



**GUIDELINES**  
for Leading Your Congregation

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# **MEN'S MINISTRIES**

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*Building effective men's ministries  
in your church*

*Prepared by the General Commission on United  
Methodist Men*

MEN'S MINISTRIES

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MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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The mission of the General Commission on United Methodist Men is to assist men to know Jesus Christ, to serve him, to grow spiritually and seek daily to do his will.



# Our Identity, Call, and Mission

**A**bout now a small voice in the back of your mind may be whispering, “What am I doing here? To what have I said yes? What is my role?” At the same time you may be aware that your congregation has extended to you a *call—a call to serve*. And you have said *yes—yes to leading in a vital mission*.

***The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.*** You have agreed to serve as a leader bringing your unique passions, gifts, and abilities to the church. When the leaders focus on the church’s purpose—*its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ*—and link that purpose to the passions of the people, amazing things can happen.

***The fundamental way we fulfill our mission is to reach out to people in the name of Jesus Christ, to relate people to God, to nurture and strengthen them in their journey of discipleship, and to send them into the world to be the church—inviting and receiving others in the name of Jesus Christ. We call this the primary task of The United Methodist Church.***

Effective leaders keep the whole of the primary task in their sight, working to keep all of its aspects in concert.

***Leaders in the church must be first, and foremost, spiritual leaders*** who model and embrace Christian discipline and teaching. *By practicing the means of grace—prayer, fasting, studying Scripture, corporate worship, celebration of the Lord’s Supper, Christian conversation, and acts of mercy—church leaders stay tuned to the mission of the church and live out the primary task.* Members and would-be members should be able to look to a congregation’s leaders for spiritual example and direction, because true leaders are known by their fruits. People’s lives are changed through their influence.

***Leaders use their gifts and talents to enable others to use their gifts and talents to the fullest potential.*** The flow of information, inspiration, guidance, and vision from leaders is an encouragement to others on their spiritual journey. Leaders help others to see new possibilities. When leaders are focused on the mission of the church, community is built and ministry occurs. The church focused on God is alive with creative energy aimed at transformation.

## Four Essential Leadership Functions

*Church leaders support and strengthen the church when they pay attention to these leadership functions: (1) help people discover the current reality in*

*which they live; (2) bring together the congregation's understandings of current reality and desired reality into a shared vision; (3) develop the plans to help the community move from current reality toward the reality of its shared vision; and finally, (4) monitor the whole work of the church as the congregation moves with God's guidance toward its vision.*

### 1. Discovering Current Reality

Accurately describing current reality—the way things are—may be the most important function of leadership. The booklets in this Guideline series offer suggestions for leaders to pay attention to the various committees of the church's ministry. In addition, it is critical for church leaders—lay and clergy—to spend time together discussing the ministry of the whole congregation. The conversation needs to include attentiveness to God's guidance and everything that describes a congregation's "what we are, here and now." Because God is always doing a new thing, this job is continuous. When we pay attention to change, we provide a base of integrity and strength from which to move into the future. Faith in Jesus Christ and a spiritual centering in God offers the strongest foundation to move people fearlessly through the massive changes of the twenty-first century.

### 2. Naming Shared Vision

Ask the question, "What do you want more than anything else in the world?" and most persons will give a response that indicates that they want to live in a world filled with love, faith, security, and meaning. Because persons desire a positive future, they are willing to invest themselves in organizations that are committed to it. By its very nature, the church is devoted to the creation of a better future. When the church promises to move people personally and corporately toward their desired reality, people will invest time, energy, and resources into the church. As people see their own desires linked to the congregational vision and deeper understanding of God's future, they deepen their commitment and involvement. Building this link is a vital role of leadership.

Naming a shared vision is accomplished by asking people about their lives and their faith, and listening very carefully. By listening, we mean deep listening—the kind that requires setting aside our own agendas and entering into the worldviews of others, and listening for God through the conversation. It is a significant shift in our understanding of leadership in the church to move from telling people what we think they need to know to listening to people in order to find out who they are and what their desired realities are. Effective spiritual leaders listen to the hearts of people and begin to articulate a shared vision.

### 3. Developing Bridges

To span the gulf between our current reality and the hope expressed in the shared vision, leaders must build a bridge. The third critical function of leadership is to plan actions and develop systems that create the bridge across this gulf. Leaders who are elected to administrative and program committees are responsible for the ongoing work of the church and must pay attention to the present. At the same time, leaders *must* be focused on the future—keeping today and tomorrow in tension—ensuring that the church doesn't get stuck in the past, present, or future.

Church leaders who are attentive to God's leading and who can hold the tension between today and tomorrow are *visionary leaders*. Visionary leaders see it all—current reality, desired reality, and the bridges to get from one to the other.

### 4. Monitoring the Journey

Perhaps the most critical task for leaders is keeping an eye on the whole of the faith journey of the congregation. When leaders are constantly caught up in “doing” the administrative and program work of the church, there is not any time left for “being” with God in prayer to discern the leading of the Spirit for the congregation. Leaders must step back from “doing” constant activities in order to pay attention to the total direction of the church's mission and ministry. All elected and appointed leaders must spend time together listening to God in prayer, Bible study, conversation, and other means of grace in order to lead the entire community in the work of Christ. Anything less is not Christian spiritual leadership.

# GCUMM Overview

At the 1996 General Conference held in Denver, Colorado, United Methodists from across the globe gathered to plan for the next four years of ministry in The United Methodist Church. Among the unexpected outcomes of that conference was the creation of the new Commission on United Methodist Men. To all involved, this “movement of the Spirit” seemed to be one whose time had come. The mission of the General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM) was to strengthen the spiritual life of men in The United Methodist Church.

United Methodist Men (UMMen) have an opportunity to reach the men of our church and the men of our world for the Lord Jesus Christ. Our primary purpose is the spiritual development of men. God is honoring that purpose by empowering and blessing men’s ministry to and through UMMen.

Men’s lives are radically transformed when they respond to the challenge of becoming servant leaders together—whether that challenge is made through our *UMMen Magazine*, newsletter, Servant Leader Video Series, or a regional men’s ministry training. The GCUMM develops and offers resources for men at the local church level to become servant leaders and followers of Christ.

A local church’s men’s ministry provides a place where men become “brothers in Christ.” As they become friends, followers, and fishermen, they become servant leaders in their homes, churches, and communities. We equip men of all ages to have significant relationships with one another spanning generations, race, social class, and other barriers. As we become servant leaders together, the witness of The United Methodist Men is strengthened.

## Purpose and Objectives of United Methodist Men

*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* states

Each church or charge shall have an organized unit of United Methodist Men chartered and annually recertified through the General Commission on United Methodist Men to provide a dedicated ministry for building men spiritually and involving men in the total ministry of the Church.

Local church resource material for supporting effective men’s ministries shall be provided by the district, conference, and jurisdictional organizations of United Methodist Men and the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

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

Individual and group strategies form the foundation of UMMen ministry:

- Enhance Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual Life (EMS), as men become servant leaders.
- Advocate programs that train men within local churches to promote specific ministries including prayer, missions, stewardship, and Civic/Youth Serving Ministries.
- Forge pastoral partnerships by men committed to the effective support and service of clergy and local congregations.
- Enhance organizational strength through effective leadership, resources, membership growth, and financial accountability.
- Assist men in their ever-changing relationships, roles, and responsibilities in the family setting, workplace, and society.
- Understand the organization, doctrines, and beliefs of The United Methodist Church.
- Fulfill the membership vows through the commitment to prayer, presence, gifts, and service in congregational life.
- Fulfill the Great Commission with and through The United Methodist Church as one part of the Body of Christ.

Men seeking membership in a local unit of United Methodist Men will be asked to subscribe to the major strategies listed above and to these personal objectives.

- 1) To engage daily in Bible study and prayer.
- 2) To be a witness to Christ's way in daily work and in all personal contacts through words and action.
- 3) To engage in Christian service.

United Methodist Men may be organized in one or more components within a local church as needed. Multiple local churches may also form a single unit of United Methodist Men according to their needs.

Membership shall be open to any man who indicates his desire to belong and to participate in the ministry of the church through United Methodist Men.

The appointed clergy of the local church or charge shall be an ex-officio member of the unit and its executive committee.

# The Servant Leader

**S**ervant Leadership, as modeled by Jesus Christ, is set forth as the goal for which we strive as United Methodist Men. We invite every man to begin the journey with us, as we become servant leaders together.

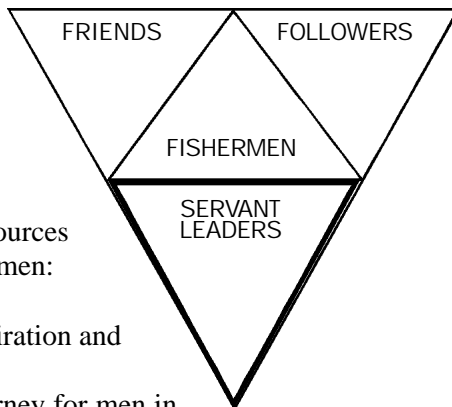
- Becoming servant leaders is a spiritual journey. We work diligently, knowing we will never arrive at our destination in this life.
- Servant leaders put others first. Humility and service are key traits we will develop.
- Servant leaders are made not born. We need God as our guide and partner to become a servant leader.

The Servant Leader Journey for United Methodist Men is traveled on a path that builds men together as **Friends, Followers, and Fishermen**.

- As **FRIENDS**, we become true brothers in Christ. This means that we learn to know, trust, and respect one another. We bear one another's burdens and celebrate life's joys together. Friendship is found in the roots of Methodism as "small groups" pioneered by John Wesley. We pray for the day that every man in the United Methodist Church can say that he has a few "brothers" with whom he shares the joys and pain of life. Our effective witness requires that we first become brothers to one another. As we do, others will want the same.
- As **FOLLOWERS**, we practice the disciplines or "building blocks" of our faith with greater effectiveness. We know it takes effort and commitment to be a disciple of Christ; godly men help one another to make it happen. Followers are men who are faithful in prayer, Scripture study, worship, and fellowship with believers. These disciplines promote spiritual growth and a life transformed from the inside out.
- As **FISHERMEN**, we are spiritually grounded and empowered as servants of Christ. Fishermen are men whose lives and priorities are consistent with, and speak louder than, their words. Fishermen radiate Christ's love to the world—first to their families, their congregations and pastors, their communities and workplaces, and the world. God's love is expressed through them in caring relationships, balanced lives, selfless priorities, service and mission outreach, financial generosity, principled decisions, bold stands for righteousness, and effective personal witness.

- As **FRIENDS**, we heal, build, and encourage each other. As **FOLLOWERS**, we are faithful disciples in prayer, Scripture, fellowship, and service. As **FISHERMEN**, we radiate Christ's love to others through our actions and relationships. As a result, we become **SERVANT LEADERS** when we model Christ and put others first.

Note that the placement of servant leaders in the illustration properly reflects the essence of servant leadership.



The General Commission on United Methodist Men [GCUMM] offers resources devoted to making servant leaders of men:

- **UMMen Magazine**—providing inspiration and information for men.
- **Servant Leader Expedition**—a journey for men in small teams, utilizing video and servant leader journal materials.
- **MENistry Training**—regional events equipping men for men's ministry leadership reaching every UMC congregation.

When men become servant leaders, everyone wins because men lead with the interests of others before themselves. Spouses and families win first, then friends, pastors, churches, communities, and the world. Most importantly, Jesus Christ is honored when men emulate his goodness in their personal lives and are transformed to his likeness.

# UMMen MENistry

**M**en's ministry is generally recognized as Christian service and outreach accomplished among, to, and through Christian men. United Methodist Men has adopted a new term defining the *men's ministry work of United Methodist Men*:

## **MENistry:**

Two or more UMMen taking actions together

- serving and blessing others,
- building themselves, and
- honoring Christ.

There are two types of MENistry:

1. **Internal MENistry:** work done *among* and *within* men, equipping men for spiritual growth as servant leaders;
2. **External MENistry:** work done *through* men, serving others and honoring Christ.

Referring to the servant leader model on page 9:

- |                |                   |             |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| • Friends is   | internal MENistry | among men   |
| • Followers is | internal MENistry | to men      |
| • Fishermen is | external MENistry | through men |

As men are built spiritually from within, they are readied for good works and service to others. For this reason, UMM focuses first on the spiritual condition and heart of a man (internal), then equips men to reach out to others through evangelism, missions, and a transformed life (external).

MENistry is developed within UMMen through two primary programs:

1. **MENistry Training** is conducted regionally for the purpose of recruiting and equipping leaders. A comprehensive training curriculum is offered for men who desire to be leaders among UMMen. This training will be delivered locally by men who are certified UMMen Trainers. At every training event, attendees who are interested in becoming trainers are identified. Resources and additional training are provided to them so that they can meet the needs of our churches at a local and district level.
2. **The Servant Leader Expedition** is offered by GCUMM as a resource geared to promote the personal transformation of men. The Expedition materials are designed to be used by men in small teams, in a Wesleyan format. A series of video segments capture discussions among men on various important topics. Men view a short video as a group, then discuss the issues presented in small groups. A printed guide, "Trek Log," is available for men to document their spiritual journey.

# Building MENistry

The 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.

## Checklist of Things to Do

1. **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.
2. **CONTACT** your district United Methodist Men's president to help you in the organization and program of your local unit.
3. **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.
4. **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.*

5. **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. Please use the men's ministry survey on pages 30–32.
6. **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; relationships make them stick.
7. **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.
8. **STUDY** the job description for local presidents as you select your leadership. Energetic, visionary, ministry-oriented leaders are needed to lead any UMM 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.
9. **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 United Methodist Men's Ministry activities for the year. Coordinate the calendar with the total church programs to avoid conflicts.
10. **COMPLETE** charter application on page 25. (If you have questions about
- 12 Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation

the application, call the GCUMM office). Chartering is required for every organized men's group by *The Book of Discipline*, 2000. Completed charter applications must be sent to the General Commission on United Methodist Men. (See section on "How to Charter," page 24).

11. **RECRUIT** EMS members. It is important that every man in your church become an EMS member. It allows every man to be touched by the ministry of United Methodist Men locally, conferencewide, and nationally. Turn to page 26 to learn more about EMS (Every Man Shares in Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual Life).
12. **DEVELOP** a strategy for your men's ministry. With the input of your pastor, the help of your district UMM 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.
13. **BUDGET.** It is recommended that every local UMM unit develop a MENistry budget for their program. The budget should reflect the purpose and mission of your local UMM unit.

## Some Important Guidelines

- Long Term / Low Pressure. 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. We must be in this for the long haul. 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—career, money, family, time management, and so on. That's okay. Talk to them about money, family, career, time management, and show them what Jesus had to say about these things. In other words, give men what they need in the context of what they want.
- 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 disciple others, and so on.
- 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.

# UMMen Leadership

## Universal UMMen Leader Qualities

Certain qualities, skills, and responsibilities are common to all men serving as UMMen leaders.

### Personal Traits of a UMMen Leader

1. Honest, humble, with a desire to encourage and help others grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.
2. Willing to set aside personal agendas for God's agenda.
3. Growing in his relationship with God through regular prayer, Bible study, and worship attendance.
4. Mature enough to have an orderly life, yet flexible enough to consider new and innovative approaches to men's ministry.
5. Practices and models the principles of servant leadership.

### Support Traits of a UMMen Leader

1. Committed to strengthening United Methodist Men at every level.
2. Works closely with the leadership of the conference, both lay and clergy.
3. Coordinates effectively, as necessary, with other UMM leaders and the GCUMM staff for retreats, events, and other programs.
4. As an EMS member, models and actively promotes EMS memberships and ministry through Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual Growth.
5. Having experience and knowledge of the structure and organization of UMMen and the UMC is highly desirable.
6. Willing to answer, through leadership actions, the following questions (as they apply to his job level—national, conference, local, etc.):
  - 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?

## Local President

In addition to the universal leader qualities listed, specific responsibilities of the local president include:

### Maintain Annual Charter and EMS Goals

1. Annual charter renewal
2. Recruitment of new EMS members
3. Renewal of lapsed EMS memberships

Local presidents in coordination with district presidents should determine goals for their local church. An annual report on goals, strategies used to

reach goals, and the results of the efforts made should be submitted to the district president. Successful strategies will be compiled and shared with other local UMM presidents.

#### Encourage and Equip Local Church Men

Encourage, train, and help resource all men of the local church. Work with district and local leaders to fill every local UMM vacancy. Recruit and help select local UMM leaders, working in close partnership and cooperation with the local pastor and other local church leaders. Working closely with the district president, the local president should help the men of the local church as needed.

#### Recruit Men to Attend Training Events

Ensure that local leaders and men participate in training on a regional or local level. The district president will assist local presidents in planning local training and retreat events.

#### Provide Local Church UMM Communications

The local church president should be in regular communication with the men of his church as well as the men of the district concerning the plans, goals, programs, and resources available for the men of the church. This can be achieved by regularly contributing to a local church UMM newsletter or submitting regular articles on UMM to the church newspaper. E-mail or fax-based newsletters, and contributions to district laity/clergy newsletters are also recommended. Each local church president should have an annual report ready to present yearly at his charge conference. It is also the local church president's responsibility to see that United Methodist Men of his church are represented at the district meetings of United Methodist Men. Whenever possible, the local church president should give an oral and/or written report at appropriate district and local church meetings. Resources for communication pieces may be obtained through the GCUMM staff.

#### Meet Regularly with Local Leaders

Local presidents must be intentional in scheduling regular meetings with other local leaders, including pastors, scouting, and prayer/hunger/stewardship advocates. At least twice a year is recommended; once a quarter is preferred.

#### Support and Promote Attendance at UMM Events

1. Promote and recruit attendance at conference, district, and regional events.
2. Promote and recruit lay and clergy to attend each quadrennial Congress on United Methodist Men. An attendance goal shall be established for each local church.
3. UMM events and programs should be consistent with the purpose and

goals of UMMen. Local presidents should review plans for events to ensure they meet this guideline.

### Attendance at Leadership Meetings

Local presidents are expected to attend all meetings called by the district president of United Methodist Men. Local presidents are expected to implement programs approved by the National Association of Conference Presidents, the UMM annual conference leadership team, and the GCUMM. The GCUMM staff will assist local presidents in the implementation of programs.

### Disciplinary Responsibilities

The local president of United Methodist Men should organize local churchmen of the United Methodist Church according to ¶256 in *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2000*. The *Discipline* states that “Each church or charge **shall** have an organized unit of United Methodist Men chartered and annually recertified through the General Commission on United Methodist Men (emphasis added).” It is a primary responsibility of the local president to see that the men of his church are organized and chartered. Selection of the local church president should be accomplished according to the process of selection determined in each local church.

Additional disciplinary responsibilities include:

1. Work to develop programs relevant to local men.
2. Encourage men in daily discipleship including prayer and Scripture.
3. Promote the objectives and responsibilities of UMM.
4. Encourage and support spiritual growth, mission, outreach, prayer, evangelism, and faith development.
5. Encourage knowledge and support for the total mission of The United Methodist Church.
6. Study and become familiar with The United Methodist Church, its organization, doctrine, practices, and beliefs.
7. Cooperate with all levels of United Methodist Men in achieving goals.

### Other Leaders

Every local men’s group should elect officers and leaders as necessary to carry out the mission and ministry of United Methodist Men. Elections normally occur in October, with officers assuming duties January 1. Elected officers should attend training events offered within the conference or by the GCUMM. It is recommended that elected leaders contact their district or conference presidents to find out where and when the nearest training event is scheduled.

The leadership team should meet regularly for prayer, planning, and joint dis-

cussions of the purpose and plans for mission and ministry among the men of the church in the coming year. The local president should review his job recommendations (page 14) with the other officers, divide responsibilities, and develop strategies concerning the programs and ministries of UMM.

Coordination and partnership with the pastor of the local church and the district president of United Methodist Men is important. Establishment of a local constitution and bylaws is recommended. Sample constitutions and bylaws may be obtained from the national office of the GCUMM. Tenure of officers is normally determined in the bylaws for all leadership positions.

## The Nominating Committee

A nominating committee should be composed of local United Methodist Men whose purpose is to nominate to the membership the officers of the local unit. The nomination of the president should be done prayerfully with the local president job description used for determining who might best fit the position. The president should be a member in good standing with the local church. It is recommended that input be solicited from the pastor of the church on the potential UMM president before he is asked to consider serving in the position. The nominating committee may include three to five men elected from the membership of the unit. They have the responsibility to seek out men to fill vacancies between elections as well as at normal election times.

The president of the local unit will provide the following information to the chairman of the nominating committee:

1. *Men's Ministries, Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation* (this booklet);
2. Constitution and bylaws of the unit (if you have not yet developed them, sample constitution and bylaws along with instructions can be obtained through the GCUMM staff);
3. Mission and Purpose Statement (see pages 3, 7);
4. A list of male members of the church and current leadership, including the number of years each has served;
5. *UM Men Ministry Program Book* (ordered through GCUMM staff);
6. Information about upcoming training events (obtained through the UMM district president).

### Leader Traits

As the nominating committee conducts its work, personal contacts are important. Experience is always helpful in seeking candidates, but should not limit the search. Enthusiasm, energy, vision, and commitment to Christ are critical factors in the selection of all United Methodist Men leaders. Other criteria that should be considered when looking for leaders include:

1. Good communication skills. Leaders must be able to communicate effectively.
2. Availability. Leadership should be available for meetings, ministry, prayer, and planning. A capable person who becomes a leader but is too busy with other things cannot be effective.
3. Supportive of the ministries of the local church. UMM leaders should always work in cooperation and partnership with the pastor and other local church ministries.
4. Willing to enthusiastically promote UMM ministries. Effective leaders work together at all levels to build a strong and successful men's ministry.
5. An EMS member. All leaders should be EMS members (see page 26) because they are asked to promote EMS to all the men of the church.
6. Good relational skills. Leaders should be able to relate to all the men of the church, have sound temperament, and exhibit the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-26).

The chair of the nominating committee has the responsibility for submitting the committee recommendations to the unit. Election of officers may be by voice vote or ballot. Bylaws should state the percentage of votes needed for election. Names and addresses of elected officers should be submitted with the renewal charter application.

#### Responsibility of Local Officers

Every men's ministry unit in the local church needs elected leaders for the proper working and effective mission and ministry of the local UMM unit.

#### **President**

(See job description on pages 14–16.) The president should be informed about the nature, scope, and criteria for successful men's ministry. The president and other officers should review the *UM Men's Ministry Program Book*, available through the national office of the GCUMM. Officers should also be familiar with *The Book of Discipline* and *The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church*. Additionally, the president should be an EMS member who regularly reads *MensNews* and the *UMMen Magazine* for information, inspiration, and ideas.

The president should be in frequent dialogue with the men of his church to assess their needs, receive suggestions, and maximize the impact of men's ministry. The president should be an advocate for all the ministries of the church, the pastor and staff, and the mission work of UMM. He should encourage all men of the church to attend district and conference UMM events and bring as many men as possible to the quadrennial International Congress of United Methodist Men.

The UMM local president is also a member of the local church council or equivalent, and is usually a member of the local church charge conference (where he may be asked to submit a written or oral report).

### **Vice President**

The vice president acts in the absence of the president when necessary. The vice president may be assigned responsibilities as deemed necessary by the president and/or executive committee. The vice president is expected to be well informed about United Methodist Men's activities, mission, and ministries. He works closely with the president in interpreting and advocating United Methodist Men. Local constitutions and bylaws may identify specific responsibilities of the vice president. He shall be an EMS member and a voting member of the executive committee.

### **Secretary**

The secretary of the local UMM unit shall be responsible for keeping records of business meetings, executive committee meetings, correspondence, and other responsibilities that may be assigned by the local constitution or bylaws. He should be an EMS member and is a voting member of the executive committee.

### **Treasurer**

The treasurer of the local UMM unit shall have the responsibility of collecting and distributing all funds. He shall maintain good records and provide regular reports to the executive committee concerning the income, expenses, and distribution of all funds of the local UMM unit. Disbursement of funds not authorized through the annual budget can only be made after consultation with the president or executive committee or by direction of the local unit as a whole. The treasurer is responsible for seeing that the annual charter renewal fee is paid in a timely manner. He may also help develop the annual budget for the local unit. He should be an EMS member.

### **Executive Committee**

The executive committee of the local UMM unit shall be composed of the elected officers, any committee chairs, and other leaders as may be designated by the local constitution and bylaws. Any district, conference, jurisdictional, or nationally elected leader of United Methodist Men is a member of the local unit and may serve on the executive committee. The executive committee serves as a leadership team working in partnership with the pastor and other local church leaders. Together, they pray, plan, and carry out the mission and ministry of the local church and men's ministry. The executive committee manages the business of the local unit, reporting its activities at least annually. It is recommended that most business decisions and discussions be made at special business meetings open to all interested persons. Business discussions should be avoided or minimized at UMM gatherings, events, mission work, or ministry activities.

# Guidelines for UMM Meetings

United Methodist Men are most effective when they offer a variety of programs and ministry opportunities to the men of the church. It is crucial that the time invested by men result in a quality experience that enriches and equips them as servant leaders in MENistry. Without well planned, helpful, interesting, and spiritually challenging meetings and programs, men will avoid or drop out of regular participation with the local unit.

Here are some ideas for building effective men's ministry in your local church:

1. Be flexible on meeting or program times and locations. Determine the times and places that fit the needs of the majority of men, including younger men. It is impossible to meet everyone's needs all the time, but flexibility allows you to avoid "doing the same thing, the same way, at the same times and locations as we have always done it."
2. Encourage men to meet in smaller groups that fit their needs. Young men may want to meet over breakfast at a restaurant once a week. Some men may want to meet for a bag lunch downtown every other week. Some men like the monthly meeting at the church with a meal. Assume that men's needs and interests are varied. Help them to form groups around common interests and to meet at their convenience. General meetings for all men can take place less frequently or at special events.
3. Provide inspirational music, speakers, and programs at general membership gatherings. Infrequent inspirational programs keep men interested and involved more than frequent routine business-like meetings.
4. Use resources provided by the national office for programs, training, spiritual growth, and mission opportunities. The national office offers program materials and ideas for spiritually centered programs and events.
5. Start on time and end on time. Do not allow meetings to drag beyond the announced ending time. If things do run on, invite men who need to leave to depart at the scheduled end time.
6. Publicize effectively. Encourage men to personally invite men who have never attended, especially younger men and sons. Provide funds for men who need help with the cost.
7. Equip your pastor(s) by sponsoring their participation at as many UMM events as possible, and by providing men's ministry resources to them. Pay for your pastor's EMS membership.
8. Involve as many men as possible as volunteers in any UMM activity. Some men are more likely to attend if they are asked to help than if they are simply "invited." More men who help will feel "ownership" in the event.

# The Charter

**T**he *Book of Discipline*, 2000, states that every men's organization in the local church shall have an official charter through the General Commission on United Methodist Men. UMM charters recognize the connectional nature of men's ministry in the United Methodist Church. Charters, and annual recertification helps to strengthen the local and national connectional community ties of UMM. It was recognized that although men could conduct local church men's ministries, there was a need for a national organization that would provide resourcing, training, information, and inspiration to help make local men's ministries more effective.

The national office of the General Commission on United Methodist Men provides services for local units, subdistricts, districts, conferences, and jurisdictional organizations of United Methodist Men. Affiliate organizations related to the GCUMM include: the National Association of Conference Presidents; the United Methodist Men's Foundation; the National Association of United Methodist Scouters; the World Fellowship of Methodist and Uniting Church Men; the National Coalition of Men's Ministries; the North American Conference of Church Men's Staff; the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Camp Fire Boys and Girls, and 4-H.

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

It is the responsibility of the GCUMM to conduct and manage the quadrennial International Congress of United Methodist Men. The next Congress on Men will be held at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, on July 13-15, 2001.

The GCUMM represents United Methodist Men's interests in other general agencies of the church as well as with the central conferences of the United Methodist Church.

Chartered United Methodist Men's Units Receive:

- *MensNews*. The official UMM newsletter containing news, ideas, announcements, and recognition of what is happening among UMMen around the world. Also contained in the newsletter is information about

scouting ministry, the UMM Foundation, and missions. Published four times a year.

- *UMMen Magazine*. The official magazine of and for United Methodist Men containing informational and inspirational articles designed to help men become servant leaders. Published four times a year.
- United Methodist Men's Membership Cards. Enough membership cards for all the men in your local unit.
- Frameable Charter Certificate. Quadrennial certificate with yearly renewal stickers provides an attractive affirmation of the local UMM unit.
- Important information critical to conducting effective men's ministry. Charters come with a packet full of vital information important to successful UMM units.
- *UM Men's Ministry Program Book*. Each chartered unit receives a program and ministry idea book designed to help you with ideas for programs and ministries for your local unit.
- *UMMen Toolchest* and *Tacklebox*. Resource catalogs designed to offer local units books, tapes, videos, training and study materials, pens, shirts, and other important resources for effective men's ministry in the local church.
- Moving Members Program. Information and instruction about the United Methodist Men's sponsored Moving United Methodist Members (MUM) program. ([movingmembers.org](http://movingmembers.org))
- Upper Room Prayer Line. Information about the Upper Room Prayer Line sponsored by United Methodist Men.
- Missions. Information about the nationally sponsored UMM mission opportunities.
- Assistance with program planning.
- Web site information. Information about the official United Methodist Men's Web site ([ummen.org](http://ummen.org))

# Building Interest for Chartering

**T**here is no secret formula for organizing a successful United Methodist 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 United Methodist Men's president. At this meeting, make plans for the steps you will follow to form a United Methodist Men's unit.

A first-time charter may choose to prorate the charter fee for the first year on a quarterly basis as follows:

Jan.-March	\$50.00
April-June	\$37.50
July-Sept.	\$25.00
Oct.-Dec.	\$12.50

*Example: A new charter sent to GCUMM on May 1 would include a check for \$37.50.*

## **Your Plans Should Include These Steps:**

1. Discuss the purpose of United Methodist Men as stated in *The Book of Discipline*, 2000. Read the information in *Men's Ministries, Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation 2001-2004*.
2. Develop a plan for publicity and recruiting members. Set a date for the organizational meeting.
3. At the organizational meeting select the officers. Set the date for the monthly meeting. Prepare a constitution and bylaws for your unit.
4. 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 2001-2004* and *UM Men's Ministry Program Book*. *MensNews* is a publication for presidents, secretaries, and other men who subscribe through the Every Man Shares through Evangelism, Mission & Spiritual Life (EMS) program. Write General Commission on United Methodist Men, P.O. Box 340006, Nashville, TN 37203-0006, for brochures and additional information.
5. Charter your unit. It is important to charter. After the initial charter, units should be certified 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, the Moving United Methodists Program, 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 Recertification:

- 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 UMM; and evangelism emphasis of men, youth, and scouting ministries sponsored by UMM.

#### How to Charter

1. List church name, address, city, state, and zip (plus four if known);
2. Give pastor's name and phone number, United Methodist church national code if known, district and conference name;
3. Give president's name, address, city, state, zip (plus four if known), and phone number;
4. Give secretary's name, address, city, state, zip (plus four if known), and phone number;
5. Have treasurer prepare a check for \$50;
6. Mail to United Methodist Men, P.O. Box 340006, Nashville, TN 37203-0006.

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

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/RE-CERTIFICATION

*How to charter or recertify:*

- ✓ Complete the information needed below.
- ✓ Have treasurer prepare a check for \$50.00 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 340006  
 Nashville, TN 37203-0006  
 (615) 340-7148, Fax (615) 340-1770

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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 RE-CERTIFICATION 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

# The EMS Program

The General Commission on United Methodist Men encourages every man in The United Methodist Church to invest in its EMS Program. Every Man Shares in Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual Life is an annual UMM membership that supports the ministry and work of the United Methodist Men worldwide. The EMS program enables UMMen to acquire, develop, and distribute quality materials, programs, and resources for UMMen. These tools help men effectively accomplish evangelism, mission, and spiritual life. We equip men individually, in small teams, and charter units for Kingdom work, as they support their pastors and local congregations more effectively.

## ***Benefits of your EMS Membership. . .***

- \* *UMMen Magazine* (quarterly)
- \* *MensNews* (quarterly newsletter)
- \* Devotional Book
- \* *Tacklebox & Toolchest* Discounts
- \* Complimentary UMMen Novelties
- \* Supports Worldwide UMMen Missions and Ministries
- \* Discounts on UMMen events



## ***Where Does the Money Go?***

- \* \$7.00 to Conference and District support of UMM Ministries
- \* \$1.00 to Jurisdiction support of UMM Ministries
- \* \$1.00 to National Association of Conference Presidents to support UMM Ministries
- \* \$2.00 to Scouting and Civic Youth Ministries
- \* \$1.00 to support UMM Missions
- \* \$1.00 to support the Upper Room Prayer Ministry
- \* \$9.00 to direct expenses related to training, production of resources, *MensNews*, *UMMen Magazine*, postage, etc.
- \* \$3.00 to administrative expense for EMS Ministry

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Yes! I will invest in Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual Life.  
My \$25 is enclosed:  Check  Money Order  First-time Subscriber  
 Renewal Subscriber

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ District & Conference \_\_\_\_\_

## **Mail to:**

**General Commission on United Methodist Men**  
**P.O. Box 340006**  
**Nashville, TN 37203-0006**

26 Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation

# UMMen Resources

It is the desire of the General Commission on United Methodist Men to provide the best quality resources to the men of the United Methodist Church. Books, magazines, newsletters, videotapes, and other printed resources are available to help men become Servant Leaders of Jesus Christ.

*UMMen Magazine* is a quarterly publication that addresses the spiritual issues facing the United Methodist man, his family, his ministry, and his world.

*MensNews* is a quarterly publication that highlights local men's ministry worldwide.



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

*The Toolchest* is packed with the best Christian men's books and resources available today.

**The UMMen Prayer Calendar** (District Specific) contains the names of pastors, district leaders, and local UMMen presidents along with daily Scripture readings.

In addition to these resources, we annually publish *UMMen 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 UMMen resources.**

General Commission on  
United Methodist Men  
P.O. Box 340006  
Nashville, TN 37203-0006  
(615) 340-7145



# The Society of St. Andrew and Meals for Millions

**T**he Society of St. Andrew is a nonprofit ecumenical Christian ministry dedicated to fighting hunger in our nation and the world. Formed in 1979 by two United Methodist pastors, the Society of St. Andrew is an Advance Special mission project of The United Methodist Church. The Society works primarily to salvage fresh produce that would otherwise go wasted and deliver it to people in need. Through the Society of St. Andrew's Potato Project, more than 15 million pounds of produce are salvaged annually to provide 45 million servings of food to food banks, soup kitchens, Native American reservations, and other distribution agencies for free. Harvest of Hope and the Gleaning network also salvage millions of pounds of food from farmers' fields and deliver it to the nation's hungry.

The General Commission on United Methodist Men and UMMen worldwide support the ministry of the Society of St. Andrew through our Meals for Millions program. Your individual participation as a challenge disciple will provide about 1,250 servings of food twice a year to the nation's hungry through the ministries of the Society of St. Andrew. Your unit's participation as an annual Challenge Fellowship will provide 10,000 servings of food each year. Finally, as a Gleaning Fellowship, your unit will be directly involved in ministry by feeding the poor in the name of Jesus Christ.

Join the UMMen 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.

# United Methodist Men Foundation

## John Wesley Fellow Program

In 1982 the directors of the United Methodist Men Foundation established the Society of John Wesley as a means of recognizing those who exemplify the characteristics of John Wesley. These characteristics are best seen through service to fellow men and commitment to the teachings of the Christian faith. John Wesley called together such people to form “The Holy Club.” These men with varying talents and skills contributed to the rapid growth and spiritual enrichment of early Methodism.

Fellows of the Society of John Wesley are known by their witness, vision, and stewardship that enhances and strengthens the mission and ministry of the church. Their daily living exemplifies recognizable self-denial and humility.

The introduction of a John Wesley Fellow into the Society recognizes United Methodist laity or clergy for distinguished service to the church. A United Methodist Men’s unit in recognition of distinguished service may select a John Wesley Fellow to local church mission and ministry.

The recognition made available by the United Methodist Men Foundation is designed to promote greater awareness of the Christian principles and practices embodied in The United Methodist Church and the development of these values.

For a brochure and more information contact the General Commission on United Methodist Men (615) 340-7145.

## Life Member Program

A special honorary recognition is available to local, district, conference, jurisdiction, and national organization to present Life Membership Awards to United Methodist Men. The General Commission on United Methodist Men sets up a plan of permanent registration for life members.

For a brochure and more information contact the General Commission on United Methodist Men (615) 340-7145.

# UMMen Ministry Survey

## Background Information

1. Age:  18-24  25-29  30-39  40-49  50-64  65+
2. Marital Status:  Single  Married Number of Children? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Type of work \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which of these issues are most important to you? (check two most important)  
 Finding a job     Male roles and identity     Retirement  
 Relationship to wife     Work, home, ministry     Reaching other men  
 Job security     Parenting skills     Spiritual life

## A Man and His Family

5. Would you be interested in a monthly meeting on family issues? (parenting, etc.) Y N
6. When would be the best time for you to attend this meeting?  
 Saturday morning     Weeknight     Sunday night  
 Sunday morning     \_\_\_\_\_
7. What family topics would you like to see addressed?  
 Keep romance alive     Being spiritual leader     Communicating with wife  
 Disciplining children     Handling conflict     Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Men in the Marketplace

8. How can we best help you integrate your Christian faith into your job?  
 Monthly meeting with speaker     3-5 week seminar on ethics, job issues, etc.  
 Small group meetings to discuss issues
9. Best time for these small group seminars?  
 Weekday morning     Saturday morning  
 Weekday evening     Sunday night
10. Topics I would like to hear addressed (check top 3)  
 Handling stress     Coping with failure     Sharing faith w/ co-workers  
 Changing careers     Planning retirement     (Avoiding success obsession  
 Relationships on the job     Mentoring     Remaining ethically sharp

## 30 Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation

### Men in the Mission

11. Would a short-term mission trip be of interest to you? Y N
12. What type of short-term missions trip would interest you the most?
- Construction project                       Business trip
- Medical trip                                       Athletic trip
13. What would be a good length of stay for such a trip? \_\_\_\_\_

### Retreats

14. If we would begin to have retreats as part of the ministry, would you be interested? Y N
15. What type of retreat would interest you most?
- Teaching Type     Spiritual and personal renewal
- Adventure type (canoeing, fishing, etc.)     Networking with other men
16. How long should the retreat be?  one night     two nights
17. How far would you drive for a retreat?  ½ hour     1 hour     more than 1 hour

### Man-to-Man

18. Are you currently attending a men's Bible study group? Y N
19. If not, would you be interested in attending a men's small group? Y N
20. What would you like to see happen in that group? (check two)
- Study the Bible                       Pray for one another
- Talk about problems                       Integrate your faith with your life at home and work
21. Which would you prefer for meeting?
- Every week for an hour     Once a month for 3 hours
- Every other week
22. When would you prefer to meet?
- Early morning     During lunch     After work     Over weekend

### Men's Conference

23. What type of seminars would you like to see at the Men's Conference? (check three)
- Parenting                       Work ethics     Balancing work, home, ministry
- Masculinity                       Finances                       Changing jobs or retirement
- Relationship to wife                       Growing as a Christian     Evangelism

Men's Ministry

24. Would you be willing to assist in Men's Ministry?

25. If yes, what are your areas of potential interest?

- Publicity       Lead small group       Marketplace Ministries
- Organize events    Telephoning       Teach Bible study
- Work in kitchen    Work projects       Evangelism

26. What do you or would you personally like to accomplish through your involvement in Men's Ministry? (check two)

- A closer walk with God       An outlet to vent problems or frustrations
- Fellowship with other Christian men    More involvement in the church
- A chance to meet other men       (Other (please specify))

When the entire men's program is determined, I would like someone to contact me so I can become more involved or receive more information. Y N

If yes, Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (w), (h) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, please list additional comments about the Men's Ministry that you may have. You may optionally include your name, address, phone, etc. Thank you very much for completing this survey.

\_\_\_\_\_

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