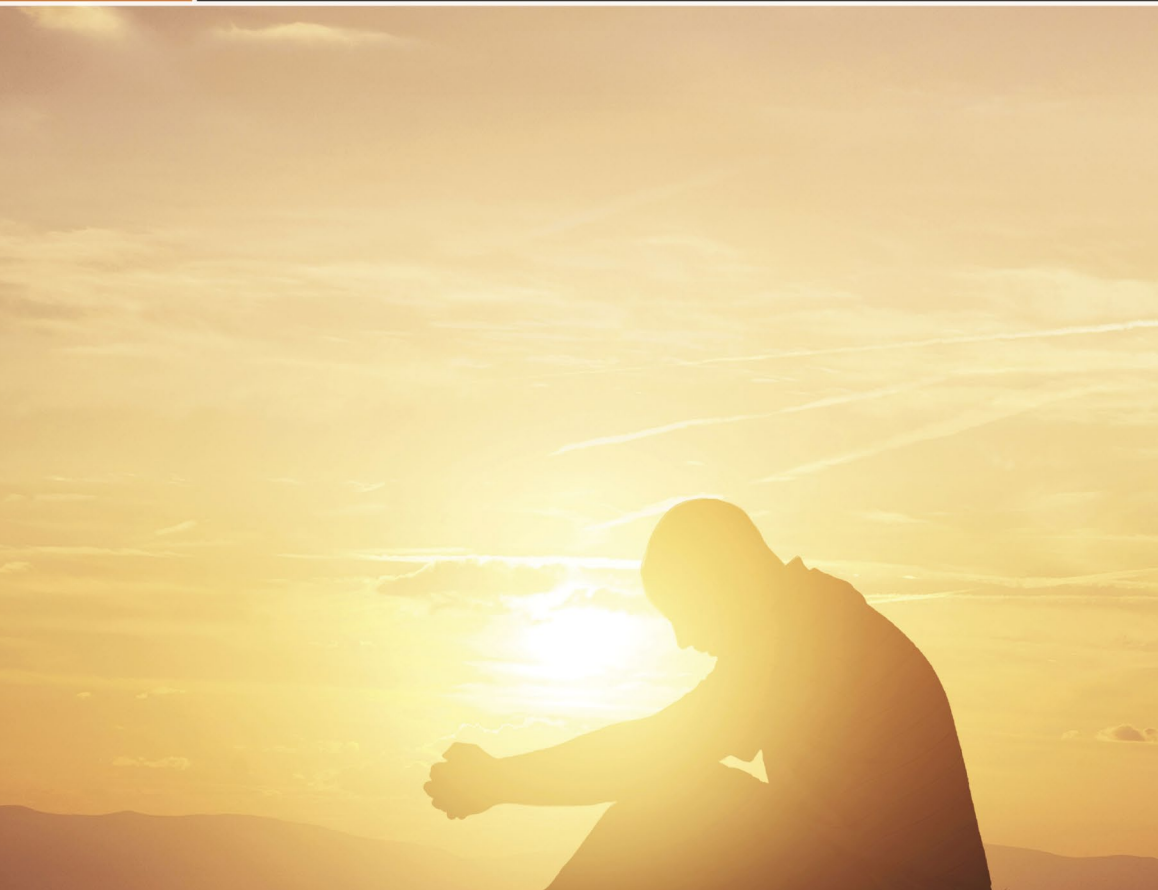




G U I D E L I N E S



Men's Ministries

Expand Your Ministries to Men
in Your Church and Community



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The General Commission on United Methodist Men

MEN'S MINISTRIES

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Contents

Blessed to Be a Blessing	5
Our Vision, Mission, and Call	6
Our Vision	
Our Mission	
Our Call	
How to Create Movement in Your Men’s Organization	8
Steps to Start the Action	
Men’s Ministry Through the Connection	10
Affiliate Organizations	
How to Measure the Effectiveness of Your Ministry	12
Here Is What a Successful Ministry Looks Like	13
Smaller Groups, Focused Ministry	
Younger Men	
Impact	
Four Areas of Focus	15
United Methodist Men and <i>The Book of Discipline</i>	17
Mandates from the 2016 edition of <i>The Book of Discipline</i>	
United Methodist Men Disciplinary Goals: 2017–2020 Quadrennium	
Men’s Ministry in the Local Congregation	19
The Charter	
Class Meetings	
Webinars: Training and Discussion Using Technology	
Opportunities for Individuals	21
Men’s Ministry Specialists (MMS)	
EMS/Legacy	
National Gathering	
Mission Projects	23
Upper Room Prayer Line	
The Society of St. Andrew	
Meals for Millions	
Stop Hunger Now	
DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministries	
Big Brothers Big Sisters Amachi Partnership	

Distinguished Recognitions	26
The Society of John Wesley	
Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence	
Life Membership	
Torch Awards	
The Cross and Flame Award	
The Good Samaritan Award	
United Methodist Men Foundation	28
Resources	29
Free Resources at www.gcumm.org	
Books	
Man in the Mirror Resources	
General Agencies & Helpful Links	

Blessed to Be a Blessing

If you are reading this Guideline, you have said yes to servant leadership in your church. You are blessed to be a blessing. What does that mean?

By virtue of our baptism by water and the Spirit, God calls all Christians to faithful discipleship, to grow to maturity in faith (see Ephesians 4). The United Methodist Church expresses that call in our shared mission “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” (*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, or the *Discipline*, ¶120). Each local congregation and community of faith lives out that call in response to its own context—the wonderful and unique combination of God-given human and material resources with the needs of the community, within and beyond the congregation.

The work of servant leaders—your work—is to open a way for God to work through you and the resources available to you in a particular ministry area, for you are about God’s work. As stewards of the mysteries of God (see 1 Corinthians 4:1), servant leaders are entrusted with the precious and vital task of managing and using God’s gifts in the ongoing work of transformation.

In The United Methodist Church, we envision transformation occurring through a cycle of discipleship (see the *Discipline*, ¶122). With God’s help and guidance, we

- reach out and receive people into the body of Christ,
- help people relate to Christ through their unique gifts and circumstances,
- nurture and strengthen people in their relationships with God and with others,
- send transformed people out into the world to lead transformed and transforming lives,
- continue to reach out, relate, nurture, and send disciples . . .

Every ministry area and group, from finance to missions, engages in all aspects of this cycle. This Guideline will help you see how that is true for the ministry area or group you now lead. When you begin to consider all of the work you do as ministry to fulfill God’s mission through your congregation, each task, report, and conversation becomes a step toward transforming the world into the kingdom of God.

Invite Christ into the process to guide your ministry. You are doing powerful and wonderful work. Allow missteps to become learning opportunities; rejoice in success. Fill your work with the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

God blesses you with gifts, skills, and experience. You are a blessing when you allow God to work through you to make disciples and transform the world. Thank you.

(Find additional help in the “Resources” section at the end of this Guideline, in *The Book of Discipline*, and through <http://www.umc.org>.)

Our Vision, Mission, and Call

Our Vision

Traditionally, the United Methodist Men's organization has been viewed as the small group of men who meet on a regular basis for a meal and a program with a spiritual basis. This traditional group is usually involved in projects that benefit the congregation.

In addition to this traditional model, the General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM), a program agency of the denomination, provides resources that enable local churches to create and sustain a ministry to, for, and through every man within the congregation and to men in surrounding communities. Many churches have caught this expanded vision, and men's ministries within their congregations and to their communities have become transformational.

This inclusive ministry works to meet men where they are in their spiritual lives and offers them a meaningful framework to move forward in their spiritual journeys.

Our Mission

United Methodist Men exists to declare the centrality of Christ in every man's life. Men's ministry leads to spiritual growth of men and effective discipleship, where men are growing in Christ and leading others to Christ. This purpose and mission is served as men are called to model the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.

Our Call

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, began an effective part of his ministry with small groups of men. In these groups—and in his preaching—Wesley spoke about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. He often talked about both *personal holiness* and *social holiness*.

Personal holiness refers to spiritual disciplines of prayer, searching the scriptures, fasting, worship, study, and meditation. We are called to participate in these disciplines because they bring us closer to Christ. The practices convict us to engage in *social holiness* acts of mercy, grace, justice, and peace. Men become balanced disciples as they engage in both personal and social holiness. They actively serve others and lead other men into a deeper relationship with our Lord.

In addition to recommended Bible and topical studies, many groups of men have discovered specific ways to make disciples of Jesus Christ through an eight-session study of *The Class Meeting*, a book by Dr. Kevin Watson (see Resources, pages 29–30). To reach a broader

geographic area and to strengthen our connection, leaders have been trained to hold these sessions electronically. Conference leaders were asked to reach at least one person in each district, who would repeat the process with 10 churches in that district. Each of those 10 churches would be asked to repeat the experience with a group of at least 10 in each church. With the use of technology, this Wesleyan model is helping tens of thousands of United Methodists gain a renewed and deeper, “on-growing” relationship with Jesus Christ.

Men’s Work Is Supported by Research

Studies from a wide variety of sources indicate that finding ways to reach men is the key ingredient to church growth.

A Hartford Seminary study found that when 60 percent of congregations are composed of women, only 22 percent of the churches are growing, but when 60 percent of congregations are composed of men, 59 percent of those churches are growing.

Churches go in the directions in which they pay attention.

Since his assignment as the resident bishop in South Carolina, Bishop Jonathan Holston has paid attention to men’s ministry. What began as a 2013 conference gathering of fewer than 100 men grew to more than 850 men and some women in 2015. Men leading men to Christ is contagious.

Several local churches have achieved dramatic results after making subtle changes in their worship and websites. The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Wilson of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference has been highlighted in several publications following changes she suggested to Grace UMC after reading David Murrow’s book, *Why Men Hate Going to Church*.

The book *No Man Left Behind* (published by Orlando, Fla.-based Man in the Mirror ministries) suggests ways to lead men to become disciples of Jesus Christ. The book is now the basis for a course in “Understanding Men’s Ministry.” Professionals who lead men’s ministry in any denomination will tell you that achieving success in this area does not come by accident. Men’s ministry is the most difficult ministry of the Christian Church. It requires skill, attention, planning, and servant leadership.

How to Create Movement in Your Men's Organization

Sir Isaac Newton developed three laws of motion. His first and third laws have some meaning for us as we explore transforming men's ministry from a stationary fixture into a dynamic movement.

- Every object in a state of uniform motion tends to remain in that state of motion unless an external force is applied to it.
- For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

The first law describes inertia, objects in motion tend to stay in motion; objects at rest tend to stay at rest. "At rest" seems to describe many of the men's ministry groups and many congregations in our great church. While some churches are booming, growing, seeking ways to intentionally serve their community, others are at rest.

Resting is good; we need rest every night. We need time off from work to rest and reset our goals and get charged up. But there comes a time for action, a time for doing. We don't act so we can rest, we rest so we can act.

If your church has a UM Men unit that meets, has fellowship, and does some great work within the church, that is wonderful. If that unit touches 25 percent of the men that attend your church, then most would say that it is successful. If we want to reach the other 75 percent of the men in the church, as well as a percentage of the men outside the church, what do we do? First, don't throw away what is working for the 25 percent of the guys that are involved. Yes, that UM Men unit may want to change some, add some new areas of focus, but don't abandon them.

A study of men in leadership in The United Methodist Church found that most are lonely and need some other males with whom they can relate. So, what do we do to widen our view of men's ministry to every man in your church and community? It takes action, in fact it takes repeated action to get us going in the right direction (Newton's third law).

Steps to Start the Action

1. Don't do it alone, get assistance from the pastor and have two or three other guys helping you. Begin this process by asking the pastor for his or her vision for the men of your church and community. Then talk to the other guys on this team and pray daily.

2. Ask guys who come to church monthly what they would want to see in an experience that would help them with their daily walk. Ask women whose husbands and/or sons do not attend church what would bring the rest of the family into a relationship with this

church and with Jesus Christ. Ask the men who live in the five blocks around the church how the church can minister to them.

3. Do it. Nike is right. You can plan, study, research, ask, reformulate, write vision statements and mottos, or design a logo. Or you can just do it. That planning-and-preparation mode can easily turn into an at-rest mode. Action and reaction gets us moving.

4. What about the opposite nature of Newton's law? That is good, too. Let's say you decide to begin a Bible study every week. There is action for the guys who want that, and there is a reaction from the guys who do want something, but not a Bible study. If embraced, the reaction could start participation in a Habitat house, or a garden that grows fresh vegetables for a homeless shelter, or the adoption of the Scout troop, or forming a group of guys who fly fish, or getting involved in prison ministry.

5. Doing something allows you to offer to the 75 percent of the guys in the church and the community a place to fit in. Some will say, "Yes, that is what I want," while other will say, "I don't want that, but I do want. . . ." It is a win/win. But we have to act. Action is movement, and we want, in all our churches, a movement of men actively following Christ.

Men's Ministry Through the Connection

You will find efforts in men's ministry at the district, annual conference, jurisdictional, and general church levels, but the most important place that men's ministry happens is within local congregations. There are excellent district, national, and international resources and events, but if none of these affect the man in the pew, the goal is not reached.

Here are some basic principles to help you improve the ministry to men at your local church.

Do not do this alone. Begin by meeting with your pastor and asking what his or her vision is for the men of your church and your community. Then ask how you might help in making this vision a reality. Then find three to five other men who have a heart for this ministry to partner with you. A team of pastor, leader, and team is essential for a sustained ministry of the men in your church.

Get training. In the church, we often do things backwards, giving someone a job, expecting them to do well, and once they have failed suggest they get some training. Put training in the initial stage of your planning. Reading this Guideline is a starting point.

Training is available through the General Commission on United Methodist Men in multiple formats. The training should be done with your whole team, as setting goals is part of that process. Annual conferences and districts may provide events to help jump-start your church's ministries. Visit the commission's website (www.gcumm.org) and use the resources provided, most of which are free. If you don't find what you need, call or email the commission (see pages 29–30).

Get assistance from presidents of your district and conference UM Men or from a men's ministry specialist. Full-time staff or deployed staff members of GCUMM can help.

Participate in "Understanding Men's Ministry." This course is based on the book *No Man Left Behind* by Patrick Morley, David Delk, and Brett Clemmer. The book is available from the GCUMM website (www.gcumm.org) and from Man in the Mirror Ministries (www.maninthemirror.org). This course also fulfills one of the requirements for certification for men's ministry specialist (more on that later).

Share your successes and challenges with the commission staff. If you develop a great ministry to men, commission staff will highlight it on the GCUMM website, in *UM Men* magazine, and in your conference newspaper. The information will encourage other groups to engage in similar ministries.

Measure what you do. We want more than more men, we want men who are being transformed into better husbands, better sons, better fathers, better grandfathers, and better neighbors. So yes, keep track of the numbers, but also look for ways to measure how men are living out their commitments.

Stay connected. On the GCUMM home page, you will find a place to sign up for a newsletter from national leaders in men's ministry. This will be sent to you every other month and is a great resource for you personally and for the men of your church. Call or email the GCUMM staff and the leaders in men's ministry within your district and conference anytime you have a question.

Subscribe and distribute *UM Men* magazine. This quarterly publication is a great resource for anyone interested in men's ministry. The 42-page magazine includes challenging articles and firsthand success stories from churches of all sizes. The digest-size publication provides you with ideas about men's ministry and scouting ministry that have worked in other churches. The magazine is sent free to leaders of chartered organizations (covered in a later chapter) and men who support the ministries. Subscriptions are \$25 a year; send check to Subscription Fulfillment, 1000 17th Ave. S., Nashville, TN 37212.

Affiliate Organizations

United Methodist Men has affiliate relationships with the following organizations that offer resources and ways to stay connected.

- National Association of Conference Presidents, www.nacpumm.org/.
- UM Men Foundation, www.gcumm.org/.
- The Upper Room Prayer Center, www.upperroom.org/prayer_center/.
- Society of St. Andrew, www.endhunger.org/.
- World Fellowship of Methodist and Uniting Church Men, <http://worldmethodistcouncil.org/>.
- National Coalition of Ministries to Men, <http://ncmm.org/>.
- Denominational Men's Ministry Leaders,
- Boy Scouts of America, www.scouting.org/.
- Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., www.girlscouts.org/.
- Camp Fire www.campfireusa.org.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters, www.bbbs.org/.
- Stop Hunger Now, www.stophungernow.org/.

In addition, the commission recommends these non-denominational men's ministries:

- Man in the Mirror Ministries, www.maninthemirror.org/.
- Wesleyan Building Brothers, www.buildingbrothers.org/wbb/.

How to Measure the Effectiveness of Your Ministry

By Greg Arnold, a former GCUMM staff member based in Vancleave, Miss.

Many well-established churches struggle with men's ministry because of the recitation of long lists of failures that a faithful few offer as excuses. Few success stories are shared. New communities and church plants tend to have vital men's ministries, because they don't bring any baggage to the tables. Whether your ministry is new or continuing, guard against reporting only failures.

Let's look at how Jesus Christ led ministry.

- He began his ministry by building relationships, not programs.
- He lived as an example by practicing what he preached.
- He challenged the "this-is-how-we've-always-done-it" crowd.
- He never backed down from defending God's word and intention.
- He invested in those around him with teaching.
- He ministered to the hurting, the widows, the orphans, and the outcast.
- He empowered those around him to lead.

Did you notice that I left off miracles and divine attributes? This is to encourage you to see what *any* men's ministry leader can do.

In addition, consider how many disciples were on Jesus' leadership team? Were these few men successful? Uh...yes, quite successful. Men tend to measure success by numbers. And men in Western culture quantify success by numbers "right now." Disappointment is the only result that follows head counts at meetings.

Instead, count how many:

- children and hungry you feed,
- homeless you shelter,
- families that have re-engaged in the church,
- people you serve,
- people who have committed to follow Christ.

There are thousands of men's ministry groups within the church that have good attendance but zero outreach. And there are just as many groups that are transforming their communities with just a few dudes who have a passion for serving others.

Here Is What a Successful Ministry Looks Like

By Greg Arnold

Our revised model of United Methodist Men helped increase our church-wide male attendance from 30 percent to 44 percent. In addition, we experienced a drop in average age of active men from 68 years of age to 45 years of age. The church is growing in all sectors. As more fathers and husbands come, more families come.

Smaller Groups, Focused Ministry

We eliminated large groups, or the general assembly. We fostered existing medium-sized groups: the monthly men's breakfast, work days, and events focused on fellowship and mission work. Our focus shifted toward cultivating small groups outside of traditional church settings. We seeded coffee-shop groups, lunch groups, short-term study groups, and golfing groups. Leaders spend more time with other leaders and do not try to corral every man in the church into a central meeting.

Younger Men

After we eliminated large meetings, we found younger men became involved. We still have a "meeting atmosphere" at our monthly men's breakfast, where we share news and projects. The breakfast was left intact as a way to form a small group around our declining United Methodist Men structure. It is attended primarily by our traditional-minded guys and some who are interested in the leadership portion of our work. They've spawned their own mission projects as well. We ceased taking attendance and stopped counting heads. We focus on counting small groups that serve as entry points to the church. We find that discipleship happens more readily in small groups.

Our core leadership team meets mostly by email, or in hallways on Sundays. We get more business accomplished in three minutes several times a month than meeting for a single hour. Many of our small groups are composed of these core leaders.

Impact

Our men are showing up and bringing their families. In addition, men are sitting down together and sharing struggles, victories, and laughter. Our next phase is to set up a robust prayer ministry. It's important for church families to see our men at the

altar—demonstrating our disciplines. Our prayer team will rotate Sundays, praying for the church and the pastors.

Our men are responding to the call and finding ways to make entry points into the congregation for men who visit our small groups but do not attend worship and are not members of the church.

We aren't a traditional United Methodist Men organization. However, we are looking more and more Wesleyan. We devote ourselves to creating and nurturing disciples and representing our Savior at work and at home.

Four Areas of Focus

There are ministries, programs, and events at the district, annual conference, and general church levels that can lead your church into a more sustained men's ministry. For the last several years, The United Methodist Church has organized many of its efforts into four areas of focus. The 2017–2020 goals of the General Commission on United Methodist Men include work in all four of these areas:

Leadership Development. The commission serves as the most effective and efficient source for leadership training, mentoring, and coaching for persons engaged in men's ministry and ministry to young people through scouting and other youth-serving agencies. Training takes place in several formats, including face-to-face training at our national meetings or annual conferences. In addition, the commission provides training electronically through webinars. Training is no longer looked at as a "meeting" or an "event," but rather a beginning of an accountable relationship. Built into every training event and webinar is a follow-up in addition to an immediate evaluation. The follow-up asks how the material presented has been implemented and what changes have resulted from each training experience. This training is focused on leadership positions with the local church, district, and annual conference. There is additional training for our men's ministry specialists (covered in a later chapter) and scouting ministry specialists (see *Guideline: Scouting and Civic Youth-serving Ministry*), who also help neighboring churches create new ministries.

Church Growth. The commission provides resources (nearly all at no cost) to thousands of local congregations to expand men's ministry and scouting ministry to every church member and to the community. These include devotional resources as well as materials that support "front door" and "back door" ministries. Current research indicates that younger men and women typically build a relationship with a church through a "back door" event or mission before they will attend worship or participate in a spiritually based class.

Ministry with the Poor. This includes our work leading local churches to participate with our national partners in hunger relief; restorative justice/prison ministries; and in local, district, and national mission projects. This includes but not limited to our work with the Society of St. Andrew, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (see Resources, pages 29–30, for more information).

Global Health. We continue to engage men and youth in mission projects on a local, national, and international level where they experience the impact of the intersection between poverty and health. We encourage local men's ministries to include and enable youth and young adults to participate in these activities. We continue to support Imagine No Malaria.

Other Essential Ministries: The commission has produced two devotional books, one designed for military personnel (*Strength of Service to God and Country*) and the other for first responders (*Strength for Service to God and Community*). Over 470,000 copies of the military book have been published and distributed. The second book, which we began printing in 2012, has been well received. Many churches and corporations are making it available within their local communities. See Resources, pages 29–30, for purchase information.

In 2011, a partnership formed between United Methodist Women and the General Commission on United Methodist Men to raise a single voice to end domestic violence. That work continues to expand.

The commission hosts quadrennial national gatherings for United Methodist Men. The next event will be held in the summer of 2017.

United Methodist Men and *The Book of Discipline*

Mandates from the 2016 Edition of *The Book of Discipline*

1. Enhance evangelism, mission, and spiritual life as men become servant leaders.
2. Advocate programs that train men within local churches to promote specific ministries including prayer, missions, stewardship, and civic/youth-serving ministries.
3. Forge pastoral partnerships by men committed to the effective support and service of clergy and local congregations.
4. Enhance organizational strength by effective leadership resources, membership growth, and financial accountability.
5. Assist men in their ever-changing relationships, roles, and responsibilities in their family settings, workplaces, and society.
6. Cultivate leadership among men for a policy of no tolerance of sexual harassment in family, church, workplace, and society.
7. Understand the organization, doctrines, and beliefs of The United Methodist Church.
8. Fulfill the membership vows of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness in congregational and community life.
9. Fulfill the Great Commission with and through The United Methodist Church as part of the body of Christ.

United Methodist Men Disciplinary Goals: 2017–2020 Quadrennium

- Train 75 percent of elected conference presidents in conjunction with the National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP) meeting, or electronically, each year. Each elected conference president is to submit an annual report to NACP, which then submits an annual report to GCUMM. These reports will be part of the narrative report to the Connectional Table (The Connectional Table functions to coordinate ministry among and across denominational agencies and groups in The United Methodist Church).
- Provide annual webinars to train men in aspects of men's ministry and scouting ministry at the local, district, and conference levels.
- Continue training based on the "Lead like Jesus" model.
- Certify 100 people as men's ministry specialists by 2020, in order to equip local churches to expand their ministry to, with, and for men.

- Certify 420 people as scouting ministry specialists by 2020, in order to equip local churches to expand their ministry to youth through BSA, GSA, Camp Fire, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.
- Continue to increase UMM's financial support for the Upper Room Prayer Ministries.
- Increase financial support for Meals for Millions each year of the quadrennium.
- Increase participation in DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministries.
- Survey local churches to determine the number of men and women involved in missions.
- Support the scouting program in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Increase the number of *Strength for Services* books purchased.
- Increase the number of presentations made by men to men and women on domestic violence.
- Broaden the age range of persons attending the national gathering and provide them with "next steps" 60 days after the event.

Disciplinary Mandates: The commission is responsible for raising funds to support its many ministries. Funds are raised through annual charters and monthly and annual gifts from individuals. The agency is also responsible for the denomination's relationships with civic/youth-serving agencies.

Men's Ministry in the Local Congregation

The Charter

The primary connection between the local church's men's ministry and GCUMM is the charter. The charter is held by the church (or cluster of churches) and covers all of the church's ministry to, with, and for men. The connection the charter provides enables GCUMM to assist the local church in expanding men's ministry through resourcing and oversight while also supporting the ministries of United Methodist Men at the district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church levels. To maintain this connection, the charter is to be recertified annually at a rate of \$85/year.

Churches charter with GCUMM, not just because it is a Disciplinary mandate, but because doing so helps them expand their ministry to, with, and for men. This, in turn, lifts all of the ministry of the church. Research and experience have shown that churches with strong men's ministries are often growing, vital congregations. Building a connection with GCUMM through chartering makes this possible. In addition, chartering helps to support the efforts of GCUMM to promote men's ministry throughout the world. To be a part of this important work God is doing in the world, GCUMM only asks that churches charter.

Chartered churches receive:

- *UM Men* magazine, the official publication for men's ministry, which is produced quarterly and contains informational and inspirational articles designed to help men become servant leaders. This magazine includes news, ideas, announcements, and recognition men's ministry, scouting ministry, the UM Men Foundation, and missions from around the world.
- UM Men membership cards for every man in your church.
- a quadrennial certificate with yearly recertification stickers.
- important information critical to conducting effective men's ministry. Every chartered church receives annually a packet full of vital information important to successful UM Men units.
- information about the Upper Room Prayer Line sponsored by UM Men.
- information about nationally sponsored UM Men mission opportunities.
- information about the official UM Men's website (www.gcumm.org).

Class Meetings

United Methodist Men are invited to take a page from a playbook established by John Wesley. Early Methodists used small-group structures, not to study the Bible, but rather to engage one another in conversations about their souls.

Invite eight men to join you in discussing eight chapters of *The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience* by Kevin M. Watson (available from Cokesbury). After eight meetings discussing the chapters, your group will want to continue meetings that bind the group together in unexpected ways.

Some men find that electronic meetings are more convenient. They can connect with one another at their homes or offices. Others prefer to meet in person. Select a meeting pattern that works for you. It might be that after the first eight sessions, your group may decide that each participant should organize a new group in order to include more men in the experience.

While this is based on Wesley's concept of class meetings, there is no need for your group to call it by that name. Select any name (or no name), and you will find that lives are transformed by the experience.

Webinars: Training and Discussion Using Technology

Beginning last quadrennium, GCUMM shifted from travel-to meetings to click-on meetings. These training experiences cover the basic principles of men's ministry for local or district leaders. They also provide tools for evangelism, suggestions for mission projects, spiritual life opportunities, actions to reduce incidents of domestic violence, suggestions for using social media, and recommended organizations for engaging in prison ministry.

Training is available through district and conference events, but individuals may also receive training through home computers. In addition to the live presentations, each event is recorded and may be viewed later as a media file. The office of scouting ministry also provides six to eight webinars a year.

GCUMM now employs technology committee work, weekly meetings with deployed staff, and conference calls where documents need to be discussed and rewritten. We continue to have some face-to-face meetings, but the ongoing work of the commission, the National Association of Conference Presidents, the United Men Foundation, and other key leadership groups are more effectively managed using technology.

Schedules of webinars are posted on www.gcumm.org and are delivered to all individuals who register on the GCUMM email list (see Resources, pages 29–30).

Opportunities for Individuals

Men's Ministry Specialists (MMS)

The mission of every Men's Ministry Specialist (MMS) is to serve United Methodist lay and clergy leaders and their congregations in developing effective processes to make men disciples of Jesus Christ.

An MMS is a growing disciple of Jesus Christ who is teachable and can teach others. He/she has communication skills and is willing to use these skills to evaluate the ministry of a congregation and to offer suggestions and resources. An MMS does not displace existing leaders, but rather helps a congregation, district, or annual conference develop effective ministries by providing training and resources.

Steps to Become a Men's Ministry Specialist

- Contact GCUMM to fill out initial paperwork and schedule an entry interview.
- Secure a recommendation from your pastor.
- Invite this clergyperson or another spiritually mature person to serve as your spiritual adviser. You will be asked to check in with the person at least once a month in person or by phone.
- Meet with your district superintendent and conference and district presidents of UM Men. If you hold one of these offices, meet with other conference or jurisdictional leaders.
- Complete a free online spiritual gifts assessment and participate in an MMS support group that will aid in your spiritual formation.
- Participate in an "Understanding Men's Ministry" or "No Man Left Behind" regional training experience.
- Read *Spiritual Fathers* by Dan Schaffer, and other relevant texts.
- Complete an online course on United Methodist history and polity and the GCUMM sexual-ethics course.
- Submit to a criminal background check.
- Complete the Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course.

When you complete all program requirements, you will be recommended for certification by a review panel of the General Commission of United Methodist Men (GCUMM) and the Turner Center for Church Leadership and Congregational Development at Vanderbilt University.

Current program information and application forms are available at <http://www.gcummm.org>.

Teaching Churches

One of the natural outgrowths of the MMS program is establishing churches that can help others expand their ministries to men. Currently, we are looking for churches that have increased the number of men in worship and established a number of small groups. Teaching churches may be those whose men are engaged in hands-on mission in their neighboring communities or around the world. These teaching churches will serve as resources for neighboring congregations to replicate their successes. More details are available at www.gcumm.org/.

EMS/Legacy

Every Man Shares or Evangelism Mission and Spiritual Life (EMS) was introduced at the 1981 National Congress of UMM at Purdue University. Every UM man is encouraged to annually enroll as an EMS member at \$45/year. Being an EMS member gives individuals, whether or not their local church is chartered, the opportunity to invest in what God is doing through UMM. EMS funds are used to fund UMM ministries at all levels of the church and several ministries affiliated with GCUMM.

The idea of Legacy Builders was introduced at the 2005 National Gathering of UMM at Purdue University as a way for men to support ministries long after they have gone. The first \$45 of an annual legacy pledge pays for EMS membership. Amounts above that figure support leadership training, retreats, and conferences, scouting and other youth-serving agencies, the Society of Saint Andrew, the Upper Room Prayer Line, and ministries to children of incarcerated parents. A legacy pledge also helps provide *Strength for Service* books to members of the armed services and to first responders, and supports ministries to men in other nations.

To become an EMS member or a legacy builder, call (615) 340-7145 or email gcumm@gcumm.org. Visit the www.gcumm.org website for additional information.

National Gathering

Plan now to attend the 12th National Gathering, a quadrennial conference formerly called National Congress of UMM. The event will be held at Brentwood United Methodist Church in Brentwood, Tennessee, on July 7–8, 2017. Contact the commission for additional information or visit the GCUMM website (www.gcumm.org).

Mission Projects

Upper Room Prayer Line

With support from UMM, the Nashville-based Upper Room Living Prayer Center prays with 30,000 people each month. That does not include the 6,000 visits to the website (www.upperroom.org), more than 200 letters each week, and 6,000 monthly emails.

The United Methodist Men Foundation pays the cost of the toll-free prayer line and United Methodist men staff the lines throughout the year. For the past 24 years, the foundation has annually given more than \$20,000.

Prayer center phone lines are open 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week. Prayers can also be submitted 24-hours a day, seven days a week via email or through the Prayer Center website. A network of more than 1,000 people answer the phone lines, and over 2,400 people in more than 300 covenant prayer groups around the globe respond to prayer requests.

Not only do the callers say they are blessed, the ones who answer the phone lines and those in covenant prayer groups tell of the blessings they receive from sharing these life-changing times.

United Methodist prayer advocates recruit volunteers for remote- and covenant-prayer groups. They also help raise funds to cover the cost of the prayer line.

For information, call 1(877) 899-2780 ext. 7215 (prayer@upperroom.org). To request prayer, call toll free: 1(800) 251-2468.

The Society of St. Andrew

The Society of St. Andrew is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian ministry dedicated to fighting domestic hunger. Founded in 1979 by two United Methodist pastors, it is also an Advance Special mission project (#801600). (Advance Specials are officially supported by The United Methodist Church. See www.umcmmission.org for more information.)

The society saves fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste and delivers it to people in need. Through the society's Potato Project, 15–25 million pounds of produce—primarily potatoes—are saved annually to provide 45–75 million free servings of food to food banks, soup kitchens, Native American reservations, and other distribution agencies. The society's Harvest of Hope and Gleaning Network programs also annually save more than 20 million pounds of food from farmers' fields and deliver it to the nation's hungry.

Meals for Millions

Meals for Millions is the primary hunger-relief mission of United Methodist Men.

Established in 1986 as an Advance Special mission project, Meals for Millions is designed to get United Methodist Men directly involved in leading our church to fight hunger in proven, cost-effective ways through the ministries of the Society of St. Andrew.

Through Meals for Millions, men can literally feed millions of people in the name of Christ, by assuming leadership positions in hands-on ministry with the poor.

Stop Hunger Now

Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger-relief organization that coordinates the distribution of food and other life-saving aid around the world. The organization is driven by a vision of a world without hunger and a mission to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-saving aid to the world's most vulnerable and by creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.

Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program provides volunteers the opportunity to package dehydrated, high protein, and highly nutritious meals that are used in crisis situations and in school feeding programs for schools and orphanages in developing countries around the world.

In its effort to respond to emergency needs around the world, Stop Hunger Now receives and distributes significant donations of in-kind aid. These donations are large quantities of food, medicines, medical supplies and other such items as may be of use in fighting hunger and providing relief in a crisis.

DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministries

DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministries (DBOM) is a collaborative ministry for the promotion and development of DISCIPLE Bible study in U.S. prisons.

Men who want to minister to those in prison are invited to receive DBOM training as facilitators of DISCIPLE Bible study and ways to relate to inmates and prison officials.

The goal is to help inmates and UM Men who serve as facilitators to become more biblically literate and spiritually nourished, and ultimately to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ. The studies will also enable inmates to witness about their faith to others.

When inmates are released, United Methodist Men may invite them to worship at their churches and support them as they try to reestablish themselves as responsible members of the community.

DBOM groups are active in North Carolina, Virginia, Illinois, Louisiana, and Tennessee. For information visit <http://disciplebibleoutreach.org/>.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Amachi Partnership

America faces a growing crisis of multigenerational incarceration. We have witnessed grandfathers, fathers, and sons waiting together in prison for the arrival of the great-grandson.

United Methodist Men can help break this intergenerational cycle of incarceration by becoming Amachi partners with a child of an incarcerated parent. *Amachi* is a Nigerian Ibo word that means “Who knows but what God has brought us through this child.”

To date, “there have been at least 340 Amachi-modeled programs in more than 250 US cities and all 50 states.” They have partnered with more than 6,000 churches and served at least 100,000 children.

For information on becoming an Amachi volunteer, visit www.amachimentoring.org/.

Distinguished Recognitions

The Society of John Wesley

The Society of John Wesley is a fellowship of individuals committed to the support and expansion of United Methodist Men's ministries.

Fellows in the society are known by their witness, vision, and stewardship that enhance and strengthen the mission and ministry of the church.

The society was created by the United Methodist Men Foundation to promote greater awareness of the Christian principles and practices embodied in the church.

A gift of \$1,000 to the UMM Foundation enables one to become a fellow.

Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence

Award recipients are women who have served Jesus Christ and The United Methodist Church in a manner similar to Susanna Wesley, the mother of Methodism.

Awardees must possess a distinctive intellect, a nurturing spirit, unwavering devotion, and perseverance in the faith.

A gift of \$500 allows organizations to present embossed glass crescents to these very special women.

Life Membership

Men who have made exceptional contributions to church and community may be given a life membership in United Methodist Men.

The award includes a life-member certificate in a leatherette presentation folder, a membership card and a .10-carat gold pin. The cost is \$250.

Torch Awards

Men or women who have given outstanding leadership to the Boy Scouts or other youth-serving agencies may be presented with a Torch Award. The \$60 award includes a certificate, medal, and clutch-back pin.

A Silver Torch may be awarded to youth leaders who have served at the regional, national, or international level. This \$75 award includes a certificate, medal, and clutch-back pin.

The Cross and Flame Award

Men or women who have given at least five years of exceptional service to young

people through Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., and Camp Fire USA may receive Cross and Flame Awards.

Nominees must be recommended to the local church council by the scouting coordinator and approved by the pastor.

The \$60 award enables the recipient to receive a certificate of merit, a clutch-back pin, ribbon, and medal.

The Good Samaritan Award

The award may be presented to people between the ages of six and 30 who have engaged in some form of public service such as working at a Society of St. Andrew potato drop, raising funds for Nothing But Nets, or working on an Eagle project that serves the church or community.

The \$60 award provides the recipients with a certificate, a lapel pin, and a medallion attached to a purple ribbon.

Visit the www.gcumm.org website for additional information about all these awards and entry forms.

United Methodist Men Foundation

The National Association of Conference Presidents founded the United Methodist Men Foundation in 1981.

The foundation was organized to:

- operate exclusively for charitable and religious purposes,
- provide support funds for program development and maintenance for the purpose and objectives of United Methodist Men.

The foundation has created endowments to fund a variety of United Methodist Men ministries. Endowment gifts help create financial security for Christian programs. Endowment gifts are a testimony by donors to the quality and worthiness of the charitable organization receiving gifts. Endowment gifts are our way of providing for those who will follow in years to come.

Twenty-five years ago, the foundation raised funds for a full-time staff person in scouting ministries. In addition, gifts have funded administrative costs of The Upper Room Living Prayer Center, a toll-free telephone line, and numerous national and international mission projects.

Gifts may be dedicated in honor or memory of a family member, friend, or loved one. Endowment fund gifts may be announced or they may be given anonymously at the donor's discretion.

Resources

UM Men magazine—provides information and inspiration for men. View back issues at www.gcumm.org and subscribe by calling (615) 340-7145.

Free Resources at www.gcumm.org

Expand Your Ministries to Men, a compilation of articles about ministries to men.

Extending Our Reach, an overview of United Methodist Men ministries and information about awards, fundraising projects and programs.

I Believe You, a discussion guide on intimate partner violence.

Suggested constitutions and bylaws for United Methodist Men organizations and job descriptions and installation service for officers

United Methodist Men Meditation and Action Guide to DISCIPLE II by Bishop Richard B. Wilke, the principal architect and author of the DISCIPLE series provides a free guide.

Books

365 Meditations for Men by multiple authors

Bad Boys of the Bible by Barbara Essex

The Care of Men by Christie Neuger and James Poling

The Class Meeting by Kevin M. Watson

Effective Men's Ministry by Phil Downer

Get Real—A Spiritual Journey for Men by Derek Maul

The Hidden Spirituality of Man by Matthew Fox

Lead Like Jesus by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges

No More Christian Nice Guy by Paul Coughlin

Strength for Service to God and Community

Strength of Service to God and Country

What God Does When Men Pray by William Peel

Why Men Hate Going to Church by David Murrow

Wild at Heart by John Eldredge

Man in the Mirror Resources

Pastoring Men by Patrick Morley and *No Man Left Behind* available from Man In the Mirror or GCUMM

Spiritual Fathers by Dan Schaffer available from Amazon

UMC Agencies & Helpful Links

General Board of Church and Society, www.umc-gbcs.org, 202-488-5600; Service Center, 1-800-967-0880

General Board of Discipleship (d/b/a Discipleship Ministries), www.umcdiscipleship.org, 877-899-2780; Discipleship Resources, <http://bookstore.upperroom.org>, 1-800-972-0433; The Upper Room, www.upperroom.org, 1-800-972-0433; email: info@umcdisciple.org

General Board of Global Ministries, www.umcmmission.org, 1-800-862-4246 or 212-870-3600; email: info@umcmmission.org

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, www.gbhem.org, 615-340-7400

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, www.gbophb.org, 847-869-4550

General Commission on Archives and History, www.gcah.org, 973-408-3189

General Commission on Religion & Race, www.gcorr.org, 202-547-2271; email: info@gcorr.org

General Commission on the Status & Role of Women, www.gcsr.org, 1-800-523-8390

General Commission on United Methodist Men, www.gcumm.org, 615-340-7145

General Council on Finance and Administration, www.gcfa.org, 866-367-4232 or 615-329-3393

Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting (General Commission on United Methodist Men), www.gcumm.org, 615-340-7145

The United Methodist Publishing House, www.umph.org, 615-749-6000; Curric-U-Phone, 1-800-251-8591; Cokesbury, www.cokesbury.com, 1-800-672-1789

United Methodist Communications, www.umcom.org, 615-742-5400; EcuFilm, 1-888-346-3862; InfoServ, email: infoserv@umcom.org; *Interpreter Magazine*, www.interpretermagazine.org, 615-742-5441

United Methodist Women, www.unitedmethodistwomen.org; 212-870-3900

For additional resources, contact your annual conference office.