



# Men's Ministries

Expand Your Ministries to Men  
in Your Church and Community



G U I D E L I N E S

# **Men's Ministries**

**Expand Your Ministries to Men in Your Church and Community**

Rev. Sterling L. Eaton & Rev. Dr. Rick Vance

General Commission on United Methodist Men

## **MEN'S MINISTRIES**

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# “A Wreath for Your Excellent Leadership”

**T**hank you for assuming the important and awesome work of providing spiritual leadership to your congregation. The work of church leadership is shared and synergistic. Pastoral and laity leadership combine to provide the widest possible set of gifts, knowledge, abilities, skills, experience, and passions to fulfill our United Methodist mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” (*The Book of Discipline*, ¶120). What you do as a gifted, spiritual leader is of vital importance.

Spiritual leadership differs from other forms of leadership in the foundational ways it allows us to live out the vows and promises we make when joining the church: to uphold The United Methodist Church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

The first work of all church leaders is to pray for the ministry of the church: local, denominational, and global. Our work is always worshipful work. Our ministry of presence strengthens our church’s ministry and mission. By combining our gifts, knowledge, experience, and passion we can achieve wonderful things together through the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Together, we strengthen our congregation for service to those within the community of faith and beyond. Accepting the mantle of leadership provides a powerful witness to the world of what it means to be a faithful disciple.

Together, we fulfill our mission of making disciples and transforming the world by reaching out and receiving people in the name of Jesus the Christ, relating people to God in covenant community, nurturing and strengthening people in their faith, and equipping and supporting people to live their faith in the world.

The *Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation* draw upon a wealth of experience and expertise to provide you with the basic resources you need to do effective, impactful ministry. Each Guideline focuses on a key area of ministry and church leadership, providing information and processes to help your working group—committee, council, board, or other configuration—excel and support all other working groups. See the accompanying Guide to the Guidelines for useful information on how the *Guidelines* and ministry areas work together.

We recommend that each group member read this Guideline and noted paragraphs from the *Discipline*. Take time at meetings to discuss ways to implement identified tasks and responsibilities, plan for the future, and assess and evaluate your work.

The apocryphal book of Sirach reminds leaders to be humble servant leaders, make sure the needs of others are cared for, and then receive “a wreath for your excellent leadership” (Sirach 32:2 NRSVue). We invite you to lead with humility, compassion, patience, and grace, that The United Methodist Church might be a witness to the light and love of Christ for all the world.

# Vision, Mission, and Call

In Jesus' commissioning of the disciples, he said,

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. (Matt 28:19-20)

All of men's ministry is done in response to this commission of Christ to be disciples and disciple makers.

## Our Vision

The vision of United Methodist Men is that every man in the UMC become an effective disciple of Jesus Christ. United Methodist Men's groups have been viewed as the group of men who meet on Saturday or Sunday morning for a meal, a program, and a devotion. This traditional group is usually involved in projects that benefit the congregation. Many of them raise money to help others outside their church.

While this model meets the needs of some men in the local church, it is not the mandated model for men's ministry. The Center for Men's Ministries at the General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM) provides resources and tools 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 find this expanded vision for men's ministries attracts younger men to their ministry and therefore transforms their communities.

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

## Our Mission

The mission of United Methodist Men is that every male United Methodist has a credible opportunity to meet, know and serve Jesus Christ. In so doing he becomes an effective disciple of Jesus Christ serving his family, his church, his community, and his relationships in the world.

To put it a different way, the mission of men's ministry is to mentor men to thrive through Christ, so that others will know Him. This mission is served as men are called to model the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.

## Our Call

In Matthew 28, Jesus calls his disciples to “Go and make disciples of all nations.” Hearing and understanding God’s call in his life to “Go,” John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, began an effective 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 all 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 each other and others into a deeper relationship with our Lord. A man who is not engaged in activities that lead to personal and social holiness is a man who may be struggling to find meaning and fulfillment.

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 the Resources section, pages 29–31).

To reach a broader geographic area and to strengthen our connection, leaders have been trained to hold class-meeting sessions electronically. Conference leaders are encouraged to form a class meeting with one person from each district. Upon completion of the eight-week study, participants are encouraged to remain in their accountability group, but also facilitate a new group of men in their districts. Participants from each of those churches are asked to repeat the experience with a group of men from at least 10 churches. 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

### The Need for Men’s Ministry Is Supported by Research

Studies from a wide variety of sources indicate that finding ways to reach men is a 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 (<https://faithcommunitiestoday.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Facts-on-Growth-2005.pdf>).

### Churches Go in the Directions to Which They Pay Attention

Following his assignment as the resident bishop in South Carolina, Bishop Jonathan Holston gave special attention to men’s ministry. What began as a 2013 conference gathering of fewer than 100 men grew to more than 1,500 men and some women in 2019. 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*. Dr. Wilson was appointed to a new congregation and applied the same principles and has similar results in her new ministry setting.

# How to Create Movement in Your Men's Organization

Many people are familiar with the three laws of motion developed by Sir Isaac Newton. The 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. The state of being “at rest” seems to describe many of the men's ministry groups and many congregations in our denomination. While some churches are active, 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 doing. We don't act so we can rest, we rest so we can act.

If your church has a UM Men's unit that meets, has fellowship, and does some great work within the church, that is wonderful. If that ministry touches 25 percent of the men who attend your church, then most would say that it is successful. The remaining question is “Who is reaching the other 75 percent of the men in the church as well as the men outside the church?”

What should we do?

First, remember we can have more than one mission. Don't throw away what is working for the 25 percent of the guys who are involved. This organization has a track record of meeting the needs of these men.

Now look for ways to add some new areas of ministry and accountability. There is plenty of room at your church for multiple small groups of men.

A survey of men in leadership in The United Methodist Church, conducted by GCUMM found that most are lonely and need some other males with whom they can relate. One study (<http://www.wacmm.org/Stats.html>) suggested that 93 percent of men in the church don't have another man they can call if they need help. So, what do we do to widen our view of men's ministry so that every man in your church and community might find a place? It requires action; in fact, it requires repeated action to get us going in the right direction (see Newton's third law).

## Steps to Start the Action

- Don't do it alone; get assistance from the pastor and have two or three other guys help you. Ask 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.
- Ask guys who come to church what 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 could help them in their lives.
- Do it. You can plan, study, research, ask, reformulate, write vision statements and mottos, and design a logo. But the planning-and-preparation mode can easily turn into an "at-rest" mode. At some point you must act. Newton's third law: "For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction" is predicated on the fact that there must be action.

Let's say you decide to begin a Bible study every week. That is action for the guys who want that, and there could also be a reaction from the guys who want to do something, but it is 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.

Doing something provides places for the remaining 75 percent of the guys in the church and community. 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 must act. Action is movement that causes change in all our churches, a change that allows every man in the church and the community an opportunity to actively follow Christ and make disciples.

# How to Start Your Ministry with Men

To launch your ministry with men in The United Methodist Church, begin by utilizing the resources and tools provided by GCUMM (General Commission on United Methodist Men). Commence with prayer and reflection, seeking guidance on how to best utilize these resources. Leverage GCUMM's research and insights to understand the specific needs and interests of men in your congregation and community. Collaborate with the church leadership, utilizing GCUMM's guidance to articulate your vision and garner their support. Assemble a committed team of men, equipped with GCUMM's training materials and resources, to assist in planning and implementing ministry activities. Align your ministry's mission and vision with GCUMM's objectives, focusing on discipleship, service, and spiritual growth. Utilize GCUMM's programs and tools, such as Bible studies, retreat guides, and service project resources, to tailor activities to the needs of your men's ministry. Promote your initiatives using GCUMM's communication templates and channels and provide men with access to GCUMM's educational materials and support networks. Continuously evaluate and adapt your approach with insights from GCUMM's evaluation tools and feedback mechanisms. Foster meaningful relationships within your ministry community, utilizing GCUMM's mentorship and networking opportunities to strengthen bonds and support one another on the journey of faith. —Rev. Sterling Eaton

## Principle 1: Purpose

In *Alice in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll wrote ; “If you don’t know where you are going, any road will lead you there.” The same is true about men’s ministry.

As you start or re-tool a men’s program in your church, it is important to have a clear purpose or vision for the ministry. Ministries without a clear sense of purpose frequently morph into a social service project with no attribute of its original purpose.

Beginning with the *why* will automatically shape the *who*, *what* and, *when* for your ministry. The *why* for the General Commission on UM Men is to “help every man have an on-growing relationship with Jesus Christ.”

When we have ministry opportunities, the first question we should ask is, “How will this opportunity help us fulfill our *why*?” If it doesn’t, can we add a component to help it meet our *why*, or is it something we need to not do? One of the biggest temptations for men’s ministry is to try to do everything. When this occurs, nothing is done with excellence.

“Definiteness of purpose is the starting point of all achievement.”  
—W. Clement Stone

## Principle 2: Passion

Many times, people are “voluntold” (volunteered without being asked). While this may be an effective way to fill slots on the leadership sheet, it is not an effective way to find ministry leaders. At times, a man serves as the leader because “nobody else will do it.”

“Without passion man is a mere latent force and possibility, like the flint which awaits the shock of the iron before it can give forth its spark.” —Henri Frederic Amiel

This is problematic in a couple of ways. First, if a person has no interest or passion for the position they hold, he will be less likely to give the attention and energy necessary to lead the ministry. Second, lack of passion in

the leader can be seen by the participants of the ministry. Men have an exceptional skill to detect when people are not authentic with them.

When dealing with men, it is important to remember that they are looking for authentic relationships with God and with other men. Most times, they are not able to articulate these needs, but they know when a person is not being authentic.

Because men’s ministry is challenging, it is important that a person involved in starting or leading a group be involved in intentional spiritual development and spiritual accountability. Participation in Wesley Class Meetings, Bible studies, and prayer groups allow leaders to continue to grow spiritually. This growth will fuel their passion and enable them to be more authentic with their groups.

## Principle 3: Planning

Planning is essential not only for the next upcoming men’s event but for the entire ministry. As a leader with passion and purpose, planning ensures that your ministry stays on a road that fulfills the purpose of your ministry.

“Plans are of little importance, but planning is essential.”  
—Winston Churchill

Developing a plan can be as simple as making a list of events (projects, meetings, studies, fellowship opportunities) that will occur during a specific time.

What is more effective, however, is to gather with a small group and pray, discuss, and discern the ministry opportunities that God has provided. Once that list is developed, look again at the purpose statement of the group and make sure that there is an aspect of each event that fulfills your group’s purpose.

As part of the planning process, identify people who might lead each event. Contact those people and ask if they are willing to serve as leaders or coordinators of the events. If they agree, give them space to lead the event. Avoid, at all cost, being a “parachute leader” who needs to drop in and make changes. If the person who has been charged with the coordination of the event needs help, give him the requested help, but let him continue to give leadership as long as there is progress in his leadership. “Planning check-ins” may be helpful for event coordinators, but this meeting should be only about reports. Do not offer suggestions unless requested.

## Principle 4: Pursue

First, getting men involved in attending an event requires relationships. Too many times, we believe an email, announcement, or note is all that is required. Men need to know that they will be welcomed, so phone calls, texts, and face-to-face invitations are necessary.

Second, as you are developing relationships, be sure to ask about the needs and interests of the men. Ask about time and schedule constraints that might affect their ability to participate in ministry events. Ask them about their passions (health, mission, fellowship, or study).

Third, after men get involved in ministry, it is important to provide follow-up to keep them involved. Too many times, men enter the front door of the church because of a special event and exit through the back door because there is no intentional follow-up.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” —Matt 28:19

## One Purpose—Many Models

It can never be said often enough that helping men experience, renew, and grow in their relationship with God is the reason this ministry exists. Many successful men’s ministry models are available; however, the programs you utilize will require prayer, a study of the context for the ministry, and careful consideration of the needs and abilities of men in your church and community.

Before implementing a pre-packaged program for your ministry, spend time applying the principles discussed here and look for opportunities that will move your ministry forward in accordance with those principles.

There is no one correct answer. Rather, there are many correct answers and some of them are better for your ministry setting. GCUMM has many programs and studies that will help lead your men into an “on-growing” relationship with God. The staff is available and eager to talk to you about these resources.

# Men's Ministry Through the Connection

**M**en's ministry and men's ministry units exist throughout the United Methodist connection. The Center for Men's Ministries exists to develop resources, tools, and coordinate training opportunities throughout the connection. You will find leadership in men's ministry at the district, annual conference, jurisdictional, and general church levels, but the most important place that men's ministry leadership is developed is within local congregations. There are excellent district, national, and international resources and events. However, if none of these affect the man in the pew, the goal of mentoring men to thrive through Christ, so others may see Him, will never be fulfilled.

## United Methodist Men and *The Book of Discipline*

Paragraph 256.6 of the *Book of Discipline* calls all United Methodist Men to shape their ministries around the following priorities:

1. Enhance Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual Life (EMS), 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. Understand the organization, doctrines, and beliefs of The United Methodist Church.
7. Fulfill the membership vows of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness in congregational and community life.
8. Fulfill the Great Commission with and through The United Methodist Church as one part of the body of Christ.

## Keep the Momentum Going

Now that your church's men's ministries have begun, here are some principles to keep the momentum going:

- **Get training.** Put training in the initial stage of your planning. 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. Reading this Guideline is a starting point. Training is available from GCUMM. Training should be done with as many of your team as possible. Planning and goal development should be part of the team-training process. Annual conferences and districts may provide events to help jump-start your church's ministries. Visit the commission's website ([www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org)) and use the resources provided. If you don't find what you need, call or email the commission (see the Resources section, p. 29).
- **Get assistance** from the leaders 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.
- **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. The information will encourage other groups to engage in similar ministries.
- **Measure what you do.** We want more than numbers of 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 evaluate how men are living out their faith and their commitments in community. Intentional follow-up with participants three to six months after an activity or experience can help establish a change in behavior that leads to a change in actions.
- **Stay connected.** At the GCUMM website, 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. Charter and annually renew your charter with the commission. This not only maintains connections with other men's ministry in your annual conference and the general church, it also provides needed money to develop resources for local churches throughout the world.

## 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/](http://www.nacpumm.org/)
- UM Men Foundation, [www.gcumm.org/](http://www.gcumm.org/)
- The Upper Room Prayer Center, [www.upperroom.org/prayer\\_center/](http://www.upperroom.org/prayer_center/)
- Society of St. Andrew, [www.endhunger.org/](http://www.endhunger.org/)
- World Fellowship of Methodist and Uniting Church Men, <http://worldmethodistcouncil.org/>
- Denominational Men's Ministry Leaders

- Scouting America, [www.scouting.org/](http://www.scouting.org/)
- Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., [www.girlscouts.org/](http://www.girlscouts.org/)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters, [www.bbbs.org/](http://www.bbbs.org/)
- Rise Against Hunger, <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/>

# How to Measure the Effectiveness of Your Ministry

*By Greg Arnold*

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 outcasts.
- 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.

# The Face of Ministry

Men's ministry is a complex set of tasks and activities that help men understand that they are loved by God and called to be in an “on-growing” relationship with God and in service to the world. This type of ministry requires a holistic approach to reaching men, assuring that they are emotionally, physically, and spiritually equipped to receive and doers of God's grace in their community.

One of the best ways to accomplish this task is by offering opportunities for men to receive ministry and do ministry in the following areas.

**Leadership Development.** GCUMM is an 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 opportunities take place in several formats, including face-to-face training at our national meetings, regional meetings, conference meetings, or local meetings. In addition, the commission provides training electronically through webinars.

Training is not a “meeting” or an “event,” but rather a beginning of an accountable relationship of partners. There should be built into every training event, online course, or webinar an immediate evaluation in addition to a follow-up. The follow-up asks how the material presented has been implemented and what changes have resulted from each training experience. While this training is focused on leadership positions with the local church, district, and annual conference, its purpose is to make principled Christian leaders who will make disciples of Jesus Christ. There is additional training for our men's ministry advocates (covered in a later chapter) and scouting ministry specialists (see *Guidelines 2025–2028: Scouting Ministries*), who also help neighboring churches create new ministries.

**Church Growth.** As mentioned earlier, research shows that, when a church is intentional about men's ministry, it and all ministries of the church grow. GCUMM has devotional resources as well as materials that support ministries that welcome men into intentional discipleship. Research also 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. The Center for Men's Ministries offers models for these types of ministries that can be adapted to a variety of church environments.

**Mission and Ministry with the Poor.** These ministries allow men to live out God's call in their life to “Go into all the world . . .” The commission has a list of mission and ministry opportunities that can help local churches locate and participate with our national partners in hunger relief; restorative justice/prison ministries; and in local, district, and national mission projects. This includes but is not limited to our work with the Society of St. Andrew, DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministries, and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.

**Global Health.** Men need to be keenly aware of their total health. Additionally, in accountability groups, they need to encourage each other to be engaged in activities that promote health and wholeness for themselves and their communities.

We continue to encourage men and youth to be involved in mission projects on a local, national, and international level where they experience the impact of the intersection between poverty and health. One such activity is Amending Through Faith. In 2007, GCUMM, in a partnership with the YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, developed *Amending Together Through Faith*. This primary-prevention tool enables “good men” to understand their role in supporting or opposing a culture that leads to gender-based violence. This eight-week study explains the root causes of domestic violence and helps study participants develop skills and plans to make their churches and communities safe places for women and girls.

# 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 the church's ministry to, with, and for men. The charter 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 the rate of \$85.

Churches charter, 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, helps all 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 the commission through chartering makes this possible. In addition, chartering helps to support the efforts of the commission to promote men's ministry throughout the world.

Chartered churches receive:

- *UM Men* magazine, the official publication for men's ministry, which is produced quarterly and contains informational and inspirational articles and best practices designed to help men become servant leaders. This electronic publication includes news, ideas, announcements, and recognition of men's ministry, scouting ministry, the UM Men Foundation, and missions from around the world.
- A quadrennial certificate with yearly recertification stickers.
- Important information and training critical to conducting effective men's ministry. Every chartered church receives annual packets full of vital information important to successful UM Men units.
- Information about the Upper Room Prayer Center.
- Information about nationally sponsored UM Men mission opportunities.
- Access to national webinars.
- Information provided at UM Men's website ([www.gcumm.org](http://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. 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**

GCUMM is shifting 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 Ministries also provides webinars each year.

GCUMM now uses technology to discuss 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](http://www.gcumm.org) and are delivered to all individuals who register on the GCUMM email list (see Resources, p. 29).

# Opportunities for Individuals

## Men's Ministry Advocates

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

MMA's are growing disciples of Jesus Christ who are teachable and can teach others. They have communication skills and are willing to use these skills to evaluate the ministry of a congregation and to offer suggestions and resources. MMA's do not replace existing leaders, but rather help a congregation, district, or annual conference develop effective ministries by providing resources.

Steps to become a men's ministry advocate:

- 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.
- Participate in an "Understanding Men's Ministry" or 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 acknowledgment by a review panel of the GCUMM. Current program information and application forms are available at <http://www.ummen.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 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 may serve as resources for neighboring congregations to replicate their successes. If your church is interested in becoming a teaching church, please contact the Center for Men's Ministries at 615-340-7145.

## **EMS/Legacy**

Every United Methodist man is encouraged to individually financially support men's and scouting ministries by becoming an EMS (Every Man Shares in Evangelism Mission and Social Action) member. Being an EMS member gives the donor an opportunity to invest in what God is doing through UMM. EMS funds are used to fund UMM ministries at all levels of the church,

Another level of individual support for men's and scouting ministries is the Legacy Builder. At this level, a donor may choose to give a minimum of \$10 per month (\$120 per year). This level of giving provides the donor the benefits of the EMS level while offering greater support for future leadership and training, retreats, throughout the connection for both men's ministry and UM scouting ministry.

To become an EMS member or a Legacy Builder, call 615-340-7145 or email [gcumm@gcumm.org](mailto:gcumm@gcumm.org). Visit the [www.umm.org](http://www.umm.org) website for additional information.

# Mission Projects

## Upper Room Prayer Line

With support from UMM, the Nashville-based Upper Room Living Prayer Center prays with more than 30,000 people each month.

Prayers can be submitted 24-hours a day, 7 days a week through the Prayer Center website. A network of more 2,400 people in more than 300 covenant prayer groups around the globe respond to prayer requests.

Not only have the persons asking for prayers say they are blessed; the ones who have prayed for these people 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 costs associated with the prayer wall.

For information, call 1-877-899-2780 ext. 7215 ([prayer@upperroom.org](mailto:prayer@upperroom.org)). To request prayer, go to <http://prayer-center.upperroom.org/prayer-wall>.

## 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](http://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.

## **Rise Against Hunger**

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger-relief organization that coordinates the distribution of food and other life-saving aids 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.

Rise Against Hunger'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, Rise Against Hunger 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.

## **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 children of incarcerated parents. Amachi is a Nigerian Ibo word that means "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child." To date, there are 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/](http://www.amachimentoring.org/).

# How to Support Men's and Scouting Ministries

## Distinguished Recognitions

The Distinguished Recognitions program offers an avenue for the recognition of men and women who are doing significant work in supporting men's ministry in a jurisdiction, district, or local church or community. The proceeds from these awards help to fund men's and scouting ministries.

### 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 special women.

### Life Achievement Award

Men who have made exceptional contributions to church and community may be given a life Achievement Award 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 Scouting America 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 Scouting America and Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. 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 6 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.ummen.org](http://www.ummen.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. Today the foundation supports the Center for Scouting Ministries, the Center for Men's Ministries, 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

*United Men's Ministry Mobile App*—provides information and inspiration for men.

Visit [www.unitedmensministry.com](http://www.unitedmensministry.com), call (615) 340-7145 information, or go to [www.ummen.org](http://www.ummen.org).

## Free Resources at [www.ummen.org](http://www.ummen.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.

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

*The Man Must Stand* (GCUMM, Nashville, TN, March 2024).

*Bad Boys of the Bible*, Barbara Essex (Pilgrim Press, May 2002, ISBN: 9780829814668).

*365 Meditations for Men*, multiple authors (Abingdon Press, September 2008, ISBN: 9780687651986).

*The Road to Discipleship*, GCUMM (Nashville, October 2018, available from the General Commission on United Methodist Men).

*Thirty Stops on the Journey—30 Devotions for Men*, GCUMM (Nashville, October 2019, available from the General Commission on United Methodist Men).

*The Care of Men*, Christie Neuger and James Poling (Abingdon Press, December 2011, ISBN: 9780687014514).

*The Class Meeting*, Kevin M. Watson (Seedbed Publishing, 2013, ISBN: 9781628240580).

*Effective Men's Ministry*, Phil Downer (Zondervan, August 2001, ISBN: 9780310236368).

*Get Real—A Spiritual Journey for Men*, Derek Maul (Nashville, Upper Room, March 2007, ISBN: 9780835899246).

*The Hidden Spirituality of Man*, Matthew Fox (New World Library; later printing edition May 2009, ISBN: 9781577316756).

*Lead Like Jesus*, Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges (Thomas Nelson, revised edition, April 2016, ISBN: 9780718077259).

*How to Disciple Men*, The National Coalition of Ministries to Men (Broadstreet Publishing Group, LLC, September 2017, ISBN: 9781424554980).

*No More Christian Nice Guy*, Paul Coughlin (Bethany House Publishers, revised, expanded edition July 2016, ISBN: 9780764212680).

*Strength for Service to God and Community* (Strength for Service, Inc., March 2013, ISBN: 978-0615740621).

*Strength of Service to God and Country* (Abingdon Press, revised edition, August 2007, ISBN: 978-0687491261).

*What God Does When Men Pray*, William Peel (NavPress; 1993, ISBN: 9780891097297).

*Why Men Hate Going to Church*, David Murrow (Thomas Nelson; Revised, updated edition, October 2011, ISBN: 978-0785232155).

*Wild at Heart*, John Eldredge (Thomas Nelson, revised expanded edition, April 2011, ISBN: 9781400200399).

## **UMC Agencies and Helpful Links**

The United Methodist Church, [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

General Commission on Archives and History, [www.gcuh.org](http://www.gcuh.org), Madison, NJ, 973-408-3189

General Board of Church and Society, [www.umcjustice.org](http://www.umcjustice.org), Washington, DC, 202-488-5600

United Methodist Communications, [www.resourceumc.org/communications](http://www.resourceumc.org/communications), [www.umns.org](http://www.umns.org), Nashville, TN, 615-742-5400; InfoServ 1-800-251-8140

General Board of Discipleship, [www.umcdiscipleship.org](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org), Nashville, TN, 877-899-2780

General Board of Finance and Administration, [www.gcfa.org](http://www.gcfa.org), Nashville, TN

General Board of Global Ministries, [www.umcmmission.org](http://www.umcmmission.org), Atlanta, GA, 800-862-4246

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, [www.gbhem.org](http://www.gbhem.org), Nashville, TN, 615-340-7413

General Commission on Religion and Race, [www.gcorr.org](http://www.gcorr.org), Washington, DC, 202-495-2949

General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, [www.gcsrw.org](http://www.gcsrw.org), Chicago, IL, 1-800-523-8390

General Commission on United Methodist Men, [www.gcummm.org](http://www.gcummm.org), Nashville, TN, 615-340-7145

The United Methodist Publishing House, [www.umph.org](http://www.umph.org), [www.abingdonpress.com](http://www.abingdonpress.com),  
[www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com), [www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com), Nashville, TN, 615-749-6000  
United Women in Faith, [www.uwfaith.org](http://www.uwfaith.org), New York, NY, 212-682-3633  
Wespath (retirement/benefits), [www.wespath.org](http://www.wespath.org), Glenview, IL, 800-851-2201

**For additional resources, contact your annual conference office.**