

# Our Identity, Call, and Mission

The General Commission on United Methodist Men and local units of UMM in United Methodist Churches around the world support the Mission of the United Methodist Church; to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We have two primary areas of our work: Men's Ministry, which includes ministry to, for, with and through men, and Scouting Ministry, which includes multiple youth serving, youth mentoring entities.

Our primary mission is to help men mature as disciples of Jesus Christ so they may encourage spiritual formation in others.

Our goal is to empower the ministry of Jesus Christ through males of all ages within and beyond United Methodist congregations.

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

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 servant leaders.
- ❖ As the faith of mature disciples is modeled to others, the spiritual life cycle is completed.
- ❖ We trust and employ core Wesleyan principles working within small groups, transforming men's hearts through an on-growing relationship with God in relationship with others on the journey.
- ❖ We desire to become effective spiritual leaders in our homes and congregations, working as partners with our spouses, pastors and congregational leaders.
- ❖ We strive to help our congregations become vital and alive with a clear balance of personal growth and social action.
- ❖ 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, 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.

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# What is the GCUMM?

The General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM) was created as a program agency at the 1996 General Conference in response to the need to develop, coordinate, resource and emphasize effective ministries to men in the United Methodist Church. The office of Scouting Ministries was placed within the GCUMM to coordinate, resource and emphasize ministries to youth through scouting and other youth-serving agencies.

GCUMM exists to assist men to know Jesus Christ, to serve Him, and to grow spiritually and seek daily to do His will. The commission has a board of 20 persons who represent each of the five Jurisdictions in the US, each of the three Central Conference areas of Africa, Europe and The Philippines, and persons who are selected for their expertise in men's and scouting ministries. Our board has males and females, lay and clergy, and persons who do similar ministries differently in their local congregations.

GCUMM is a unique organization in many ways. Within the UMC structure, it is the only general agency of the church that raises 75-80% of its budget. Only 20-25% comes from apportionment gifts. Although it is one of the smallest agencies, its influence reaches deep into the connection.

Regrettably, GCUMM is not reaching as many men in as many churches as the agency would like. Each year, in the midst of many areas of decline, GCUMM is able to identify areas of growth in men's ministry. United Methodist Men is the largest, most organized men's ministry of any denomination in the US. GCUMM constantly strives to serve God by serving the men of your local congregation. If your local church needs assistance or materials for your men's ministry or scouting ministry, the GCUMM has it, knows where to get it, or will create it for you.

Our general secretary/CEO meets regularly with the leaders of all the other general agencies of the UMC and he and the president of our board serve on the Connectional Table of the UMC.

## Growing by Addition

Included in this booklet are materials that will give you a taste of some of the exciting opportunities locally, nationally and internationally in ministry to, through and for men in the United Methodist Church.

Over the last few years we have made a conscious shift of focus. Many congregations have a UMM unit that has a monthly meeting with an inspirational speaker and local projects to express their ministry. These groups meet a specific need, and have been an essential component of UMM. We continue to resource those groups and encourage them to continue.

We also realize that those monthly groups only reach a portion of the men in a local congregation and community. And so our focus is to **“grow by addition.”** Continue those traditional groups, but begin to offer **new** opportunities to reach all the men within a congregation. In many places these new groups have some traditional roots, but for many, they are out of the box. Most of these new groups meet weekly. Some, but not all, meet at the church. Other locations are a coffee shop, a place of business, a restaurant, or a home. For many, the easiest way for these men to meet is electronically through a platform (Skype, Zoom, Go to Meeting, etc.) that provides audio and video links to each participant. Some groups combine “in the same room” with technology to welcome members who travel or live some distance from the meeting location. Some of these meetings have food, but many do not (we know that does not sound Methodist). Some groups may choose to meet around an activity (exercise, basketball, running) with devotions and prayer.

Many of these groups engage in a variety of studies from books, videos, online sources, or other devotional material. Some deal with subjects that deal with Christian leadership or a wide variety of men's issues. Others deal with recovery, and some with a Christian approach to finance.

There are other formats of small groups. Some have at their core a hobby or sport or a special interest. These are not secular groups, but a secular interest may bring them together. It may be fly fishing, or restored cars or any number of topics. But as they share their common interest, they intentionally share their walk with Christ. These are often intergenerational. Many communities have church-league softball or other sports. Again the reason they gather is play and practice, but as they do that, there is time set aside for a devotional and prayer. Many of these new groups welcome men from the community who may have no relationship with Jesus Christ. Once they feel comfortable with members of the group they often feel comfortable coming to a worship service or other activities at the church. We believe that many men and women come into a relationship with Christ and with a church through these "back door" ministries and relationships.

## **Partnerships**

The GCUMM, at the time of this publication, has eight staff members in our Nashville office and four deployed staff who are on part-time contracts. We have many partnership arrangements with entities inside and outside the UMC. Some provide devotional materials, some help with our mission work, some are training partners, and some are youth-serving agencies that are part of our scouting ministry. In each case, GCUMM evaluates the products and services we use to make sure they are the best available and match our Wesleyan traditions. We also cooperate and share ministries with other denominations.

At this time we have the following relationships with the following organizations:

### **Affiliate Partners**

National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men (NACP)  
United Methodist Men Foundation (UMMF)  
Strength for Service, Inc. (SFS)  
The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA)

### **Affiliates**

Boy Scouts of America (BSA)  
Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries (DBOM)  
Girl Scouts of the USA (GCUSA)  
Mobility Worldwide  
Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY)  
The Upper Room Living Prayer Center  
Wesley Men – World Fellowship of Methodist and Uniting Church Men

### **Endorsed Ministries**

Camp Fire  
Denominational Men's Ministry Leaders (DMML)  
The Hope of Hearing  
Lead Like Jesus  
Love Packages  
Man in the Mirror  
National Coalition of Ministries to Men (NCMM)  
Stop Hunger Now (SHN)  
The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries  
Wesleyan Building Brothers (WBB)