

 GUIDELINES

men's  
ministries

*Ministries To  
and Through Men*

The General Commission on  
United Methodist Men

## MEN'S MINISTRIES

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*Some paragraph numbers for and language in the Book of Discipline may have changed in the 2008 revision, which was published after these Guidelines were printed. We regret any inconvenience.*

MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# Contents

<b>Welcome</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Our Identity, Call, and Mission</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>UM Men Support UMC Leaders</b> .....	<b>7</b>
UMMen Response to Four UMC Ministry Focus Areas	
<b>UM Men Purpose and Objectives</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Partnership</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Role of GCUMM</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Men’s Ministry Specialists (MMS)</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Building Men’s Ministry</b> .....	<b>18</b>
UM Men Leadership	
The Charter	
<b>The Society of St. Andrew</b> .....	<b>25</b>
Meals for Millions	
Hunger Relief Advocate Initiative	
<b>UM Men Resources</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>General Agency Contacts</b>	<b>Inside Back Cover</b>

# Welcome

You are so important to the life of the Christian church! You have consented to join with other people of faith who, through the millennia, have sustained the church by extending God's love to others. You have been called and have committed your unique passions, gifts, and abilities to a position of leadership. This Guideline will help you understand the basic elements of that ministry within your own church and within The United Methodist Church.

## Called to Spiritual Leadership

Each person is called to ministry by virtue of his or her baptism, and that ministry takes place in all aspects of daily life, in and outside the church. As a pastoral leader or leader among the laity, your ministry is not just a “job,” but a spiritual endeavor. You *are* a spiritual leader now, and others will look to you for spiritual leadership. What does this mean?

First, *all* persons who follow Jesus are called to grow spiritually through the practice of various Christian habits (or “means of grace”) such as prayer, Bible study, private and corporate worship, acts of service, Christian conferencing, and so on. Jesus taught his disciples practices of spiritual growth and leadership that you, as a disciple, are to share with others as they look to you to be a model and guide.

Second, it means that you always keep your eye on the main reasons for any ministry—to help others grow to a mature faith in God that moves them to action on behalf of others, especially “the least” (see Matthew 25:31-46). This is an aspect of “disciple making,” which is the ultimate goal of all that we do in the church.

### CULTIVATING VISION AND MISSION

As a spiritual leader, a primary function you carry is to help those you lead to see as clearly as possible what God is calling your church to be and to do. Ideally, your church council first forms this vision and then forms plans and goals for how to fulfill that vision. As a leader, you will help your team remain focused and accountable to honor the vision and goals to which the church is committed. You will help your team create and evaluate suggestions, plans, and activities against the measure: *Does this move us closer to our church's vision to bring others to God in this place and time?*

## CHRISTIAN CONFERENCING

While there are appropriate and useful business-like practices that apply to church life, Christian practices distinguish the church as the church. In the United Methodist tradition, how we meet and work together is important. “Christian Conferencing” involves listening not only to each other, but also listening intently for the will of God in any given task or conversation. This makes prayer essential in the midst of “business as usual.” As Christians, we are called to “speak the truth in love.” This is a special way to speak in which we treat one another as if each of us were Christ among us. As a spiritual leader in your ministry area, you have the privilege and opportunity to teach and model these practices. By remembering that each of us is beloved of God and discerning the presence of God in all that the church does, every task becomes worshipful work.

## THE MISSION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The United Methodist Church is a connectional church, which means in part that every local church is interrelated through the structure and organization of districts, conferences, jurisdictions, and central conferences in the larger “family” of the denomination. *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* describes, among other things, the ministry of all United Methodist Christians, the essence of servant ministry and leadership, how to organize and accomplish that ministry, and how our connectional structure works (see especially ¶¶125–138).

Our Church is more than a structure; it is a living organism. The *Discipline* describes our mission to proclaim the gospel and to welcome people into the body of Christ, to lead people to a commitment to God through Jesus Christ, to nurture them in Christian living by various means of grace, and to send persons into the world as agents of Jesus Christ (¶122). Thus, through you—and many other Christians—this very relational mission continues.

**(For help in addition to this Guideline and the *Book of Discipline*, see “Resources” at the end of your Guideline, [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org), and the other websites listed on the inside back cover.)**

# Our Identity, Call, and Mission

**U**M Men are committed to the spiritual growth of men, who experience God’s transforming power in their lives, and pass on their faith to live and grow in others.

*Men growing in Christ,  
So others may know Christ.*

**Our Primary Mission** is to support spiritual growth among men, helping men to mature as disciples as they encourage spiritual formation in others.

**Our Goal** is to empower the ministry of Jesus Christ through men within the congregations of the UMC.

**Our Pathway** is a lifelong commitment to spiritual growth to maturity as Christ followers. Our spiritual formation is marked by spiritual reproduction, as our faith passes on in others. *Spiritual reproduction is the foundation of evangelism.*

## **We hold these essential precepts and values:**

- Men lead others best by modeling Jesus Christ in thoughts, words, and deeds—“Follow me, as I follow Christ.” is the call offered by godly leaders.
- Spiritual maturity is signified in spiritual reproduction, as the faith of mature disciples passes on in others. As men mentor spiritual formation in others, the spiritual life cycle is completed.
- We trust and employ core Wesleyan principles working within small groups, transforming men’s hearts through a growing relationship with God and others.
- We desire to become effective spiritual leaders in our homes and congregations, working as partners with our spouses and congregational leaders—both lay and clergy.
- We strive to help our congregations become vital and alive with spiritually growing men. Men’s ministry is a core capacity of a congregation to engage men in all facets of church life and consistently encourage the spiritual growth of men to maturity.
- We work together as partners with lay and clergy leaders, aligning our ministry plans and priorities with those of our congregations. Together, the heart of men’s ministry joins with others through Christ’s heartbeat.
- Everything desired from and through men comes as a result of men

growing spiritually and maturing as disciples: family blessings, stewardship, service, outreach, prayer, spiritual leadership, lifestyle evangelism, and faithful obedience. **Men are foundational** to the life and health of the church.

- When a man lives daily in surrendered faith, God is honored and many lives are blessed. Transformed hearts are forged only within Christ-centered lives—nothing less is our acceptable offering; nothing less truly reveals Christ.

*The mission of the General Commission on UM Men is to assist men to know Jesus Christ, to serve him, to grow spiritually and seek daily to do his will. Our mission is captured within our motto: “Men growing in Christ, so others may know Christ.”*

## UM Men Support UMC Leaders

UM bishops and leaders of general boards and agencies invite United Methodists worldwide to join in four spiritual areas of focus that help The United Methodist Church achieve our mission to:

*Make disciples of Christ, for the transformation of the world.*

# UM Men Response to Four UMC Ministry Focus Areas

## ***1. Develop principled Christian Leaders.***

UM Men responses include

- A. Train and equip all UM Men leaders
- B. Train and equip at least one hundred men's ministry specialists by 2012
- C. Train and equip leaders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in scouting and men's ministry.

## ***2. New Churches for New People and Renewal of Existing Congregations.***

UM Men responses include

- A. Train UM leaders to relate to men's ministry
- B. Develop a seminary course for pastors and laity
- C. Help conferences and schools outside the US train laity and clergy in men's ministry
- D. Enable men to mature spiritually in order to pass on their faith to others.

## ***3. Ministry with the poor, especially caring for and protecting children.***

UM Men responses include

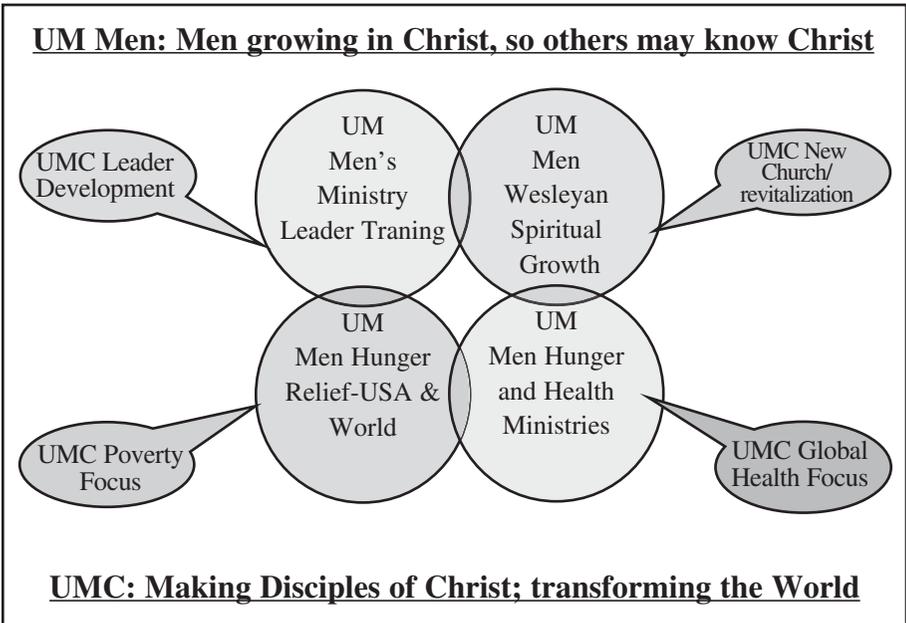
- A. Train UM Men to become advocates for the poor
- B. Enhance hunger-relief ministries in local churches through the Society of St. Andrew
- C. Expand *Amachi* programs in every conference, mentoring the children of incarcerated parents
- D. Train UM Men about poverty and racism
- E. Support the World Methodist Council Men's Affiliate in international hunger relief through Stop Hunger Now.

## ***4. Global health, confronting the diseases of poverty, including HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis.***

UM Men responses include

- A. Develop scouting award to individuals and troops for fundraising efforts for "Nothing but Nets"
- B. Connect with partners in Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide clean water and develop scouting award
- C. Continue support for Hope of Hearing
- D. Continue anti-tobacco efforts in cooperation with the General Board of Church and Society.

# UM Men Purpose and Objectives



Membership in the western segment of the UMC is in a prolonged decline. Low attendance, minimal participation, and lack of spiritual growth in men are core causes of our declining condition and low numbers of new faith professions. Awakening men's hearts and growing men to spiritual maturity is an essential, difficult task for UM congregations.

- Sixty-five percent of US adults born prior to 1946 profess Christ, but less than 5 percent of those born after 1977 are becoming Christians.
- Less than 45 percent of UM congregations had one profession of faith in 2005.
- The average UM member age is near 60, and congregations are about two-thirds women.
- In most congregations, many persons are not growing spiritually; even many long-term members. Few have faith that is passing on to others.
- For men these realities are even bleaker, as women are often more spiritually mature than men. Women alone cannot reverse our decline, nor should they have to.
- UM Men charter units average 65 years of age. Many groups struggle with image, funding, and dwindling numbers.

*Data from Barna Research, and UMC reported statistics*

Many men are absent in our congregations, and many who come are spiritually stagnant. A lack of spiritual maturity in men is hurting our families, communities, and congregations. The UMC can make *spiritual growth of men a top priority*. Spiritual growth to maturity completes the spiritual life-cycle—helping men and women pass their faith on and mentor the next spiritual generation.

The time is now for commitment and actions for those who will lead the way in a commitment to spiritual growth and transformed lives. If a few men will lead the way, many others will follow. *Will you be one of those men, or an encourager of those men?*

## Partnership

**PARTNERSHIP IS OUR HOPE AND OUR PLAN!**

*The General Commission on UM Men seeks partnerships with persons and entities who share the vision of a growing, healthy, spiritually alive UMC.*

**PARTNERS WITH UMC CLERGY:** It is the heart and intent of UM Men leaders to join with UMC clergy as partners and co-laborers in the daunting task of reaching men for Christ. We know that ministry to men is difficult, time-consuming, and often frustrating. It is impossible without laymen and clergy working together in relationships that please and honor God.

Our hearts beat for Jesus Christ and for the body of Christ, the local church, as well as for the men and women who pastor those congregations. We stand for those principles and persons who bring unity of Spirit to the body of Christ. We desire for men to model the mature masculine faith and servant-leader traits of Jesus Christ. We desire to serve our families, congregations, spiritual leaders, and communities in authentic Christian witness.

We believe that healthy growing congregations have a balance of masculine and feminine spirit, reflecting our triune God. We envision female and male believers, lay and clergy, serving Christ as co-laborers and partners in Christ. This is a unity issue, not a gender issue. We must become ONE in Christ.

We consider it an honor and opportunity to assist and equip clergy to lead their congregations in ways that maximize effectiveness with men, without compromising our reach to women and children. We desire to equip UMC clergy with tools, knowledge, and resources to more effectively reach men.

**PARTNERS WITH UMC MEN:** UM Men declare a full commitment to reach and serve every man within the UMC family and every man our congregation can reach. We consider every man in our denomination to be a United Methodist Man, and it is our goal to effectively serve all men and congregations of the UMC.

**PARTNERS WITH UMC WOMEN:** Women and men must stand side-by-side as co-laborers in Christ. The difficult challenges facing ministry to men must be enjoined by men and women in genuine partnership. We need each other, more than ever.

**PARTNERS WITH UMC AGENCIES AND EPISCOPAL LEADERS:** Partnerships are forming with many UM boards and agencies and their respective staff executives, and with leaders of the Council of Bishops and Connectional Table.

**PARTNERS WITH MEN'S MINISTRY RESOURCE PROVIDERS:** We recommend specific resources available from UMC agencies and entities, and resources from nondenominational men's ministry organizations

that provide new tools for outreach, leadership development, and spiritual growth for men. An updated list of our partner affiliates and allies can be found at [www.GCUMM.org](http://www.GCUMM.org). Partnerships are used in several areas of strategic interest.

**Leadership Training and Development:** UM Men will conduct and promote quality leadership training based on the best principles and practices in reaching men. Courses are offered for lay and clergy men's ministry leaders who want to learn how to apply an effective, long-term, sustainable strategy for building spiritually mature men in their church.

**Spiritual Growth:** UM Men will offer effective ministry tools that aid in the spiritual growth of men. We will recommend ministries, processes, and curriculum to meet the needs and interests of men in all phases of spiritual development. We will offer resources available within UMC entities and ecumenical resources that are broadly consistent with UMC theology and beliefs.

**Events, Retreats, and Outreach:** UM Men sponsors, leads, and partners with ministries that build interest and outreach to men, and events and retreats that build the spirituality of men.

# Role of GCUMM

## THE GENERAL COMMISSION ON UNITED METHODIST MEN (GCUMM)

**G**CUMM is a program agency of the UMC. It is governed by a board of directors, through a staff based in Nashville, Tennessee. GCUMM establishes vision and goals that promote the ministry of Jesus Christ through men in the UMC. The staff oversees development of men's ministry leaders who can help congregations become vital and effective with men. They recommend suitable and effective men's ministry tools and resources for UM congregations, and serve as a men's ministry connector between organizations and persons within the denominational structure.

GCUMM provided 78 percent of its annual budgets during the 2005–2008 quadrennium. Only 22 percent came from World Service funds. We strive to develop new income streams to grow and support our ministry, and ways to improve our image and more effectively offer men's ministry to the UMC, through UM Men. Our relationship with the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and national level are important to us, and we strive to improve our structure and connection to improve communication with all UMC entities.

## THE MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH UNITED METHODIST MEN

The heart of the ministry of UM Men is to help men grow in Christ that others may know Christ. Simply put, it's about evangelism of men, encouraging them to seek Christ daily and to grow in their faith by prayer and Bible study, and witnessing through deeds and actions. It is also about sharing their faith and mentoring men and boys.

The ministry of men in the local church is defined as a core group of men, partnering with their pastor, to invite and initiate spiritual growth opportunities for **all** men of the church. These opportunities include prayer groups, missions, Bible studies, retreats, workshops, small accountability groups, participation on committees, teaching Sunday school, children or youth ministries, scouting, mentoring, and assisting in leading worship. The focus is not inward, concentrating on those men that attend a meeting, but outward to **all** men, assisting them to engage in the process of spiritual growth.

Men's ministry is enhanced through small group settings where men can support each other in their faith journeys. Effective congregations will offer options that are appropriate to men of different ages, interests, and levels of spiritual maturity.

Within every congregation we must create an environment where men feel vital, significant, and empowered to carry out God's mission in the world. We require more passionate, spirit-filled leaders—both lay and clergy—to teach and mentor men how to be disciples, instructing them how to become men of faith through evangelism, mission, and spiritual life.

GCUMM is making a difference. There are literally thousands of men and boys whose lives have been transformed. We are not a program for the denomination, but an agency that offers opportunities for spiritual growth. We are not an institution, but a ministry where men and boys can build relationships with Jesus Christ and others.

The future of UM Men depends upon creative initiatives that assist in transforming men into the likeness of Christ. It will take significant and diverse resources to reach men of all ages and ethnicities. Successful men's ministry aims at unifying clergy and laity, young and old, men and women, and rich and poor; it will reach beyond the boundaries of the United States into the world.

In 2008 UM Men celebrated 100 years of ministry in the church. Where many other men's ministries have come and gone over the years, UM Men has been steadfast, affecting the lives of men all around the world.

Stories from all around the globe reflect heart-life changing experiences:

- A 200-member group of UM Men who are inmates in an Angola, Louisiana, prison helped transform an 18,000-acre prison from one of the most violent and feared penal complex in America to one of the most nonviolent prisons in the nation. At the initiative of Warden Burl Cain, prison church groups like the group of UM Men are active in the prison changing lives.
- UM Men funds the phone bill for the Upper Room Prayer Line, which receives some 36,000 calls each month. UM Men groups all over the nation staff the remote prayer line at their churches and at retreats.
- UM Men and Big Brothers/Big Sisters joined in a partnership called Amachi that links men with boys whose parents are incarcerated. Many conferences are already participating in the ministry. It influences the men as much as the children.
- UM Men raised funds to help revise and publish a World War II book of daily devotions that has been sent to 275,000 men and women in the armed forces. Navy Chaplain David Glassmire says Marines frequently gave the historic book to Iraqis as a way of sharing information about their faith.

- UM Men helps fund the “Hope of Hearing” project in which more than 1,000 Haitian children have received hearing aids, more than 500 in the last four years.
- The family of Jonathon Sprott, a seven-year-old Cub Scout, joined the UMC because the church sponsored his Cub pack. UM MEN coordinates scouting ministries in 8,000 UM churches reaching 373,242 young people.
- UM Men encourages participation in the “Letters from Dad” ministry. The program has reached thousands of men in hundreds of UM congregations. Pastors are noticing the increased participation in church as men grow in their faith through connecting with their families.
- Men’s ministry leadership training through Man in the Mirror/“No Man Left Behind” is equipping lay and clergy leaders of hundred of congregations nationwide
- UM Men in partnership with Building Brothers offer Wesleyan Building Brothers as a vital process for spiritual growth and transformation. The Kansas-West and Memphis Conferences are leading the way.
- UM Men is a partner with the Society of Saint Andrew, recruiting thousands of volunteers to harvest millions of pounds of food for America’s hungry and to raise funds for hunger relief.
- UM Men offers leadership and support to an international movement of men dedicated to world hunger relief, through the men’s affiliate of the World Methodist Council.

# Men's Ministry Specialists (MMS)

## YOU CAN BECOME A MEN'S MINISTRY SPECIALIST

**I**f you want to help others find new ways to reach men for Jesus Christ, you can become a Men's Ministry Specialist (MMS).

An MMS is a godly United Methodist man who is teachable and can teach others. He 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 he helps a congregation, a district, or an annual conference provide effective ministries by providing training and resources.

### Steps

- ✓ Secure a recommendation from your pastor or another ordained United Methodist clergyperson.
- ✓ 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 superintendents and conference and district presidents of UM Men. If you hold one of these offices, meet with other district, conference, or jurisdictional leaders.
- ✓ Complete a free on-line spiritual-gifts assessment and participate in a DISCIPLE Bible Study, a "Companions in Christ" study group, or other small group that will aid in your spiritual formation.
- ✓ Participate in a 2 ½ day "No Man Left Behind" regional training experience offered by Man in the Mirror Ministries.
- ✓ Read *Spiritual Fathers* by Dan Schaffer.
- ✓ Complete on-line course on UM history and polity, and participate in UMC Safe Sanctuary and Sexual Ethics courses offered by your district or annual conference.
- ✓ Participate in a Lay Speaker Course.

When you complete all program requirements, you will be recommended for certification by a review panel under the authority of the General Commission of United Methodist Men (GCUMM) and United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM).

Current program information, certification requirements and application forms are available at <http://www.gcumm.org>.

## ESSENTIAL LEADERSHIP FUNCTIONS

Five functions of leadership are essential to strengthen and support the ministry of the church: identifying and supporting leaders as spiritual leaders, discovering current reality, naming shared vision, developing action plans, and monitoring the journey. This Guideline will help you identify these elements and set a course for ministry.

### **Lead in the Spirit**

Each leader is a spiritual leader and has the opportunity to model spiritual maturity and discipline. John Wesley referred to the disciplines that cultivate a relationship with God as the “means of grace” and suggested several means: prayer, Bible study, fasting, public and private worship, Christian conversation, and acts of mercy. Local church leaders are strongly encouraged to identify their own spiritual practices, cultivate new ones as they grow in their faith, and model and encourage these practices among their ministry team participants.

### **Discover Current Reality**

“The way things are” is your current reality. How you organize, who does what, how bills get paid and plans get made are all building blocks of your current reality. Spend time with people who have been in this ministry and with your committee members to assess their view of how things are.

### **Name Shared Vision**

“The way things are” is only a prelude to “the way you want things to be.” Spend time with your committee and with other leaders in the church to discern the best and most faithful future you can imagine. How can you together identify your role and place in a faithful community that extends itself in its fourfold mission of reaching out and receiving people in the name of God, relating people to God, nurturing them in Christ and Christian living, and sending them forth as ministers into the world? Examine your committee’s role and its place in that big picture, and try to see yourselves as God’s agents of grace and love.

### **Develop Action Plans**

How do you get from here (your current reality) to there (your shared vision)? As a leader, one of your tasks is to hold in view both what is and what is hoped for so that you can build bridges to the future. These bridges are the interim goals and the action plans needed to accomplish the goals that will make your vision a reality. Remember that God may open up many (or different) avenues to that future, so be flexible and open to setting new

goals and accepting new challenges. Action plans that describe how to meet interim goals should be specific, measurable, and attainable. You and your committee will find information and tips here on developing and implementing the shared vision, the goals toward that vision, and the specific action plans that will accomplish the goals.

### **Monitor the Journey**

A fifth responsibility of leaders is to keep an eye on how things are going. Setbacks will surely occur, but effective leaders keep moving toward their envisioned future. Not only will you monitor the progress of your committee's action plans to a faithful future but you will also be called to evaluate them in light of the ministry of the rest of the church. Immerse yourself and your plans in God's love and care. Voices from the congregation (both pro and con) may be the nudging of God to shift direction, rethink or plan, or move ahead boldly and without fear. Faithful leaders are attentive to the discernment of the congregation and to the heart of God in fulfilling the mission of the church.

## **Building Men's Ministry**

**T**he suggestions offered below are helpful in developing an effective men's ministry in a local church. The very first step to starting any men's ministry is prayer. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in discovering the direction your men's ministry will take.

### **UM Men Leadership**

Certain qualities, skills, and responsibilities are desired among all men serving as UM Men leaders.

#### **PERSONAL TRAITS OF A UM MEN LEADER:**

- honest, humble, with a desire to encourage and help others grow as disciples of Jesus Christ
- willing to set aside personal agendas for God's agenda
- growing in his relationship with God through regular prayer, Bible study, and worship attendance
- mature enough to have an orderly life yet flexible enough to consider new and innovative approaches to men's ministry
- practices and models the principles of servant leadership

#### **SUPPORT TRAITS OF A UM MEN LEADER:**

- committed to strengthening UM men at every level
- works closely with lay and clergy leaders of the conference

- coordinates plans with other UM Men leaders and the GCUMM staff for retreats, events, and other programs
- as an EMS (Every Man Shares) member, models and actively promotes EMS memberships and ministry through evangelism, mission, and spiritual growth
- has experience and knowledge of the structure and organization of UM Men and the UMC
- willing to answer, through leadership actions, the following questions as they apply to his job level (national, conference, local, and so forth):  
What are the needs of the men in my area of responsibility? What goals and purposes have we established? What will it take to achieve these goals?

## CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO DO

**LIST** (with the help of your pastor) the men in your church who may have an interest in reaching other men and who have good relational skills.

**CONTACT** your district UM Men's president to help you in the organization and programming of your local unit. Call or e-mail GCUMM office for contact information.

**CALL** the men you identify to help you with the organization. Ask them to join you in praying and discerning the direction of the men's ministry.

**MEET** with your leadership team and begin by developing a clear understanding of your purpose. The purpose of your men's ministry should support the overarching purpose and mission of your church. A written purpose statement is recommended.

**Here is a sample Men's Ministry Purpose Statement:** To reach men in our community with a credible offer of the gospel and equip them as servant leaders for their families, church, work, and community.

**SURVEY** the men in your church to determine their interests and needs. It is important to assess the kinds of ministries that appeal to your men. Go to [www.GCUMM.org](http://www.GCUMM.org) for survey information.

**BASE** your men's ministry on relationships rather than on elaborate programs or tasks. The foundation of a successful men's ministry is building relationships. Events attract men, but relationships make them stick.

**EMPHASIZE** spiritual growth. Men's groups often make the mistake of emphasizing the fellowship among men over the need for men to grow spiritually. Fellowship happens; spiritual growth must be intentional. Offer opportunities for men to grow in Christ, and expect them to participate.

**STUDY** the job description for local presidents as you select your leadership. Energetic, visionary, ministry-oriented leaders are needed to lead any UM Men group. The job description signals to potential leaders the expectations of their leadership should they be selected to lead the local men's ministry. Leaders should be willing to fulfill the job requirements before they agree to take on the responsibility.

**CHOOSE** a date for your first organizational meeting. This meeting should be the only business meeting held with the entire membership. Normally, the executive committee should handle business with annual reports to the membership. It is important to develop a calendar, listing all UM Men's Ministry activities for the year. Coordinate the calendar with the total church programs to avoid conflicts.

**COMPLETE** and submit a charter application. (If you have questions about the application, call the GCUMM office). Chartering is required for every organized men's group according to *The Book of Discipline*.

**RECRUIT LEGACY BUILDERS / EMS** (Every Man Shares in Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual Life) members. It is important that every man in your church become an investor in the future of men's ministry, so that men can be impacted by the ministry of UM Men locally, conference-wide, and nationally.

**DEVELOP** a strategy for your men's ministry. With the input of your pastor, the help of your district UM Men president, and the vision of several men, develop your plans for the year. Men like to know what the organization is planning and where it is headed. Offer a variety of programs and ministries that your men will find interesting, stimulating, meaningful, and spirit-led. When you charter, you will receive an annual program book with ideas for your ministry program.

**BUDGET.** It is recommended that every local UM Men unit develop a budget for their program. The budget should reflect the purpose and mission of your local UM Men unit.

## SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

Adopt a long-term/low-pressure outlook. Men come along at different speeds. Give them permission to buy in at their own pace. Be persistent but not pushy. Don't expect more from men than they can, or will, realistically give.

Don't be angry with men because they are not more committed. It is easy to become impatient with men who are not ready to make commitments to our groups. We get frustrated or angry with men because they are not more involved. This is a marathon not a sprint. Continue to show men Christ, develop dynamic programs and ministries, and let your lifestyle be the example of what you are inviting men to be a part of.

Give men what they need in the context of what they want. Most nominally committed men will be focused, at least initially, on their felt needs. That's okay. Talk to them about money, family, career, time management, and show them what Jesus had to say about these things.

Invest in men who will invest in others. Your men's ministry will grow in proportion to your ability to build not just disciples but disciple makers. The focus of a men's ministry leader should be to make disciples of men who will in turn make disciples of others.

Create a culture of prayer and love for God's word. A man's life will never change in any significant way apart from the regular study of God's Word and daily prayer.

## The Charter

The *Book of Discipline* states that every men's organization in the local church shall have an official charter through the General Commission on UM Men. UM Men charters recognize the connectional nature of men's ministry in the UMC. Charters and annual recertification help to strengthen the local and national connectional community ties of UM Men. It was recognized that although men could conduct local church men's ministries, there was a need for a national organization that would provide resources, training, information, and inspiration to help make local men's ministries more effective.

The national office of the General Commission on UM Men provides services for local units, subdistricts, districts, conferences, and jurisdictional organizations of UM Men. Affiliate organizations of the GCUMM include: the National Association of Conference Presidents; the UM Men Foundation; the National Association of UM Scouters; the World Fellowship of

Methodist and United Church Men; the National Coalition of Men's Ministries; the Denominational Men's Ministry Network of North America; the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Camp Fire U.S.A., and 4-H.

The General Commission on U.M. Men oversees and manages the mission and ministries of U.M. Men on a national scale. GCUMM conducts training opportunities annually for conference and district presidents. Jurisdictional training events are also offered for local presidents and other leaders interested in men's ministries.

It is the responsibility of the GCUMM to conduct and manage the quadrennial national gathering of U.M. Men. The next National Gathering (formerly called Congress on Men) will be held at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, on July 10–11, 2009. Contact GCUMM for additional information or go to the GCUMM website ([www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org)).

GCUMM represents U.M. Men's interests in other general agencies of the church as well as with the central conferences of the U.M.C.

### **CHARTERED U.M. MEN'S UNITS RECEIVE:**

- *UMMEN Magazine*, the official magazine of and for U.M. Men containing informational and inspirational articles designed to help men become servant leaders. This magazine includes news, ideas, announcements, and recognition of what is happening among U.M. Men around the world. Also contained in the newsletter is information about scouting ministry, the U.M. Men Foundation, and missions. It is published four times a year.
- U.M. Men's membership cards for every man in your local unit.
- A quadrennial frameable certificate with yearly renewal stickers.
- Important information critical to conducting effective men's ministry. Charters come with a packet full of vital information important to successful U.M. Men units.
- *Program Book*, a ministry idea book designed to help you with ideas for programs and ministries for your local unit.
- U.M. Men *Tacklebox*, a catalog of books, tapes, videos, training and study materials, pens, shirts, and other important resources for effective men's ministry in the local church.
- Information about the Upper Room Prayer Line sponsored by U.M. Men.
- Information about the nationally sponsored U.M. Men mission opportunities.
- Assistance with program planning.
- Information about the official U.M. Men's website ([www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org))

## BUILDING INTEREST FOR CHARTERING

There is no secret formula for organizing a successful UM Men's unit. It does not happen overnight. First, get the support of your pastor. Success is dependent upon his or her enthusiastic support. Arrange a time for a meeting, and include your pastor and several men from your congregation. Invite your district UM Men's president. At this meeting, make plans for the steps you will follow to form a UM Men's unit.

### Your Plans Should Include These Steps:

- Discuss the purpose of UM Men as stated in the *Book of Discipline*.
- Read the information in this Guideline, *Men's Ministries, Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation 2009–2012*.
- Develop a plan for publicity and set ways to recruit members. Set a date for the organizational meeting.
- At the organizational meeting select the officers. Set the date for the monthly meeting. Prepare a constitution and bylaws for your unit.
- Use some of the many aids available to help get off to a good start. They include *Men's Ministries, Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation 2009-2012* and *Program Book*. The *UMMen Magazine* is a publication for presidents, secretaries, and other men who subscribe through the Every Man Shares through Evangelism, Mission & Spiritual Life (EMS) program. Write the General Commission on UM Men, P.O. Box 340006, Nashville, TN 37203-0006, for brochures and additional information.
- Charter your unit. It is important to charter. After the initial charter, units should be renewed annually. Some ask, "Why should we charter as long as we have a men's group and meet regularly?" There are several reasons why it would be helpful for you to charter. Most important, your men become a link in the international movement of men extending the kingdom of God. Your charter gift supports missions that one unit alone can't do. They include the Living Prayer Center, Civic Youth Serving Agencies/Scouting, and the exciting Men in Mission emphasis. Your charter fee provides training for officers and programs designed for men. Chartering is a base from which to reach out in mission through the effort of thousands of men's groups.

### Important Functions of the Annual Charter and Annual Renewal:

- update and correct the mailing addresses of current officers so that the proper leaders receive the current information
- link men's units around the world for common mission and ministry support
- provide support for the development of resources especially designed for men; mission opportunities sponsored by UM Men; and evangelism emphasis of men, youth, and scouting ministries sponsored by UM Men.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN CHARTER APPLICATION**  
 THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 "BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD  
 AND NOT HEARERS ONLY"



The General Commission on United Methodist Men is an official church organization recognized by the General Conference. The men's organization gains strength, mission outreach, program information, and visibility because of the general church recognition of United Methodist Men.

**ANNUAL CHARTER RECERTIFICATION**

*How to charter or recertify:*

- ✓ Complete the information needed below.
- ✓ Have treasurer prepare a check for \$65.00 for a contribution to the mission of United Methodist Men.
- ✓ Mail this form with your check to:

General Commission on United  
 Methodist Men  
 P.O. Box 440515  
 Nashville, TN 37244-0515  
 (615) 340-7148, Fax (615) 340-1770

<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>
Check Amt.: _____
Check No. _____
Date _____
Initials _____
ID# _____
JAD _____
Entry Date _____
Initials _____

\*\*\*We can charter jointly 2 or more units as one, if they are meeting together.

**PLEASE CHECK ONE:**

- This is an application for a **NEW CHARTER**
- This is an application for **ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION OF CHARTER**
- This is a recertification for a **LAPSED CHARTER**

UM CHURCH CODE (IF KNOWN) \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

(OR THE NAME OF YOUR UNIT, FELLOWSHIP, OR GROUP)

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PASTOR \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

CHARTER SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### **How to Charter:**

1. List the church name, address, city, state, and zip (plus four if known).
2. Give your pastor's name and phone number, UMC national code if known, district and conference name.
3. Give the president's name, address, city, state, zip (plus four if known), and phone number.
4. Give the treasurer's name, address, city, state, zip (plus four if known), and phone number.
5. Have the treasurer prepare a check for charter fee.
6. Mail the check and the above information to UM Men, P.O. Box 440515, Nashville, TN 37244-0515.

For annual recertification, churches and presidents are mailed notices with a return envelope and the certification information in the fall.

## **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 UM pastors, it is also an Advance Special mission project of the UMC. 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 servings of food to food banks, soup kitchens, Native American reservations, and other distribution agencies for free. 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 UM Men. Established in 1986 as an Advance Special Mission Project of the UMC (#982225-8), *Meals for Millions* is designed to get UM 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*, UM Men can literally feed millions of people in the name of Christ, take a leadership position in all levels of the church in fighting hunger, and become involved in hands-on ministry to the poor.

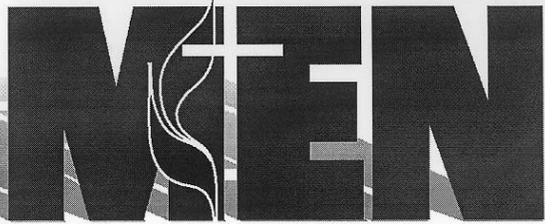
# Hunger Relief Advocate Initiative

In 1998, the General Commission on UM Men and the National Association of Conference Presidents joined with the Society of St. Andrew in the *Hunger Relief Advocate Initiative*. This joint effort is designed to help the UMC engage in ministry with the poor and hungry under leadership of UM Men. Hunger Relief Advocates (HRAs) are charged with establishing and administering gleaning networks to provide food directly to those in need locally; raising awareness of the extent of hunger in America and training in the development of local antihunger programs; championing UM Men participation in the *Meals for Millions* program; serving as an education and action resource for hunger relief and poverty issues; and becoming involved in other hunger relief activities. The ultimate goal of the *Hunger Relief Advocate Initiative* is to feed America's hungry through the work of part-time HRAs in every annual conference, plus volunteer advocates in each UM Men district and each local UM Men's group. In addition, the *HRA Initiative* seeks to increase direct hunger relief through the *Potato Project*.

The *HRA Initiative* is funded through UM Men *Meals for Millions* contributions. Every UM Men fellowship is asked to become a Challenge Fellowship by donating a minimum of \$200 annually to *Meals for Millions*. These donations go exclusively to the *HRA Initiative*, and each Challenge Fellowship provides more than 20,000 servings of food to hungry Americans in the name of Jesus Christ. Additionally, individuals are invited to become Challenge Disciples by donating at least \$25 to *Meals for Millions* twice annually in response to call letters. Through their donations, every Challenge Disciple provides about 5,000 servings of food annually to their hungry neighbors.

Join UM Men across the country and get involved today in the fight against hunger! Together, we can literally "*give them something to eat*" by providing meals for millions. For free brochures and additional information call or write the GCUMM office (615-340-7145), or contact the Society of St. Andrew: 3383 Sweet Hollow Road, Big Island, VA 24526; 800-333-4597; e-mail: [sosahra@endhunger.org](mailto:sosahra@endhunger.org); websites: [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org); [www.gbgm-umc.org/mfm](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/mfm).

## GENERAL COMMISSION ON UNITED METHODIST



### UM Men Resources

It is the desire of the General Commission on UM Men to provide the best quality resources to the men of the UMC. Books, magazines, newsletters, videotapes, and other printed resources are available to help men become servant leaders of Jesus Christ.

Please check our website first. [www.GCUMM.org](http://www.GCUMM.org) is the primary source for updated information about men's ministry tools, resources, and service.

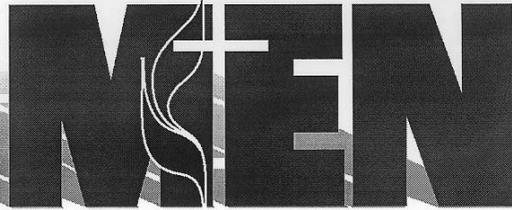
*UMMen Magazine* is a quarterly publication that addresses the spiritual issues facing the UM man, his family, his ministry, and his world; the magazine highlights local men's ministry worldwide.

*Tacklebox* is our companion catalog for UM Men resources and specialty items. Shirts, hats, pens, brochures, and other novelty items can be ordered from this catalog.

In addition to these resources, we annually publish the *UM Men Ministry Program Book*, which is a practical workbook for men to build (from scratch if necessary) an effective men's ministry in a local congregation.

**Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to order any UM Men resources.**

# GENERAL COMMISSION ON UNITED METHODIST



## **GENERAL COMMISSION ON UNITED METHODIST MEN**

**P.O. Box 340006**

Nashville, TN 37203-0006

(615) 340-7145

### **GCUMM Affiliate Organizations**

- National Association of Conference Presidents,  
[www.nacpumm.org](http://www.nacpumm.org)
- UM Men Foundation, [www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org)
- National Association of UM Scouters, [www.naums.org](http://www.naums.org)
- Society of St. Andrew, [www.endhunger.org](http://www.endhunger.org)

### **Recommended Nondenominational Men's Ministries**

- Man in the Mirror Ministries, [www.maninthemirror.org](http://www.maninthemirror.org)
- Building Brothers, [www.buildingbrothers.org/wbb](http://www.buildingbrothers.org/wbb)
- Letters From Dad, [www.lettersfromdad.com](http://www.lettersfromdad.com)
- DiscipleMen.Com, [www.disciplemen.com](http://www.disciplemen.com)







