

## A United Methodist Men's Day Celebration in the Local Church

An Annual Men's Day has been celebrated in local churches of The United Methodist Churches for many years. The *Book of Discipline*, states, "Men's Ministry Sunday may be observed annually on a Sunday designated by the local congregation. The day is to celebrate the men's ministry within and beyond the local church."

An Annual Men's day has highlighted and strengthened men's work in a joyous way planned and led by the men for the entire congregation.

Its history covers more than a 100 years, representing a heritage rooted in the experiences and traditions of both the Evangelical United Brethren Church and African-American congregations of the Methodist Church, and by those who covenanted together to form these organizations.

Today, many churches with these roots continue to observe an Annual Men's Day Celebration in addition to Laity Sunday.

The purpose of the Annual Men's Day Celebration in the local church is to:

- ◆ Provide an opportunity to affirm and lift up the priesthood of laymen in the church;
- ◆ Emphasize the need for men's involvement in the life and total Mission of the church;
- ◆ Stress the importance of trained and dedicated leadership by men;
- ◆ Encourage an awareness of oneness in Christ among all men;
- ◆ Affirm men's participation and leadership role in the total mission of the church;
- ◆ Recruit men to become involved in ministry for men and youth;
- ◆ Encourage men to support both spiritually and financially the programs and projects sponsored by men of the church;
- ◆ Lift up the work of United Methodist Men;
- ◆ Recognize outstanding contributions and services to others by men during the past year; and
- ◆ Plan and give leadership to a service of worship designed to inspire, challenge and motivate men.

We encourage that an Annual Men's Day Celebration is held annually in each local church or charge authorized by the local church, district, or annual conference. The date and theme for such a celebration should be set by the local church, district or annual conference.