

A History of Ministry to Men

- 1908 Meeting in Baltimore, Md., the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church authorizes Methodist Brotherhoods.
- 1909 The Otterbein Brotherhood of the Church is organized in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ; the Rev, Warren L. Bunger elected director.
- 1913 Dr. C. W. Brewbaker elected general secretary of Sunday school and Brotherhood work of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ.
- 1924 General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church authorizes Wesley Brotherhoods.
- 1929 The Otterbein Brotherhood of the Church of the United Brethren is revived; the Rev. M. I. Weber assumes responsibility for Brotherhood work.
- 1931 The Albright Brotherhood of the Evangelical Church organizes.
- 1939 Three branches of Methodism are merged into The Methodist Church.
- 1940 General Conference establishes a General Board of Lay Activities with a Department of Methodist Men. George Morelock named department executive with Dow Bancroft as associate.
- 1941 A new Otterbein Brotherhood organization is authorized.
- 1942 The name Methodist Men is adopted. First charters issued.
- 1943 Dr. W. R. Montgomery becomes leader of the Otterbein Brotherhood.
- 1946 Brotherhood of the Evangelical United Brethren Church holds its first convention during the uniting conference of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and The Evangelical Church in First United Brethren Church, Johnstown, Pa.
- 1950 Bob Mayfield named head of Methodist Men Department. Mayfield enters military in December. Robert Williams succeeds him. Alaska Methodist University is created in Anchorage. Methodist Men furnish the library.
- 1951 2,500 chartered groups.
- 1952 Methodist Men Radio Hour originates with 38 stations. Charles Goff, pastor of First Methodist Church in Chicago, is the speaker
- 1953 First Methodist Men's Conference at Purdue University, 4,000 present.
The 5,000th charter issued. Don Calame joins Methodist Men staff.
- 1954 Name of men's work program of the Evangelical United Brethren Church is changed from Brotherhood to Evangelical United Brethren Men. 6,000 men attend gathering at Purdue University.
- 1956 10,000 chartered groups.
- 1957 Men's Congress at Purdue University, 5,000 present.
- 1958 Methodist Men Radio Hour is broadcast over 400 stations.
- 1961 Third Methodist Men's Congress at Purdue University, 4,700 present.
- 1962 18,000 chartered groups.
- 1965 Men's Congress at Purdue University, 4,700 present.
Change of direction on men's work with General Board of Laity; Men's organization given low priority; 15,444 chartered groups.
- 1967 Charter groups decrease to 9,941.
- 1968 Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church unify into the United Methodist Church. Men's ministry is combined into UM Men.
Chartered groups decrease to 4,861.
- 1969 National Congress of UM Men at Purdue University, 4,600 present.
- 1970 5,744 chartered groups.
- 1972 Board of Discipleship creates UM Men.
- 1973 Men's conference becomes laity conference.
Board of Discipleship sets priority on UM Men.
- 1974 Jim Snead hired as staff executive for men's ministry. Conference presidents elect committee to draft

- legislation for UM Men. First workshop for UM Men presidents held with conference lay leaders in Chicago.
- 1975 Task Force on Legislation drafts plans to create UM Men. National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP) is formed; Judge Ed Boardman of Florida elected president.
- 1976 Second NACP annual meeting; by-laws and constitution approved. General Conference adopts legislation of UM Men as a Section in the Division of Lay Life and Work of the General Board of Discipleship.
- 1977 National Congress of UM Men at Purdue University, 3,800 present. Upper Room Living Prayer Center opens
- 1978 Allen Brown employed as assistant to Snead; 1,300 chartered groups. UM Men agree to provide \$20,000 for the Upper Room Living Prayer Center. First meeting of conference prayer advocates
- 1979 Dale Waymire, Madill, Okla., elected NACP president
- 1980 Roy Lifsey, Douglas, Ga., elected chair of the Section on UM Men, General Board of Discipleship. Men provide \$25,000 for prayer line.
- 1981 Warren Hostetler, Amboy, Ind., elected NACP president. National Congress of UM Men at Purdue University, 5,400 present. Every Man Shares (EMS) program is introduced. UM Men Foundation is chartered; men contribute \$61,000.
- 1982 Kenneth Weatherford, Lawrenceville, Ga., elected NACP president to serve out the unexpired term of deceased President Warren Hostetler.
- 1983 Weatherford re-elected president for two-year term; 7,884 chartered groups.
- 1984 Lifsey re-elected chair of the Section on UM Men; 8,663 chartered groups.
- 1985 Harold Batiste, San Antonio, Texas, elected NACP president. National Congress of UM Men at Purdue University features "Spiritual Journey for Men"; 6,055 present. \$112,000 contributed in pledges; 9,283 chartered groups. First "Remote" Prayer Center held at Purdue.
- 1986 9,306 chartered groups.
- 1987 Harold Batiste re-elected NACP president. First Bowl-a-thon raises \$109,464 for UM Men Foundation. Men's Section, General Board of Discipleship, is raised to division status; 9,685 chartered groups.
- 1988 Chuck Jones, Van Nuys, Calif., elected chair of the newly formed Men's Division. Second Bowl-a-thon raises \$119,533. General Conference requires each local church and charge to have an organized unit of UM Men recertified annually
UM Men Foundation Scouting endowment reaches \$202,821; 10,050 chartered groups.
- 1989 Ernie Wendell, Durham, N.C., elected NACP president. Bowl-a-thon raises \$105,585. International Congress of UM Men, 5,200 present; 10,555 chartered groups.
- 1990 Bowl-a-thon raises \$140,000. UM Men Foundation assets total \$529,169; 11,505 chartered groups
- 1991 Stan England, Kennesaw, Ga., elected president of NACP, Bowl-a-thon nets \$81,488. UM Foundation assets total \$480,272; 9,325 chartered groups; 9,108 EMS members
- 1992 Stan England re-elected NACP president for the 1993-1996 quadrennium. Bowl-a-thon nets \$134,360. UM Men Foundation assets total \$665,236; 9,743 chartered groups; 8,112 EMS members. Leonard Thompson, Baltimore, Md., elected chair of the Men's Division of the General Board of Discipleship for the 1993-1996 quadrennium. The Rev. Byron Lee White hired as the director of scouting ministries. The first National Conference on Black Men in Crisis; over 500 in attendance.
- 1993 The Men's Division becomes part of a new structure within the General Board of Discipleship known as "Streams." The Men's Division becomes part of Stream II (Laity in Ministry). Bowl-a-thon receipts total \$86,684. UM Men Foundation assets total \$847,586. Congress of UM Men is held at Purdue University, 4,500 present. UM Men Foundation assets total \$1,072,307; 9,593 chartered groups; 8,311 EMS members.
- 1994 The Office of Scouting Ministries becomes the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting. Bowl-a-thon raises \$125,669; 9,993 chartered groups; 10,017 EMS members. Second National Conference on Black Men in Crisis, 500 present. Allen Brown retires.

- 1995 UM Men Foundation assets total \$1,081,769. Jim Snead resigns from General Board of Discipleship to become director of development for Asbury Theological Seminary and executive director of the UM Men Foundation. Bowl-a-thon raises \$86,011.
- 1996 Foye Webb becomes team leader of UM Men's Division. UM Men Foundation assets total \$1,243,264. Robert Powell, Dothan, Ala., elected NACP president for the 1997-2000 quadrennium. General Conference creates General Commission on UM Men. Bishop Raymond Owen elected president of commission. UM Men Foundation assets total \$1,284,392; Bowl-a-thon raises \$75,654.
- 1997 Dr. Joseph L. Harris elected general secretary for the new commission. Congress of UM Men is held at Purdue University, 3,445 present. Attendees pledge \$408,000 over four years. Larry Malone named director of Men's Ministry. Larry Coppock named director of youth-serving ministries. UM Men Foundation assets total \$1,419,265; Bowl-a-thon nets \$85,848.
- 1998 GCUMM publishes a new quarterly magazine, *UM Men: Uniting Men and Meaning*. Black Men's Conference at the Atlanta Convention Center, 1,200 present. UM Men Foundation assets total \$1,560,480; Bowl-a-thon raises \$27,725.
- 1999 The first national Hunger Relief Advocate for Society of St. Andrew is named. Sadie Barry works out of the UMM office. UM Men Foundation assets total \$1,489,419; Bowl-a-thon raises \$67,156.
- 2000 General Conference increases the number of board members from 23 to 40, including two Central Conference representatives. Gilbert Hanke, Nacogdoches, Texas, elected NACP president for the 2001-2004 quadrennium. Robert Powell elected president of UM Men Foundation. Del Ketcham joins the UMM staff as the Society of St. Andrew National Hunger relief advocate. Bishop Ernest Lyght elected as board president for the 2001-2004 quadrennium. UM Men Foundation assets total \$1,413,210; Bowl-a-thon raises \$89,931.
- 2001 Congress of UM Men is held at Purdue University, 4,000 present. A California Eagle Scout seeks commission help to republish World War II book *Strength for Service to God and Country (SFS)*. Cal Turner, CEO of Dollar General, makes a \$1 million gift to the UM Men Foundation, its largest gift ever; foundation assets total \$1,663,141. Sport-a-thon raises \$19,318; 7,886 chartered groups; 9,891 EMS members
- 2002 The commission publishes *T-Quest*, a small-group resource for men; 5,135 chartered groups; 9,964 EMS members. Ten thousand *SFS* books are shipped to soldiers serving in Afghanistan.
- 2003 5,542 chartered groups
- 2004 Gil Hanke, Nacogdoches, Texas, elected president of the commission for the 2005-2008 quadrennium. Glenn Wintemberg elected NACP president; 4,934 chartered groups; 8,781 EMS members
- 2005 National Gathering of UM Men held at Purdue University, 2,200 present. Dr. Harris resigns as general secretary to become assistant to the bishop of the Oklahoma Area. Bishop William Morris named interim general secretary. Commission signs covenant with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Legacy Builders is introduced as a new annual fund with 868 donors and \$114,000 pledged; 5,330 chartered groups; 8,064 EMS members. The UMC ends 2005 as the second largest charter organization of the BSA with 376,472 youth and 11,864 units meeting in 8,000 UM churches
- 2006 Commission moves into new offices on Nashville's Music Row. The Rev. David Adams elected general secretary of the commission. First training session for Men's Ministry Specialists conducted. Over 250,000 copies of *Strength for Service* distributed. UM Publishing House becomes the new *SFS* publisher. UM Men Foundation assets total over \$2 million. Legacy Builders grows to 933 donors giving \$129,617.
- 2007 Ed and Gwen Cole agree to donate \$500,000 to pay off the debt on the UM Men building in Nashville. The commission completed a study of men. Only 27.2% of the men surveyed said they had a close friend, and only 32% said their pastor ministered to men. The commission has now distributed 300,000 copies of *Strength for Service*. A new website was launched.
- 2008 General Conference celebrates the 100th anniversary of men's ministry. Scouting introduces the office of scouting ministry specialists along with the Silver Torch Award and Shepherd Church Charter

- recognition. Bishop James King is elected president of the commission; John Dowell is elected NACP president. Big Brothers-Big Sisters added as partner agency.
- 2009 UM Men hold their 10th National Gathering at Belmont University in Nashville. David Adams resigns as general secretary. The UM Men Foundation closed the year with a balance of \$2.1 million. Robert Powell resigns as director; Foundation President Carl Young assumes his responsibilities. Ten persons certified as men's ministry specialists and 45 certified as scouting ministry specialists.
- 2010 Gil Hanke is elected general secretary. Amachi program of Big Brothers Big Sisters introduced to 11 annual conferences. Circuit Rider Society created for those giving at least \$1,500 annually. Larry Malone retires at end of year.
- 2011 Four volunteers are recruited and trained as deployed staff members. Some 452,000 copies of *Strength for Service* have been distributed. Amachi program expanded to 17 annual conferences; 130 persons certified as scouting ministry specialists. Twenty-nine men certified as men's ministry specialists. UM Men Foundation has assets totaling \$2.26 million
- 2012 A General Conference plan to restructure the denomination is found unconstitutional by the Judicial Council. The number of members of the General Commission on UM Men is reduced from 25 to 20. Bishop James Swanson is elected president of the General Commission on UM Men. Dan Ramsey, of Houston, Texas, is elected president of the National Association of Conference Presidents. Ed Shytle is elected president of the UMM Foundation
- 2013 The commission publishes *Strength for Service to God and Community*, a book for first responders, and forms a non-denominational group to promote and distribute both *Strength for Service* books. Some 800 people attend the 11th National Gathering at Belmont University. The commission creates the Susanna Wesley Award for women. Men give \$25,185 to Upper Room Prayer Line and \$179,800 to the Society of St. Andrew Meals for Millions program.
- 2014 The commission forms a non-denominational *Strength for Service* non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation and L.W. Smith is named president and Larry Coppock is named acting executive director. UM Men gave \$20,980 to the Upper Room Prayer Line, a ministry that responded to 273,580 prayer requests. Twenty-eight conference increased the number of charters. Thirty-seven men have been certified as men's ministry specialists.
- 2015 The commission formally adopts four affiliate partners UMM Foundation, NACP, Society of St. Andrew and *Strength for Service*. UMM cooperates with four other denominational groups to provide 20,000 New Testaments to Scout troops. NACP holds first national contest for the most outstanding ministries; Christ of the Hills UMC in Arkansas receives top prize. There are 3,761 chartered groups, 35 men's ministry specialists and 300 scouting ministry specialists.
- 2016 Steve Nailor is elected NACP president and Glenn Wintemberg is elected president of the UMM Foundation. Queen's Chapel UMC in Beltsville, Md., received top local church honors in the second national contest. General Conference sessions are held in Portland, Ore. The Rev. Dr. Rick Vance is appointed director of men's ministry. There are 333 scouting ministry specialists and 39 certified men's ministry specialists. There are 3,663 chartered groups of UMM.