**Steps to start and build a Local Men’s Ministry**

**“Helping Men to Grow in Christ so Other’s may Know Christ”**

1. Pray, review the job description and then when ready, accept the position. We need you and it is an important job.
2. Put your ministry in God’s hands in prayer and ask for his wisdom, leadership, guidance and cooperation with your Pastor and the leadership or men you will need to serve with and staff your executive committee. Pray for men of God who are passionate for Men’s Ministry. Also, most importantly, pray for all the men you will be serving.
3. Come up with some personal goals, local Men’s organization Goals, prioritize them. Then start **with a few**. If you need help, call and ask, Text or e-mail us. We will support you. Who are the we you ask? We are your District President, and/or your Men’s Ministry Specialist.
4. Schedule an appointment with your Pastor. Ask the pastor about his/her dream, goals and hopes. Share you excitement about men’s ministry and offer to help. It would be great if they can attend your meetings but not necessary. They are always welcome that is for sure. If they cannot attend these meeting, then keep them informed on meetings, projects, where you see your Men’s Organization going/doing. If you know of other churches, who have an effective and exciting Men’s Ministry already in process visit them or have a get together with their president. Also, if he/she knows of men who would be of great help accomplishing Men’s Ministry, (Leadership Team) that would be great.
5. Eagle Scouts with BSA are also great leaders and would do well as a Civic Youth Coordinator as well as other positions on your Leadership Team. Hopefully you will have many of these Eagle Scouts in your church. You can get a listing of Scouting Ministry Specialist from your District and/or Conference President. Your Men’s Ministry Specialist might well have this information also.
6. Call your District United Methodist Men’s President or Men’s Ministry Specialist. They have experience in leading training events, Men’s Gatherings, spiritual retreats, Easter Lenten Breakfast. One Training event you really do want complete is, “**Understanding Men’s Ministry**”. This is a really great course for building s successful Men’s Ministry and an important first step. It uses the book from “Man in The Mirror”, “No Man Left Behind”. This resource gives you all the building blocks you will need for a successful Men’s Ministry. Churches who complete and embrace this training average a 38% church growth (Man in the Mirror Statistics). A great follow up with this would be an 8-week study of the book, “The Class Meeting” by Kevin M. Watson.
7. Father/child events (Ball games, fishing events, parties, etc.) are great things to do also. Some other successful events also would be a Valentines Dinner/Dance with your significant other, a Christmas Celebration, an Easter Lenten Breakfast or Bible study, a Harvest Celebration party for the children of the church, parents on site hopefully instead of Halloween. Be sure to include candy, bobbing apples, hay and corn stalks for decoration, games to play. One that was a hit was the Bozo ping ball toss with 6 buckets. Will need prizes and/or certificates to the ice cream parlor. Let you imagination lead you for the fun. In addition, there are golf events, a church men’s softball league, service projects such as building a handicap ramp, auto repair, home repair, a fundraising bowl-a-thon, garage sale fundraiser and more.
8. It is important to interview the men who would serve on your executive committee for a comfortable feeling of where they are in relationship with God as well as the Spiritual leader of their families, their availability, experience and commitment to Men’s Ministry.
9. Begin to plan and build a Men’s Ministry Leadership Team.
10. Establish your treasurer and set up a checking account with your treasurer and your signatures on the account.
11. With your Executive Committee or Leadership Team, draft up a constitution, and bylaws. There may already be one at your church and should be on file with your church. If you do have one, you need to insure it is up to date and submitted again to your church office for their records as well as you secretary’s records. If there are none, then see the samples in this package and build off of them.
12. Communication is so important when you schedule something. Ensure it is not conflicting with another Church event. Again, communication is key and knowing the best way to communicate with your leaders as well as your local pastor is important. One on one is the best way or a phone call. After that, if people prefer e-mail as long as they read them, or texts are a great way to communicate quickly as well as group text. Facebook is also good as well as twitter. Best way to do executive meetings if driving or time commitments are an issue, is Zoom Meetings. This is a free service and you can have a meeting 40 minutes and then they cut you off. Another option to consider would be subscribing to their service. It is always good to meet face to face but if not possible, Zoom works. If you meet face to face for an executive meeting and some cannot be there, you could include them with Zoom and use their PC, tablets or cell phones. It is best to set a time limit for your meetings and then live up to that. Start on time and finish on time. Men expect that and often times will leave unless you do.
13. Think of and have an elevator speech ready to go on a moment’s notice sharing the importance of Men’s Ministry and what you are striving to achieve. One that is engaging and that will peak someone’s interest in knowing more. This is for those times when you really need to share with someone whom you need to get involved but only have 20 to 30 seconds.
14. You and your team need to have a Vision and Mission Statement, something you all come up with and something that will give you purpose in all you do in serving God through Men’s Ministry. Then every event you do will revolve around these statements. Such as, we are going to have this retreat or gathering or Bible study in order to accomplish (Vision Statement). This is very important and should be a statement that everyone in your ministry can get excited about and move out for God in serving others.