

The General Commission on United Methodist Men

MENistry Programs - Connected UMMen

The General Commission on United Methodist Men produced this booklet for the express purpose of educating the local, district, conference, and jurisdiction UMMen leaders on the MENistry aspect of United Methodist Men.

The staff wish to express their gratitude to the many UMMen leaders who have supported the men's work in the United Methodist Church with dedication and endless energy.

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*For additional training resources and opportunities please call the GCUMM office
(615) 340-7145.*

Connected UMMen - Man to Man:

To help men understand the importance of Godly, strong, relationships.

BACKGROUND

Many men who meet regularly in church and who are friends do not really know one another. The Body of Christ is intended to be a "community of believers." This means we are called to form closer relationships than those in the world around us do.

Action Plan

1. Form men in groups of three.
2. Each man is given one minute per round to discuss each topic.
3. Round One: Ask men to discuss the "standard" greeting for each other, and the "standard" answer. [Hint: Q = "How ya doing?" A = "Fine. How are you?" A = "Fine". Are the questions genuine? Are the answers truthful?]
4. Round Two: Ask groups to discuss if any of them have one or more male friends who really know what is going on in their lives? This means these men know personal struggles, and their joys and celebrations.
5. Ask the groups to discuss if God has designed men to want a few close friends, and whether or not most Christian men have those kinds of friendships?
6. Ask men to discuss what it would mean to their UMMen unit if every member had 2 or 3 men who really knew him.

Note: The leader must time each of these discussions. When the time has elapsed, give the next man opportunity to answer the round's question. When the round is over, read the next question out loud and tell them how long they have. Encourage brevity and full participation. Don't give explanations, let them figure it out.

What to Look For:

- Men generally do not want to discuss these issues.
- Few Christian men have friends who really know what is going on in their lives.
- Most men really DO want this; they just don't know how.

Scriptures to Use:

- Proverbs 27:17
- Proverbs 18:24

What to Pray For:

1. That UMMen will become "Brothers in Christ" on a very real and personal level.
2. That the deep friendships forged between UMMen will be a powerful magnet drawing other church men and men who do not know Christ.
3. God's plan for men to have deep friendships modeled among UMMen.

How to Follow Up:

Order Servant Leader Training Video for men. This resource is designed to get men connected with one another using a video and journal logbook. \$35+s/h. Call GCUMM at (615)340-7145

Connected UMMen - Man to Dad:

To give men an opportunity to discuss a rare topic: their own fathers.

BACKGROUND

Many men carry around wounds that cause them grief. It is God's plan for us to share one another's burdens and leave them at the Cross. This experience will show men how to do that.

Action Plan

1. Form men in groups of three.
2. Each man is given one minute per round to discuss each topic.
3. Round One: Talk about yourself
4. Round Two: Talk about your father
5. Round Three: Describe how important you felt in your father's eyes.

Note: The leader must time each of these discussions. When the time has elapsed, give the next man opportunity to answer the round's question. When the round is over, read the next question out loud and tell them how long they have. Encourage brevity and full participation. Don't give explanations, let them figure it out.

In the first three rounds, some men began to describe a good relationship with their father; while, some men expressed deep wounds. At this point mention the fact that what has gone on so far has only taken a brief 10 minutes!

6. Round Four: Ask men in groups to pray for one another - each man pray for the man on his right. Suggest that one man remain seated, while the other two stand and pray with their right hands on his shoulders.

What to Look For:

- Round one is easy, but round two can challenge some men who have difficulty even mentioning their father's name. Round three will be difficult for most men and will present an opportunity to receive prayer from their friends.
- Look for men who typically can not get beyond superficiality. This experience will be an opportunity to do so.
- In less than 20 minutes, this experience is a powerful example of how Christian men can become "Brothers in Christ" as God intended. This is the kind of transparency and trust that builds the friendships that all men want and need.

Scriptures to Use:

- Ephesians 6:1-4

What to Pray For:

1. The men who were thankful for their fathers, give thanks to God for that father.
2. The men who have father wounds. Ask the Lord to begin the healing process right here, right now.
3. Pray the men will forgive and be reconciled to their earthly fathers.

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Connected UMMen - Man to Brothers:

To begin the process of developing open, accountable brotherhood in Christ.

BACKGROUND

Many men carry wounds that burden them greatly, but they never give other men the opportunity to help them bear their burdens. Often these wounds are right below the surface, and men are ready to deal with them when given the opportunity.

Action Plan

1. Form men in groups of three.
2. Each man is given two minutes per round to discuss each topic.
3. Round One: Describe a recent blessing that you and/or your family have experienced.
4. Round Two: Describe a challenge that faces you that you know will require God's protection and provision to get you through it.
5. Round Three: Describe how you imagine God might intervene to help you meet your challenge.

Note: The leader must time each of these discussions. When the time has elapsed, give the next man opportunity to answer the round's question. When the round is over, read the next question out loud and tell them how long they have. Encourage brevity and full participation. Don't give explanations, let them figure it out.

What to Look For:

- Men describing their blessings.
- Men expressing their troubles.
- An open door for men to know one another and build trust.

Scriptures to Use:

- Psalm 133:1-2
- Mark 2:1-5

What to Pray For:

Have each man pray for the man on his right.

1. Give thanks to God for the blessings that the man has experienced.
2. Ask for God's power and protection to help each man through his challenges ahead.
3. Give God the glory for the work He will do ahead of time.

How to Follow Up:

1. Ask men to pray daily for each other's needs for one month.
2. Suggest that men meet at least once in person or by phone before the next meeting.
3. Make it a point to know the names of the loved ones of each man. Write them down.

**Connected UMMen - Man and Mate:
To help men be better husbands to their wives.**

BACKGROUND

Most men have, or will have committed relationships with spouses. These are our most important human relationships. Men can help other men improve these relationships, if given the opportunity.

Action Plan

1. Form men in groups of three.
2. Each man is given one minute per round to discuss each topic.
3. Round One: Describe the best traits of your spouse. (For men who do not presently have a committed relationship, describe the ideal traits of a future mate.)
4. Round Two: Describe some ways in which your mate makes you a better man.
5. Round Three: Describe what changes you could make that would bless and encourage your mate.
6. Round Four: What one change would you consider offering to your mate as a 'gift' with no strings attached?

Note: The leader must time each of these discussions. When the time has elapsed, give the next man opportunity to answer the round's question. When the round is over, read the next question out loud and tell them how long they have. Encourage brevity and full participation. Don't give explanations, let them figure it out.

What to Look For:

- Men are often blind to those things closest to them. As a result, marriages often disintegrate while men wonder why.
- Godly men protect each other. This requires men to give godly counsel to the man whose home life is in trouble - even when this is difficult to do. True friends deliver the TRUTH in love.

Scriptures to Use:

- Proverbs 5:18

What to Pray For:

Have each man pray for the man on his right...

1. Pray for each man's spouse by name.
2. Praise God for his spouse.
3. Pray for him to be able to give the "gift" from Round Four.
4. Pray for the Lord to bless the relationship.

How to Follow Up:

1. Ask men to pray daily for each other's relationships for one month.
2. Suggest that men meet at least once in person or by phone before the next meeting.
3. Write the names down of the loved ones of each man.

Connected UMMen - Man to Youth:

To help men be better fathers and men for their children and youth in their lives.

BACKGROUND

Men are ordained by God to be positive male influences for youth who may be their children, grandchildren, neighbors, or mentees. All men need to be aware of the youth for which God will hold them accountable.

Action Plan

1. Form men in groups of three.
2. Each man is given two minutes per round
3. Round One: Each man identifies youth(s) that are presently in his life in any significant way.
4. Round Two: Each man name youth(s) that could be in his life, or that he would want to influence.
5. Round Three: Each man identifies the name of one youth that he would like to become closer with, and an area of interest or need.

Note: The leader must time each of these discussions. When the time has elapsed, give the next man opportunity to answer the round's question. When the round is over, read the next question out loud and tell them how long they have. Encourage brevity and full participation. Don't give explanations, let them figure it out.

What to Look For:

- Many UMMen have few if any active relationships with youth. This may be one of the greatest tragedies of our times. Both youth and men miss the blessing provided by these relationships.
- Life always has greater meaning and rewards when invested in the life of a young person.

Scriptures to Use:

- Proverbs 22:6
- Deuteronomy 6:4-8

What to Pray For:

Have each man pray for the man on his right...

1. Thank God for the youth mentioned.
2. Pray for the youth's protection.
3. Pray for the man's ability to influence the youth in a Godly manner.
4. Pray for the Lord to open the door and bless this relationship.

How to Follow Up:

1. Ask men to pray daily for each other's youth relationships for one month.
2. Suggest that men meet the youth at least once before the next meeting.
3. Write down the names of the youth assigned to each man.

**Connected UMMen - Man as Son:
To help men become better adult sons
BACKGROUND**

Every man has parents or persons who had a profound influence upon them as boys. It is good to reflect on these memories, and to honor those persons today.

Action Plan

1. Form men in groups of three.
2. Each man is given two minutes per round to discuss each topic.
3. Round One: Each man identifies the person or persons that influenced him the most.
4. Round Two: Each man describes the most important gift given to them by that person.
5. Round Three: Each man discusses how he might take time to thank and honor that person today, whether living or deceased.

Note: The leader must time each of these discussions. When the time has elapsed, give the next man opportunity to answer the round's question. When the round is over, read the next question out loud and tell them how long they have. Encourage brevity and full participation. Don't give explanations, let them figure it out.

What to Look For:

- Every man was shaped in important ways early in life. It is good to remember these persons.
- Every man wants to be this person to others as well, and will be blessed as he "does unto others what he would have done to himself."

Scriptures to Use:

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.

Malachi 4:6a

What to Pray For:

Have each man pray for the man on his right...

1. Thank God for the person mentioned.
2. Pray for the person's blessing and protection.
3. Pray for the man's ability to thank and honor the person in a meaningful way.
4. Pray for the Lord to reveal new ways to bless the relationships.

How to Follow Up:

1. Ask men to pray daily for each other's parents and/or youth mentors for one month.
2. Suggest that men meet at least once in person before the next meeting.
3. Make it a point to know the names of that person for each man and write them down.

**Connected UMMen - Family Servant:
To help men become servant leaders of their families and loved ones.**

BACKGROUND

Most men want to serve their families; however, this is not always clear. In many cases, what a family needs most from a man is not what he is giving them.

Action Plan

1. Form men in groups of three.
2. Each man is given two minutes per round to discuss each topic.
3. Round One: Each man describes the primary ways in which he serves his family.
4. Round Two: Each man describes what his family needs most from him that they are not presently receiving. What would their wish list look like?
5. Round Three: Each man describes what he could do differently and what sacrifices it would take to do it.

Note: The leader must time each of these discussions. When the time has elapsed, give the next man opportunity to answer the round's question. When the round is over, read the next question out loud and tell them how long they have. Encourage brevity and full participation. Don't give explanations, let them figure it out.

What to Look For:

- The most challenging relationship work occurs in a man's home. Relationships outside of the home are usually much easier.
- God says he is # 1; our families are next in line. They deserve the best of what we have to offer. This often requires sacrifice.

Scriptures to Use:

- Mark 10:42-45

What to Pray For:

Have each man pray for the man on his right...

1. Thank God for the family members by name.
2. Pray for the family member's protection and blessing.
3. Pray that the man is able to make changes and sacrifices as he serves his family in new and meaningful ways.
4. Pray for the Lord to reveal new insight concerning commitments that will strengthen his family relationships.

NOTE: For men who do not have immediate family with whom they live, pray for the opportunity for the man to become extended family to a family in need.

How to Follow Up:

1. Ask men to pray daily for each other's families for one month.
2. Suggest that men meet at least once in person or by phone before the next meeting.
3. Make it a point to know the names of each man's family members. Write them down.

Connected UMMen - Pastor Servant:

To help men become servants of their pastor, and other leaders within their local churches.

BACKGROUND

Pastors are on the firing line, and they are often stretched and stressed in many ways. Too often, members expect pastors to "serve" the congregation, but they do not want to support and serve the pastor. UMMen are called to make special efforts to serve clergy as servant leaders...

Action Plan

1. Form men in groups of three.
2. Each man is given two minutes per round to discuss each topic.
3. Round One: Each man describes the observable pressures and challenges facing the pastor(s).
4. Round Two: Each man describes what the pastor(s) and pastor's family needs most from the congregation. What would their "wish list" look like?
5. Round Three: Each man describes what could be done to provide extraordinary pastoral support, and what sacrifices it would take to do it.

Note: The leader must time each of these discussions. When the time has elapsed, give the next man opportunity to answer the round's question. When the round is over, read the next question out loud and tell them how long they have. Encourage brevity and full participation. Don't give explanations, let them figure it out.

What to Look For:

- Divisiveness and petty bickering within the congregation are cancer to the Body.
- UMMen can decide to be a force for unity and harmony within the Body of Christ.
- A new day will begin when a few persons decide to stop the conflict, and replace it with a servant attitude.

Scriptures to Use:

- 1 Timothy 5:17-20

What to Pray For:

Each man prays for the pastor this way:

Man #1 – Thank God for the pastor and each family member by name. Pray for the blessing and protection of each of them.

Man #2 – Pray for UMMen to commit to make changes and sacrifices to serve the pastor and his/her family in new and meaningful ways.

Man #3 – Pray for the Lord to reveal new insights and commitments that can be made by UMMen that will unify the Body, bless the pastor, and strengthen the ministry of the local church.

How to Follow Up:

1. Ask men to pray daily for the pastor for one month. Know and write down the names of the pastor's family members.
2. Suggest that UMMen meet to discuss how they can support their pastor in new ways.
3. Consider a commitment for a group of believers to pray for the pastor every Sunday morning before the first service.

**Connected UMMen - Man at Work:
To help men serve Christ by serving others at work.**

BACKGROUND

For most men, ministry opportunities are greatest at work because that is where they spend most of their waking hours. Every Christian man should have a plan for serving others at work, and by his actions demonstrate how Christ lives in him.

Action Plan

1. Form men in groups of three.
2. Each man is given two minutes per round to discuss each topic.
3. Round One: Each man describes a great need of a person he works with, or knows in the community.
4. Round Two: Each man describes what would really make a difference to that person that they are not presently receiving.
5. Round Three: Each man describes what he or a group could do to help the situation, and what sacrifices it would take to do it.

Note: The leader must time each of these discussions. When the time has elapsed, give the next man opportunity to answer the round's question. When the round is over, read the next question out loud and tell them how long they have. Encourage brevity and full participation. Don't give explanations, let them figure it out.

What to Look For:

- Most persons want a true friend before they want a sermon or even a scriptural admonition.
- When men decide to simply help someone with no strings attached, genuine Christian love is demonstrated.
- When men begin to imagine what Jesus would do right here, right now - they start to see it like God does.

Scriptures to Use:

Matthew 5:13-16

What to Pray For:

Each man prays for the persons mentioned this way:

Man #1 – Thank God for the persons mentioned. Pray for each by name; for their blessing and protection.

Man #2 – Pray for each man to commit to serve the person prayed for in new and meaningful ways.

Man #3 – Pray for the Lord to reveal new insights to each man, for him to make a commitment to help that person in a way that brings glory to God. Imagine a miracle that only the Lord could deliver.

How to Follow Up:

1. If you want to win a person for Christ, begin by becoming genuinely interested in their well being and circumstances. When they confide an area of difficulty to you, be ready to give of yourself sacrificially. Bring in others to help if necessary.
2. Ask men to pray daily for each person for one month.
3. Suggest a UMMen meeting to discuss how each man can provide extraordinary love and support for a person they know.

**Connected UMMen - Man In Mission:
To help men see a mission opportunity nearby.**

BACKGROUND

The word "mission" often brings faraway places and primitive villages to mind. Yet, missions more often are something that can happen in our local community. A few are called to faraway places, while the rest of us are called to local mission work.

Action Plan

1. Form men in groups of three.
2. Each man is given two minutes per round to discuss each topic.
3. Round One: Each man describes what would really make a difference in the lives of persons in the community.
4. Round Two: Each man describes a need within the community that could be a mission project.
5. Round Three: Each man describes what he or a group could do to help that situation, and what sacrifices it would take to do it.

Note: The leader must time each of these discussions. When the time has elapsed, give the next man opportunity to answer the round's question. When the round is over, read the next question out loud and tell them how long they have. Encourage brevity and full participation. Don't give explanations, let them figure it out.

What to Look For:

Men are naturally ready for "project" work. Some mission work may already be planned or underway, and UMMen need to join in. Other needs may be revealed to UMMen by inspiration. For these needs, men need to say "YES", and by faith go to where the Lord leads.

Scriptures to Use:

James 1:27

What to Pray For:

Each man prays for the needs mentioned this way:

Man #1 – Thank God for the persons who have those needs. Pray for each need and for the blessing and protection of those with the needs.

Man #2 – Pray for each man to commit to serve in a local mission effort.

Man #3 – Pray for the Lord to reveal His plan for local mission work to each man. Imagine a miracle that only the Lord could deliver.

How to Follow Up:

1. Christian witness is best communicated through ACTS of love, followed by WORDS of truth. It is important to show the love before or as we tell the good news story.
2. Ask men to pray daily for each community need discussed for one month.
3. Suggest that UMMen meet for the express purpose of discussing how local community needs can be met or supported by men. Invite the pastor.