

How GCUMM Supports Pastors



All around the world men are absent in church worship services and community ministry. Most men simply do not go to church.

Most churches have strong United Methodist Women organizations, but in spite of the fact the *Book of Discipline* requires churches to have chartered organizations of United Methodist Men, this is not always the case.

Pastors who want to expand their ministries to men will find a strong ally in GCUMM. The commission is helping men and youth grow in Christ - and pastors, churches and communities reap the benefits.

Pastors who find only a small percentage of men come through the front doors of their church will find the commission offers a host of suggestions about “back-door” ministries.

Working with partner organizations, the commission provides ways for pastors to link with

- The Society of St. Andrew — potato drops and gleaning projects
- Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries — prison ministry
- Programs of Religious Activities with Youth — God and Country studies
- The Upper Room Prayer Center — operating remote prayer lines
- Big Brothers-Big Sisters — mentoring program
- Hope of Hearing — providing hearing aids for children in Haiti
- Man in the Mirror — small group studies
- PET International — building hand carts for Third World amputees
- Stop Hunger Now — filling plastic bags of dehydrated meals for the hungry
- Strength for Service — providing devotional books to the military and first responders

Scouting Ministry

Hundreds of scouting ministry specialists are connecting men with their local churches through youth serving agencies. Some 6,500 United Methodist Churches now host Scout troops and Cub packs. This is extraordinary because 50 percent of Scouts have no church home. Engaging kids in church-sponsored scouting activities frequently results in families becoming church members. Plus, many churches that take advantage of God and Country studies see a higher engagement in confirmation classes.

The commission believes that discipleship occurs best through the local church and under the guidance of the local pastor. The Nashville-based agency works with leaders of UMM and men’s ministry specialists to help pastors assess, identify, equip, resource and ignite their ministries to men.

Men and men's issues are two of the least resourced areas in our society. The commission provides materials and helps pastors organize their ministries to men through traditional organizations of UMM and a host of other small groups, service organizations, recreational activities and studies.

Ways in which the commission supports pastors

- The commission and scouting ministry specialists are dedicated to helping pastors develop effective ministries to men and young people through scouting and other youth-serving agencies.
- The GCUMM website provides resources focused on ministries to men and youth.
- The commission provides an annual President’s Packet to all chartered churches with scores of materials to enrich ministries to men.
- The commission provides a quarterly magazine that provides information about innovative ways to expand ministries to, with and for men.
- The commission staff has the heart, gifts, and experience to help pastors develop relational ministries.
- A national team of men’s ministry specialist helps pastors expand their ministries to men.
- Jurisdictional, conference, and district leaders of UMM provide pastors with the “do’s” and “don’ts” in men’s ministry.
- Webinars, conferences and special events provide practical models to create and maintain effective ministries to men.