reproducing Disciples, Leaders and Churches That Multiply Churches in Japan and Throughout Asia" Sunday at 10 a.m. at 108 S. Main St., Pendleton. The free event is open to the public.

The couple has served in the mission field for 25 years. In addition to gospel outreach, they have performed relief work for the Nepal earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

For more information, call 541-276-9569. For more about the ministry, visit [www.sunriseinternational.org](http://www.sunriseinternational.org).

### Council of Faith Lutheran Church evaluates outreach services

The council of Faith Lutheran Church met Wednesday with Rev. Doug Wagley following the completion of his 90-day call, which expanded the church's outreach to Pilot Rock and Sunridge Retirement Home in Pendleton.

As a result of the discussion, the council decided to suspend the Sunday evening services held at the Pilot Rock Community Presbyterian Church and the Tuesday evening Bible study at Sunridge for the next four weeks (July 24 through Aug. 14). The group will study, reevaluate and assess the situation.

During this period, Wagley has travel plans and commitments in Spokane, Colorado and Texas.

Faith Lutheran Church continues to meet regularly on Sunday mornings with a 9 a.m. Bible class and 10:30 a.m. worship service in the Oregon Trail Room at the Red Lion, 304 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton.

However, this week's service will begin at 10 a.m., and will be led by Rev. Rod Harwood, former St. Anthony Hospital chaplain.

For more information, call Bob Wright at 541-276-6459 or 541-915-7154.

### Mormon missionaries will be called 'volunteers' in Russia

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Mormon missionaries in Russia will now be known as "volunteers" to comply with a new anti-terrorism law that puts restrictions on religious practices.

Church spokesman Eric Hawkins said Tuesday that the change is the first step as leaders determine how to keep several hundred missionaries there while obeying a law Russian President Vladimir Putin signed earlier this month.

Hawkins says an email is being sent to parents and relatives of missionaries in Russia informing them of the change.

# Worship Community

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
-Presbyterian Church (USA)-  
201 SW Dorion Ave.  
Pendleton  
Service of Worship - 10:00 am  
Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am  
Fellowship - 11:00 am  
[www.pendletonpresbyterian.com](http://www.pendletonpresbyterian.com)  
**Open Hearted...Open Minded**

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
210 NW 9th, Pendleton ELCA  
Join us Sundays  
9:30 am Sunday Worship  
10:30 am Fellowship  
11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Class  
~Come and be at Peace~  
on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday

**Faith Center Church**  
Worshiping God  
Loving People  
108 S. Main • 276-9569  
Sunday Worship  
10:30 am  
Sr. Pastor,  
Ray O'Grady  
[pendletonfaithcenter.org](http://pendletonfaithcenter.org)

**NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
1350 S. Highway 395,  
Hermiston  
Sunday Worship Services  
English- Pastor Dave Andrus  
9:00 & 10:45 am  
Spanish- Pastor Genaro Loredo  
9:00 & 10:15 am  
Classes for kids during all services  
For more information call  
541-567-8441

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
Saturday Services  
**Pendleton**  
1401 SW Goodwin Place  
276-0882  
Sabbath School 9:20 am  
Worship Service 10:45 am

**Community Presbyterian Church**  
14 Martin Drive,  
Umatilla, OR  
922-3250  
Worship: 10 AM  
Sunday School at 11:30

**First United Methodist Church**  
352 SE 2nd Street  
Pendleton, OR  
541-276-2616  
Sunday Worship 9am  
Open Hearts, Open Hands, Open Doors  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FUMCPendleton](http://www.facebook.com/FUMCPendleton)  
Services are broadcast every Sunday on KUMA-1290 AM @ 11am  
Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

**St. Johns Episcopal Church**  
All People  
Are Welcome  
Scripture, Tradition  
and Reason  
Family service 9am Sunday  
Glady's Ave & 7th Hermiston  
Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-6672

**Grace Baptist Church**  
555 SW 11th, Hermiston  
567-9497  
Nursery provided for all services  
Sunday School - 9:30 AM  
Worship - 10:45 AM  
6:00 pm  
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM  
"Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"

**GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**  
www.graceandmercy.org  
OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR  
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided)  
Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School  
Check Out our Facebook Page or Website for More Information  
541-289-4535  
Tom Lind, Pastor  
Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA  
164 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 1108  
Hermiston, Oregon 97838

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
215 N Main • Pendleton  
Sunday Worship: 10:40a  
Bible Class: 9:30a  
Office 276-5358  
M-F: 8:30-12:30  
[WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG](http://WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG)

**PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
585 SW Birch  
Pilot Rock, OR 97868  
(541) 443-2500  
[prbcnline.blogspot.com](http://prbcnline.blogspot.com)  
Sunday School: 9:30 am  
Worship Service: 10:45 am  
Kids' Club: 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Services:  
Youth Group: 7:00 pm

**Redeemer Episcopal Church**  
241 SE Second St. Pendleton  
(541)276-3809  
[www.pendletonepiscopal.org](http://www.pendletonepiscopal.org)  
Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Holy Communion Noon  
Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group  
**All Are Welcome**

**The Salvation Army**  
Center for Worship & Service  
Sunday Worship Service  
9:30 - Sunday School  
10:30 - Worship Service  
Wednesday Bible Study  
5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study  
**COME AS YOU ARE**  
150 SE EMIGRANT  
(541)276-3369

**Come meet Jesus at PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3202 SW Hye Ave Pendleton, OR  
541-276-7590  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM  
Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM  
Mon. Community Women's Study  
9:30 AM & 6 PM  
Awana Kids Club (K-6th grade)  
Wed Men's Study 6 PM  
MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
in Mission for Christ LCMC  
Bible Study.....9:00 AM  
Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM  
Red Lion Hotel  
( Oregon Trail Room )  
[www.faithpendleton.org](http://www.faithpendleton.org)

**PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD**  
FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM  
SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM  
712 SW 27th ST.  
541-276-1894  
[www.fcogpendleton.com](http://www.fcogpendleton.com)

**a place to belong**  
Pendleton First  
INVITING ENRICHING  
INVOLVING EMPOWERING  
**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
AM Celebration-10:00am  
AM Kids Place -10:00am  
The Connection-6:00pm  
Groups for all ages:  
Adults, Children, Youth, & College  
**Thursdays**  
Celebrate Recovery-6:00pm  
Celebration Place-6:00pm  
Other Groups Available Weekly  
**For more info visit**  
[WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM](http://WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM)  
1911 SE Court Ave  
541-276-6417  
Assembly of God Church

**Living Word Christian Center**  
Sunday Worship 10:00am  
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00pm  
Youth Classes: Nursery - 6th grade Sun & Wed  
Jr & Sr High Discipleship Program Wed  
**Overcomer's Outreach**  
Tuesdays at 6:00pm - Annex  
A Christ-centered, 12-step  
Recovery Support Group  
Sharon Miller, Pastor  
401 Northgate, Pendleton  
541-278-8082  
[www.livingwordcc.com](http://www.livingwordcc.com)

**BAHA'I FAITH**  
"The Unity of All Mankind"  
Pendleton Baha'i Center at  
1015 SE Court Place  
Devotions Sundays @  
11:00am; Everyone invited!  
(541) 276-9360 visit us at  
[www.pendletonbahais.org](http://www.pendletonbahais.org)

**To share your worship times call Terri Briggs**  
541-278-2678