

**Special Worship Services  
of  
The General Commission  
on United Methodist Men**



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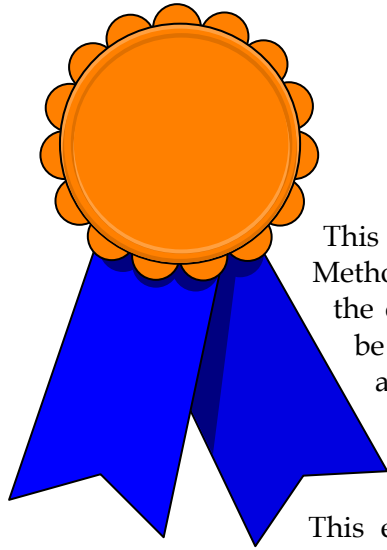
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## CLERGY APPRECIATION PROGRAM

This program is designed for United Methodist Men to express appreciation to the clergy of the local church. This may be done on a district wide basis, an annual conference basis, and clusters of churches or in individual churches.

This event may be held in a fellowship hall, hotel ballroom or other appropriate setting. It is recommended that the men who are sponsoring the event pay for the meals of all clergy invited. Ideally, the program also includes all members of the clergy persons' families. You are encouraged to invite spouses to accompany each clergy person, paying for their meal if possible.

This program may also be a picnic, barbecue, or dessert social. Local church lay leaders, as well as district lay leaders should be invited to the event. It is recommended that the district superintendent also be invited to bring greetings and/or the message. The local committee working closely with the district UMMen president can determine who else should be in attendance.

### **Gathering**

Soft music as people enter

### **Opening Prayer**

Lord God, we gather today to celebrate and show appreciation to the clergy of the \_\_\_\_\_. We thank you for the variety of gifts brought by our pastor(s). We are grateful for the leadership of our church(es). May this evening let our pastor(s) know how much we appreciate the many sacrifices, long hours and untold acts of love they have given to us.

Continue to strengthen their ministry(ies) among us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Setting the Occasion**

Here the leader will set the occasion, purpose and agenda for the evening.

**Prayer for the Meal**

**Serving the Meal**

Soft Music may be played low while the meal is being served

**Program**

**Special Music**

Soloist, choir, or singing groups may present special 'mini concert'. It is recommended that no longer than 15-20 minutes be used for this segment.

**Recognition**

This segment may be used to recognize some outstanding pastor for his/her accomplishment in that given year in some outstanding ministry or mission initiative. Work with your D.S. to help determine who might merit this recognition (there may be multiple recipients).

**Hymn**

*The Church is One Foundation*..... 546 UMH

**Introduction of Speaker**

**Message**

**Partners in Ministry Commitment**

**Laity:** We recognize the many gifts and leaderships abilities that the clergy bring to our churches. We are grateful for their ministry among us.

**Clergy:** We realize the importance of the laity and their support for our ministries. We are grateful for their commitment to excellence in our churches ministries and programs.

**Laity:** We realize that as part of the priesthood of believers we have a responsibility to support, uphold and participate in the total ministries of the church as led by our pastors. As we honor our clergy leaders this day, we recommit ourselves to being full participants in the ministries they lead us in.

**Clergy: We celebrate the ministry of the laity and in particular the ministry of United Methodist Men. We are committed to see that the ministry of men in our churches is strong and vital for the cause of Christ.**

**All:** This day we pledge our commitment to work together in partnership ministries, holding each other up through prayer, service and in mission to others.

**Hymn**

*Here I am Lord*..... 593 UMH

**Acknowledgments**

**Benediction**

# FATHERS DAY SERVICE

This program is designed to be used by a UMMen's unit as they honor and celebrate the fathers in their congregation.



**BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO  
FEARS THE LORD WHO FINDS  
GREAT DELIGHT IN HIS  
COMMANDS.  
PSALMS 112:1**

## **Greeting**

As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep, so God seeks and saves the lost.

Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found, so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.

As a father receives a returning wayward son, so God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.

Therefore let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received. Let us receive and welcome and rejoice over one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

## **Processional Hymn**

*Faith of Our Fathers*..... 710 UMH

## **Opening Prayer**

We praise you Almighty Father for being the example of the kind of father we long to be and desire to have. On this day of honoring of fathers, we pray that fathers everywhere will look to you for their model of true fatherhood. Let this day be a reminder to us as the day we not only honor our fathers, but as the day we fathers recommit to

living by your example. Help us this day and every day to lead lives worthy of Christian manhood through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Hymn ..... Men's Choir

**Old Testament Scripture Lesson**

*Genesis 18:16-19 or Psalm 37:23-24*

**CELEBRATION OF FATHERS**

**ONLY A DAD**

*Only a dad with a brood of four  
One of ten million men or more,  
Plodding along in the daily strife,  
Bearing the whips and the scorns of life,  
With never a whimper of pain or hate,  
For the sake of those who at home await,*

*Only a dad, neither rich nor proud,  
Merely one of the surging crowd,  
Toiling striving from day to day,  
Facing whatever may come his way,  
Silent whenever the harsh condemn,  
And bearing it all for the love of them.*

*Only a dad but he gives his all,  
To smooth the way for his children small,  
Doing with courage stern and grim*

*The deeds that his father did for him.  
This is the line that for him I pen:*

*Only a dad, but the best of men.*

---Edgar Guest

**WHAT KIDS NEED MOST**

*A father is a man who feels and shares and cries, who laughs and wrestles and hopes. He's a man who listens even when he doesn't understand. He's a man who loves even when he feels weary. He stops doing what he thinks is important to do something else that may be even more important. A father is a man who is honest*

enough to realize that his responsibilities must determine his priorities.

—Tim Hansel; **What Kids Need Most in Dad.**

**PRAYERS FOR FATHERS**

*For Fathers, who have given us life and love,  
that we may show them respect and love we pray to the Lord. . .*

*For Fathers who have lost a child through death,  
that their faith may give them hope,  
and their families and friends support and console them,  
we pray to the Lord. . .*

*For men, though without children of their own,  
who like fathers have nurtured and cared for us,  
we pray to the Lord. . .*

*For fathers, who have been unable to be a source of strength,  
who have not responded to their children,  
and have not sustained their families we pray to the Lord. . .*

*God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things.  
Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers.*

*Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.  
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,  
may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Hymn**

*Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross..... 301 UMH*

**Offering**

**New Testament Lesson**

*Ephesians 5:25-33, 6:1-4*

**Anthem..... Men's Choir**

**Gospel Lesson**



Luke 15:11-31

**Message**

**Closing Hymn**

*Rise Up O Men Of God*..... 576 UMH

**Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

**Benediction**





## UNITED METHODIST MEN'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

The following is a suggested design for a men's day worship service. It is recommended that the service be adjusted for specific local needs. This worship service is designed to honor men, and be led by men.

Music: Led by a male choir or male soloist, young men's choir, intergenerational choir or senior men's choir.

Themes: Possible themes for Men's Day worship service include:

- ◆ Men Becoming Disciples
- ◆ MENistry to Men
- ◆ Celebrating the Christian Man
- ◆ A Man's Worship and Witness
- ◆ Becoming God's Man
- ◆ Man to Man
- ◆ Brother to Brother
- ◆ Men of Integrity
- ◆ Men at the Crossroads
- ◆ Man Power
- ◆ Men Standing For Christ
- ◆ Boys to Men
- ◆ Men Making a Difference
- ◆ Men Mentoring Men
- ◆ Men of Faith, Strength and Mission
- ◆ Old Men with Dreams, Young Men With Vision
- ◆ Christ's Men in the New Millennium

### **Suggested Hymns, Anthems and Songs include:**

*Rise Up O Men of God*..... (576 UMH)  
*Lift Every Voice and Sing*..... (519 UMH)  
*My Hope is Built* ..... (368 UMH)  
*O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing*..... (57 UMH)

<i>Spirit Song</i> .....	(347 UMH)
<i>One Bread One Body</i> .....	(620 UMH)
<i>Take Our Bread</i> .....	(640 UMH)
<i>This Is My Fathers World</i> .....	(144 UMH)
<i>A Charge I Keep</i> .....	(413 UMH)
<i>All Hail The Power of Jesus Name</i> .....	(154 UMH)
<i>And Can It Be That I Should Gain</i> .....	(363 UMH)
<i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i> .....	(400 UMH)
<i>Faith of Our Fathers</i> .....	(710 UMH)
<i>Fill My Cup Lord</i> .....	(641 UMH)
<i>He Touched Me</i> .....	(367 UMH)
<i>Here I Am Lord</i> .....	(593 UMH)
<i>It Is Well with my Soul</i> .....	(377 UMH)
<i>Jesu, Jesu</i> .....	(432 UMH)
<i>Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross</i> .....	(301 UMH)
<i>Majesty, Worship His Majesty</i> .....	(176 UMH)
<i>Onward Christian Soldiers</i> .....	(575 UMH)
<i>Hymn of Promise</i> .....	(707 UMH)

**GATHERING**

**GREETING**

**OPENING HYMN** (see suggested hymns)

**OPENING PRAYER** (suggested prayer):

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

God of our Grandfathers, God of our Fathers, God of our Uncles, God of our Brothers, we praise you for the rich heritage we have as men and boys. We are grateful to be counted among the tradition of faithful men and boys you have used to do your bidding since the dawn of time. We count it a privilege to be included among such saints as Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, Joseph, Peter and Paul. We are humbled to be considered in the same company of men through the ages that you have used to proclaim your Kingdom truths. Men such as John and Charles Wesley, Philip Otterbein, Jacob Albright, Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke, Harry Hosier and \_\_\_\_\_(place one or two local UMMen saints here)

Eternal God, today we celebrate the ministry of men. We realize that it is the responsibility of every man to conform to the image of God as expressed in Jesus Christ. Our celebration today is in recognition of that goal for every man and boy of this congregation. We acknowledge that we may only obtain this goal to the degree we are willing to submit ourselves under your Lordship.

Strengthen our resolve, instill in us your confidence, and empower us to be the old men, young men and boys you created us to be through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**MUSIC .....(Choir Music)**

**PROCLAMATION**

**MEN'S TESTIMONY**

Faith Witness of men and boys

**SCRIPTURE:** suggested scriptures:

<i>Psalms 133:1</i>	<i>Psalms 37:23-24</i>
<i>Philippians 4:8</i>	<i>James 5:16</i>
<i>1 Timothy 2:8</i>	<i>Proverbs 27:17</i>
<i>Ephesians 5:25</i>	<i>Titus 2:6-8</i>
<i>Hebrews 3:12</i>	<i>Proverbs 20:29</i>
<i>1 Thessalonians 4:13-14</i>	

**HYMN OR CHOIR**

**SERMON**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**CONCERNS AND PRAYERS**

**CONFESSION, PEACE AND PARDON:**

Let the men and boys of the church confess our sin against God and our neighbor

**Most merciful God we yearn to be free from the failure-scarred image of Adam in order that sin's crippling impact upon our**

male psyche would be reversed so that we could be transformed into the likeness of Christ. Forgive us for the sins we have committed against you, our neighbors, our brothers, our fathers, sons, mothers and daughters. Create within us a new understanding of our role as men and boys, according to your original design in creation. Release in us the power of love, sensitivity and wisdom in the midst of every relationship we have. Let us become effective instruments of your redemption in our families, among our friends, within the business community, at school and wherever we go. Amen.

**OFFERING** (It is suggested that a special offering be taken on this day for the United Methodist Men's Hunger Relief project)

**HYMN** (see suggested Hymns)

## **THE INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

### **GOING FORTH**

*Some groups may want to honor certain men with awards, plaques or some other form of recognition. That can be done where the church's normal announcement time occurs or immediately following the conclusion of the worship service.*



# Father and Son Banquet

This event is designed to build and celebrate the bonds between fathers and sons, grandfathers and grandsons, stepfathers and stepsons and for those who are surrogate fathers, big brothers, or mentors to a boy.

This banquet should be held in the fellowship hall, hotel ballroom, or other appropriate settings for the event. Dress should be casual or semi-formal 'Sunday' wear.

## GATHERING

### Call to Worship

Leader: We gather to celebrate the special bonds between father and sons, men and boys.

**People: God is in the midst of our celebration.**

Leader: Let the power of God help forge everlasting bonds of understanding, communication and relationship.

**People: We pray this for all men and boys.**

Leader: May what occurs here this day have lasting significance in His kingdom.

**People: May what we do today have lasting significance with us.**

Leader: We praise God for this opportunity to celebrate this special relationship.

**ALL: Praise God!**

### Hymn of Praise

*Faith Of Our Fathers* ..... 710 UMH

## **Prayer**

Almighty God, we gather here on this occasion because we think it is important to celebrate and recognize the special relationships between fathers and sons, men and boys. We know that you call us to make every relationship special, however we recognize that you have given us the gift of unique relationships formed between fathers, sons, men and boys.

We know that there are times when misunderstandings occur and opportunities to forge closer relationships between fathers, sons, men and boys, are lost. This day however, we count as one in which you give us another chance to make amends for those times lost.

May your Holy Spirit abide in us and through us as we strive to become the kind of males you created us to be with each other as well as the whole of your creation. Amen.

## **Introduction of Guests**

**(Fathers, grandfathers, mentors, or friends introduce the son, boy, or friend they have brought with them)**

## **Special Music**

Can be father and son music team, male choir, or soloist

## **Witness**

Father and son witness about their relationship and how their relationship with Christ affects their relationship

## **Recognition**

An opportunity to recognize an outstanding young person, or father and son team, for exemplary service to the church or in the community or on the mission field.

## **Reading from Old Testament**

*Genesis 22:1-19*

## **Reading from New Testament**

*1 Timothy 1:1-20*

## **Special Music**

### **Introduction of Speaker**

## **Special Music**

### **Message**

#### **Hymn**

*This is My Father's World*..... 144 UMH

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

As men and boys created by the most high God,  
we stand determined to become all that He created us to be.  
No matter what our physical or economic condition, we stand  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

We will not be defined by what we do and who we know: We  
belong to God.

We are fathers and sons, men and boys, who love the Lord and our  
families;

Don't let our masks make you think we don't care;

We care,

We care deeply

We're proud of our fathers, natural and adopted, We honor  
and respect our mothers.

We are ourselves, noble and free,

Bold warriors, gentle guides,

Searching for our destiny in You.

We know that as men and boys in Christ we stand tall.

With God's grace we will continue to be God's men as sons  
and fathers and friends.

#### **Special Recognition**

*This is an opportunity to recognize those who helped make the event  
possible*

### **Closing prayer**



It is recommended that each man pray for the boy or son they brought with them and that each son or boy pray for the man who brought them to the event (preferably with the laying on of hands).

## **Benediction**



PO Box 340006, Nashville, TN 37203  
866/297-4312 Fax: 615/340-1770  
[awaller@gcumm.org](mailto:awaller@gcumm.org)  
[www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org)