

MEN'S MINISTRY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





BRIEF HISTORY

From Old Testament times to today, men gather to discuss their faith journeys and find meaning, hope and healing. Small group ministry was an essential element of the Wesleyan movement in England and in “the colonies.” Men’s ministry at a local church level was formally endorsed at the 1908 Methodist Episcopal Church General Conference. In 1996, the General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM) became a separate general agency of the UMC. The ministry program of United Methodist Men is nationally recognized as the largest and most organized in the U.S.

MISSION STATEMENT

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

PURPOSE

To declare the centrality of Christ in every man’s life. This is expressed as all men engage in daily Bible Study, witness to Christ in daily work and relationships, and intentional Christian service to others. We want men and every youth in scouting to have an on-growing relationship with Christ.

KEY ELEMENTS

RESOURCING AND CONNECTION TO LOCAL, DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE MEN:

GCUMM serves as a clearinghouse for life-changing materials consistent with the doctrine/theology of the United Methodist Church (UMC), GCUMM staff and men’s & scouting ministry volunteers are also available to provide leadership at local, district and conference events. Staff are available by phone, email & video chat to answer questions and assist in problem solving and program development. Resources are available at www.gcumm.org, and through packets mailed in the fall of each year to chartered units.

YOUTH SERVING AGENCIES: GCUMM has formal partnership agreements with four youth-serving organizations. These partnerships are facilitated through the Center for Scouting Ministries. We support the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA), Camp Fire, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBS). We partner in growing youth, serving, and connecting the church to the community. The UMC is a leader in sponsoring BSA and GSUSA programs in the U.S. The BBBS mentoring model provides individual United Methodists opportunities to mentor children. When youth have relationships with positive adults, they are more likely to become successful adults. We provide or coordinate training and resources to groups across the U.S. from each of these youth-serving agencies. We partner with the United Methodist Men Foundation, other religious groups, civic youth-serving organizations, and local churches to provide New Testaments for scouts attending the national BSA Jamboree and all high adventure sites.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: We believe in Wesleyan discipleship and that one essential element is an ongoing, on-growing relationship with Jesus Christ. The Center for Men's Ministries provides effective resource materials and partnerships with other agencies inside and outside the UMC to enhance spiritual development. These include Walk to Emmaus, The Upper Room Prayer Ministry, Wesleyan Class Meeting, Amending Through Faith (domestic violence prevention) and Understanding Men's Ministry.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH: The other essential element of Wesleyan discipleship involves intentional Christian action through acts of mercy, peace, and justice in our community and around the world. Our staff and our partners are resources for creating opportunities for an individual or group to engage the world in Christian action. Some of those partners include the Society of St. Andrew, Rise Against Hunger, Mobility Worldwide, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM), and a variety of local, national and international mission projects. GCUMM also works with the World Methodist Council through a new relationship with Wesley Men.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Much of the work of the GCUMM develops principled Christian leaders. Our staff is available to train leaders in traditional UMM groups at the local, district or annual conference level. We also train small group leaders that are outgrowths of some of our newer ministry partners. Formal certification is available through the GCUMM as men's ministry specialists or scouting ministry specialists.

FUNDING OF OUR MINISTRIES

GCUMM raises between 70-77% of its annual budget. Our goal is to raise all the funds we use in our U.S. ministries, and to use World Service Funds for ministries outside the U.S. Funds come from individuals who choose to participate through monthly or annual gifts (Legacy Builders or Circuit Riders Society); through gifts to the UMM Foundation (John Wesley Fellows and Life Achievement Award); major gifts and the establishment of endowments; and from local churches who have chartered men's ministry groups (as required by the *Book of Discipline*).

A PLACE FOR YOU

Because men's ministry has the greatest potential to revive the United Methodist Church, we want you to be involved in a dynamic, growing and challenging men's ministry within your local congregation. Please join us. Please use the staff and ministry volunteers of the GCUMM to move into a disciple making men's ministry. Call or email us today. We are here to serve God, and you, through your local congregation.

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