

May 10, 2015

Dear PRAY Adult Awards Approval Committee:

I, Helen Domer, would like to nominate Steve Yoder for the God & Service Award. Steve has been very involved in the Dalton United Methodist Church as well as Boy Scouts and has been instrumental in many scouts and other youth receiving the P.R.A.Y. awards.

Steve has served as Head Usher for DUMC for around 15 years, always making sure that everyone feels welcome, and has anything they need for the service, such as hearing devices, special children's bulletins or microphones. He also has been the chairperson for the Administrative Council for at least 5 years, and has served on various other committees.

I have had the pleasure of working with Steve over the years within our church to help promote the PRAY awards. In 2008, we were counselors together for a group of 8 students for the God & Church program and Steve has helped over 20 other Cub Scouts and youth in receiving the various level awards.

Serving as a Cub Scout leader for 15 years, and also a Boy Scout leader for 10 years, Steve has been a fundamental part of Pack/Troop #922 of the Killbuck District of Buckeye Council. He is currently a Webelos II den leader and will move with the boys as they become Boy Scouts next year. The Pack/Troop #922 is chartered with the Dalton Presbyterian Church and Steve helps promote the annual Scout Sunday there to bring awareness of the church's support to the scouts and their families as well as help recognize the great service that the scouts provide our community. Steve has also served as the Troop and Pack Chaplin for many years.

Being a Girl Scout leader myself, I think it is wonderful how Steve has helped to also have a combined Girl and Boy Scout service at the DUMC. Steve makes sure that the girls, as well as boys, are made a part of the service by being able to help by being acolytes, taking collection and carrying the flags. (He does this throughout the whole year too, not just for Scout Sunday.)

Steve has played an active role in many of the community projects with the scouts such as Memorial Day Parades and services, Christmas parades, decorating veterans' graves, visiting and caroling at retirement homes and shut-ins, and numerous food drives. The scouts have also participated in bell ringing for the Salvation Army and always help the churches when called upon to aid in their outreach programs.

Nathan Elett has this to say about Steve too: "As an observer, fellow scout leader and friend of Steve it is evident that he is a dedicated leader, anchored in his Christian beliefs that is devoted to nurturing, mentoring, advising and helping boys and family members work their way through the scout program. He believes deeply in the teachings and canon of the scout program which is evident in his years of service and participation. His Christian core is always present and visible in his leadership techniques and day to day activities. Steve recruited myself to be a den leader for the Cub Scouts and through his encouragement I volunteered to be Cub Master and have held that position for 3 years now. Steve also recruited Tom Triesch who has been a leader of various capacities and positions within the Cub and Boy scouts over the years. These are two examples of many that have been moved and effected by Steve's enthusiasm for the scouting program."

We, too, at the Dalton United Methodist Church have been blessed by Steve Yoder's presence, enthusiasm and service in our church and that is why we feel that he is very deserving of the God & Service Award.

Sincerely,
Helen Domer