

UMMEN

The magazine of
UNITED METHODIST MEN

WINTER 2022 • Volume 25 Number 1



Celebrating **25 YEARS** of the General Commission on **UMMEN**





GREG ARNOLD
General Secretary

The email arrived only days after the announcement about my election to the general secretary position.

“Greg -- I’m sure you have hundreds of requests for your time and talents, but I hope you will place this request near the top of your growing list, and it’s due last week. — Rich.”

I couldn’t help but chuckle. As a deployed staff member of commission for the past 12 years, I’ve come to love and admire Rich’s keen ability to drive right to the point.

My very first encounter with the commission came even earlier than my term as a deployed staff member. As a 30-something-year-old, I reached out to the unknown-to-me editor of the UM Men magazine. I inquired if they would take an article from a young man striving to serve the church in men’s ministry. Mr. Peck was accommodating; he gave me a word count and a definitive deadline—a foreshadowing of things to come.

It is quite befitting for us to look back at our history just before we step forward into a new chapter of leadership at the commission. As the newly elected general secretary, I am proud to stand on the shoulders of the numerous mighty men of God who brought us to this 25th year in ministry.

It is proper to examine the trail we have blazed, if for no other reason than to ask ourselves: “Are we bearing good fruit? Have we labored for the right reasons?”

This momentary perspective can calibrate our current position and ensure our sights remain on the ultimate horizon.

Jesus told his disciples, “If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.” (John 15:7-8 NASB)

Let us prayerfully and joyfully take the time to consider the leaders who have come before us and those who remain standing with us. Read the stories of their faithfulness, dedication, calling, and tenacity which helped root and grow our good fruit-bearing tree.

At the close of this retrospective issue, I believe we will agree these disciples remained in Christ and remained in His words. We can celebrate how they have glorified God in their labor. Officers and staff of the commission, along with many others, have produced good fruit.

So, it is on the shoulders of these disciples of Christ, that we look forward to the next 25 years of ministry. We know where we’ve been, and we know where we are. Because of the foundations laid before us, I can say with tenacious certainty, we know precisely where we are heading.

Keep up with the news from
United Methodist Men
by subscribing to
our e-newsletter and
FREE quarterly magazine:

Sign Up Today!



1000 17TH AVE. SOUTH
NASHVILLE, TN 37212
615.340.7145

PUBLISHER Greg Arnold
EDITOR Rich Peck
CREATIVE DIRECTOR Troy Dossett, UMCom
ASSOCIATE EDITORS Rick Vance
Steven Scheid
PROOF READER Martha Davis

UMMen is published four times a year:
Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall.

This magazine includes articles from individuals who hold diverse opinions. We hope all articles are thought provoking; they are not necessarily the opinions of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Articles without bylines are written by commission staff.

Copyright © 2021

contents

Letter from the General Secretary	2
Letter from the Editor	4
Men’s Commission selects Greg Arnold as top executive	6
United Methodist Men officers and executives from 1997-2022	7
The beginning	8
The early days of men’s ministry	12
Scouting’s role in the rich history of the commission	14
Twenty actions by the commission in the last 25 years	18
Dismantling racism – Our unfinished agenda	24
A vision for our future	28
Strength for Service taps new executive	30
Weekend retreat helps men cope with chaos	32
Methodist men challenged to ‘stay focused on Jesus’	34
Program preaches that real men respect women	36
The power to keep moving forward	38
In Memoriam	39
Men's Health	40
Dad's Zone	42
Across the Nation	44



REV. RICH PECK
Editor

Twenty-five years ago, I didn't pay much attention to a proposal to create a separate agency for UM Men.

I was serving as the editor of the Daily Christian Advocate for the 1996 General Conference.

As editor I spent most of my time in the DCA offices at the Denver Civic Auditorium. I did not know Gil Hanke nor any of the other advocates for the commission.

When delegates were debating the pros and cons of creating a General Commission on UM Men, my attention was focused on my daughter who had broken her foot while running copy between DCA offices. She spent the rest of the two-week period editing copy from a wheelchair.

Since I grew up in Denver, I also spent all my free time chatting with family members who dropped by for visits.

Yes, the daily edition of the DCA did report on the final vote to establish the commission, but I had no idea that someday I would serve that agency.

The General Commission on UM Men has had a remarkable history, beginning with the election of Dr. Joe Harris as the first general secretary.

In this issue, Joe takes us back to his time as a delegate to the 1996 General Conference and his hesitancy about applying for the post of general secretary. We are grateful to Dale Waymire for encouraging Joe to apply. Joe started us in the right direction.

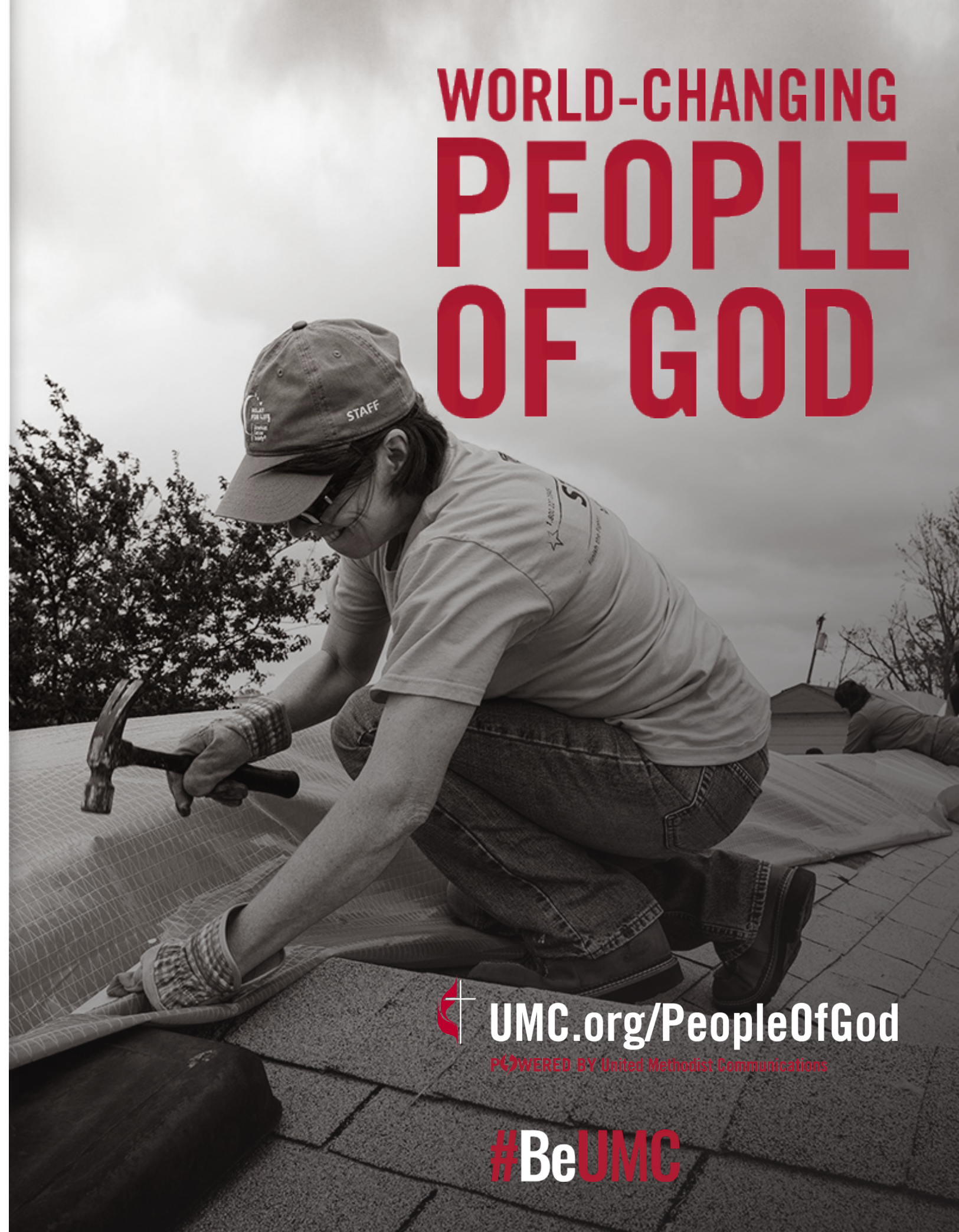
Larry Malone and Larry Coppock talk about their beginning days, and Hank Dozier writes about our unfinished task of eliminating racism.

The actions and accomplishments of the commission during the last 25 years are extraordinary. I started an article on the top 10 successes; that list expanded to 15 and then to 20. Even then, I know I left out at least 20 other major achievements.

This issue welcomes Greg Arnold as the new general secretary and he gives us a glimpse into the beginnings of the next quarter-century adventure.

Enjoy your trip to the past and the future.

WORLD-CHANGING PEOPLE OF GOD



 [UMC.org/PeopleOfGod](https://umc.org/PeopleOfGod)
POWERED BY United Methodist Communications

#BeUMC

Men's Commission selects Greg Arnold as top executive

The General Commission on UM Men has tapped Greg Arnold, a Mississippi-based staff member of the commission, to serve as general secretary.

Arnold, a 12-year deployed staff member, succeeds Gil Hanke who retired from the post in October.

As a deployed staff member, Arnold developed resources and led workshops in each of the five U.S. jurisdictions. He also helped with national gatherings and worked with the commission to give birth to Strength for Service, Inc.

A graduate of the University of Alabama, Arnold operates the [Live Bold App](#) for Christian Men. A free resource with more than 500,000 screen views monthly. The app reaches into 160 countries with devotions, prayer support, small group resources, and light coaching support.

Arnold helped the [National Coalition of Ministries to Men](#) develop a communication strategy and he helped [Iron Sharpens Iron](#) develop a social media plan.

Arnold also has experience at the local level. At age 15, he helped established a Boy Scout troop, and in 2005 he re-started men's ministry at St. Paul UMC in Ocean Springs, Miss.

"Regardless of whether a man officially belongs to a church or has found himself to be unchurched, de-churched, or faith curious - he is looking for wholeness," said Arnold. "Men need leaders who point toward Christ and provide them clear pathways to reach that summit. Men's ministry



and scouting ministry have no borders. We are an international body of God's children who should be served with valuable and effective resources. It is the role of the agency to build and supply those resources through the channels provided."

United Methodist Men officers and executives from 1997-2022

Presidents of the General Commission on UM Men

1997-2000	Bishop Raymond Owen
2001-2004	Bishop Ernest Lyght
2005-2008	Gilbert C. Hanke
2009-2012	Bishop James King
2013-present	Bishop James Swanson

Presidents of the National Association of Conference Presidents

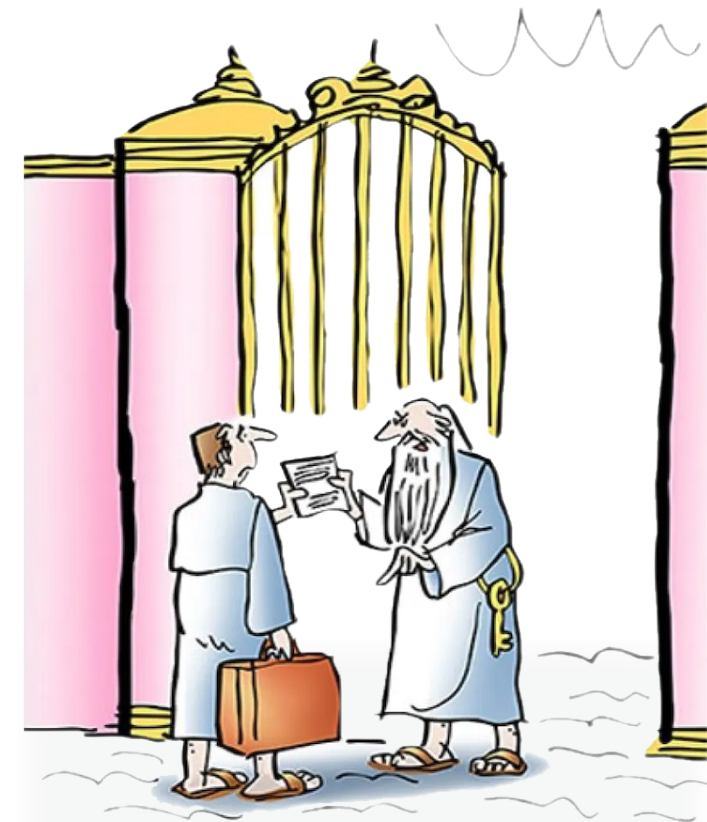
1997-2000	Robert Powell
2001-2004	Gilbert C. Hanke
2005-2008	Glenn Wintenberg
2009-2012	John Dowell
2013-2016	Dan Ramsey
2016-2020	Steve Nailor
2020-present	Herman Lightsey

General Secretaries of the Commission on UM Men

1997-2005	Dr. Joseph Harris
2005-2006	Bishop William Morris (interim)
2006-2009	The Rev. David Adams
2009-2021	Gilbert C. Hanke
2021-present	Greg Arnold

Presidents of the UM Men Foundation

1981-2000	Dale Waymire
2000-2009	Robert Powell
2009-2012	Carl Young
2012-2016	Ed Shytle
2016-2020	Glenn Wintenberg
2020-present	Steve Nailor



Welcome to Heaven

Several people who had worked in the health-care profession, having died, are lined up for interviews to enter Heaven.

St. Peter is the interviewer.

"And what area of health-care were you involved with?" he asks the first.

"I worked in a community health center in a poverty-stricken neighborhood," the man replies.

"Excellent," said St. Peter, "please pass through to your new heavenly home."

And you?" Peter asks the second.

"I spent most of my life in nursing, caring for the needs of suffering patients in their hospital room."

"A noble calling," says Peter. "You're in."

"What about you?" he asks third.

"Well, most of my health-care career was spent administering an HMO plan."

St. Peter gets out his charts and graphs along with his pocket calculator. He plugs in his laptop. After 10 minutes, he says, "I've got some good news. I think I can get you into heaven for five days."

The beginning

By Joe Harris

It is hard to believe that it has been 25 years since the beginning of the General Commission of UM Men.

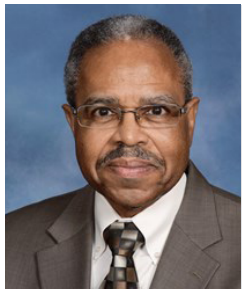
I recall hearing about the commission as a delegate to the 1996 General Conference in Denver.

At the time, I thought since we had a separate UM Women, why not have a separate UM Men organization? After hearing the debate, I enthusiastically voted to create the commission, thinking that would be the last I heard of it until they started their work.

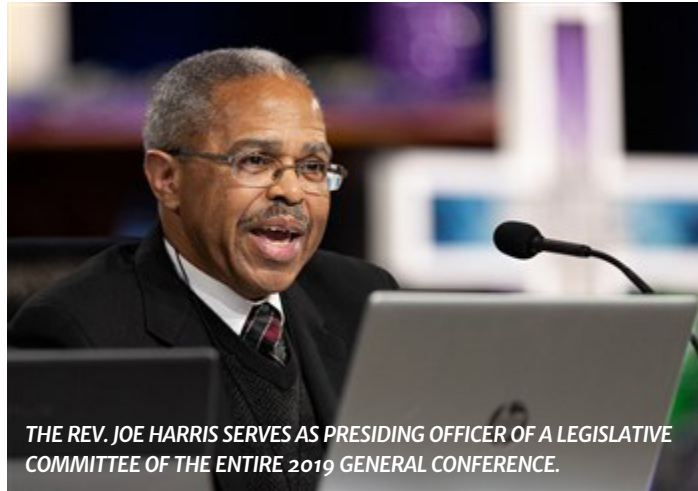
I was entering my final year as a district superintendent in Oklahoma not sure what was next for me.

No thought of applying

The commission began to advertise for its first general secretary. Although I had been involved with UM Men in my district and the local churches I served, I had not given any thought to applying for the general secretary position.



The Rev. Dr. Joe Harris is director of communications and assistant to the bishop of Oklahoma Annual Conference. He served as the top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men from 1997 to 2005.



THE REV. JOE HARRIS SERVES AS PRESIDING OFFICER OF A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ENTIRE 2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Dale Waymire of Madill, Oklahoma, was a prominent member of the commission and the newly created UM Men Foundation. He asked if I had any interest in applying for the position. Not knowing what

would be involved in starting something new as the organization's first general secretary, my initial response was "no." I told Dale the UM Men had always been a layman organization run by laity. If chosen I would be the first clergy person, the first African American, and one of the youngest general secretaries to serve a national agency.

"That is probably a bridge too far for the men's organization to go," I said. "I'm sure they have other qualified applicants who would be a better fit."

I was honored that Dale thought I could do the job, based on his knowledge of the leadership I had given to the district and in the conference.

A persistent layman

Several weeks passed, and I mentally moved on. Then -- weeks later -- Dale calls again: "At least apply and see what happens," he pleads.

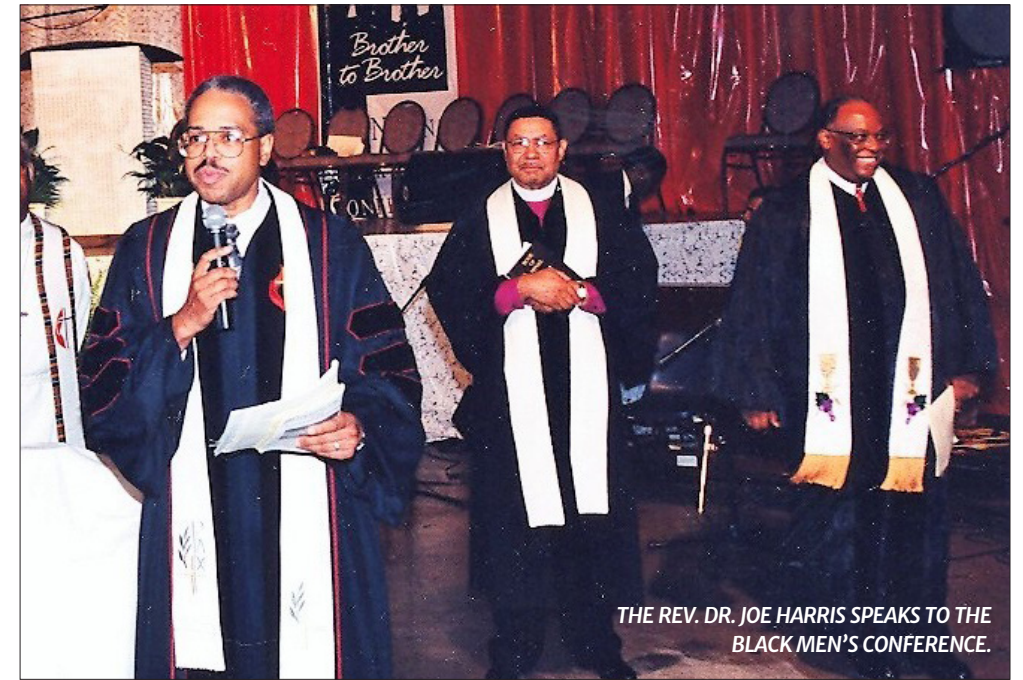
Dale, the now deceased former lay leader of the Oklahoma Conference, could be quite persistent.

I also took the matter to prayer with my wife. We felt God was saying something to us about this and

the only way we would know would be to follow through and see if this was part of God's plans for me, my family, and the commission.

Several days later I called Dale back and told him I would apply as long as he kept everything in confidence and in prayer. He agreed, and we were on our way.

A few weeks passed and I didn't hear anything about my application. I assumed they had selected others to interview so I took this as the answer to God's plan for us and moved on again.



THE REV. DR. JOE HARRIS SPEAKS TO THE BLACK MEN'S CONFERENCE.

The interview

Just when I thought this was over, God surprised me again. I got a call from Harold Batiste, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents. He asked if I would be available for an interview at the Dallas /Fort Worth International Airport in a few days.

I thanked God for the continuation of this process.

My wife and I went to the interview thinking that if it ended here, we were honored to have been considered and the process got us closer to God because we had to depend on Him to step into the unknown.



JOE'S STAFF FRONT ROW FROM LEFT: DEL KETCHAM, JOSHUA EIDSON, ANN WALLER, LARRY MALONE, AND MARTHA DAVIS. BACK ROW FROM LEFT: DAON JOHNSON, LARRY COPPOCK, RICH PECK, JOE HARRIS, AND MARC STOWE.

There were six representatives from the commission at the meeting. The only person I knew was Bishop Ray Owen of San Antonio, newly elected president of the commission.

Bishop Owen had served in the Oklahoma Conference as a pastor for many years before being elected to the episcopacy. Robert Powell of Dothan, Ala., president of the UM Men Foundation, was also present.

Apparently, the interview went well and several days later I was asked to become the first general secretary for the General Commission on UM Men.

Organizing a staff

One of my first priorities was to hire two staff members who would assume responsibility for men's ministries and youth-serving ministries.

While I could have hired these men on my own, I asked several members of the commission to participate in the interview process in order to ensure that we would select the best candidates for these critical positions.

We had more applicants than we anticipated. It was clear that both these positions needed to be filled by laymen who had a heart, vision, and passion for the position for which they were applying.

Larry Malone stood out for the position of director of men's ministry. He was passionate, visionary, and committed to the long-term effectiveness of UM Men as a ministry of the church and not just another organization in the church. He wanted to move UM Men from being a meet-eat-and-greet organization to a disciple-making movement. After praying together, the committee felt Larry would be the best man to help the organization move forward.

Larry Coppock was an outstanding applicant for the scouting position. In his interview, we found a person with experience with Scout Councils and an ability to grasp the larger picture that included Girl Scouts, 4 H, and Camp Fire. He saw scouting and other youth-serving agencies as a ministry of the church—not just a place for these organization to meet. Larry would later add Boys Clubs and Big Brothers Big Sisters as important youth-serving agencies.

The committee thanked God for sending the two Larry's (both their spouses are named Diane) to kick



JOE HARRIS SHOWS HE IS ALSO A TALENTED FISHERMAN ON A TRIP WITH THE COMMISSION STAFF.

start the ministry.

Along with the administrative help of Martha Davis and an excellent staff, we were off and running.

Since we were a new agency, we had little money, but we had vision and enthusiasm.

Since my 2005 departure from the commission, the staff and volunteers have exceeded my expectations. The Rev. David Adams and Gil Hanke followed me in the position and we now welcome Greg Arnold to the post.

I look forward to the next 25 years of life-changing ministries.



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events – to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope.

Your generosity ensures that vulnerable communities around the world will receive support when they need it most.



GIVE TO UMCOR TODAY AT:
umcmission.org/umcor

The early days of men's ministry

By Larry Malone

In the summer of 1997, I was living in Atlanta, and I was involved in men's ministry at Mt. Bethel UMC in Marietta.

Some UM Men friends told me about an open position in men's ministry for the newly forming General Commission on UM Men. The Rev. Joe Harris had been hired as the first general secretary, and he was preparing to meet with his first slate of candidates who had applied for the director of men's ministry position.

I called the office on a Monday morning. Joe answered. He advised me that applicants had already been pre-screened and were to be interviewed the following weekend.

We continued connecting for the next hour. Both of us agreed it was too bad that I was too late to be considered for the post.

A late entry

After I hung the phone up, I got a call back from Joe's secretary. She got my number by hitting re-dial on Joe's line. "Dr. Harris would like you to be a finalist and come to Nashville next weekend for an interview." Somewhat embarrassed she asked, "Could you please give me your name and address?" She also asked for "some information about your background."



Larry Malone, president of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Men (later called Wesley Men), speaks to the 2011 World Methodist Conference in Durban, South Africa.

I was the late addition to a slate of six laymen and six clergymen.

The first day we each interviewed privately with Joe and I really connected with him.

The next day I was the 13th candidate to be interviewed by a tired personnel committee.

They looked skeptically over the top of their glasses with a stare that asked, "Who are You?"

Unqualified

I declared myself to be unqualified for most of the position requirements, and I asked for time to speak about what I knew about men, and the spiritual condition of many church men's hearts and soul.

Time stood still.

I don't recall much of what I said. The Holy Spirit was alive in the room and at least three times the men and I were moved with compassion for God's men.

After I left, none of the committee members thought I met the job specifications, yet they believed I was the right man for the job.

I was hired.

The position was a gift from God to be used with trust in His leadership.

Life as bachelors

Larry Coppock was hired the same day for the scouting position, and we took up as bachelors in a Scarritt-Bennett apartment for a year.

We become great friends.

We found homes in the area and invited our long-time wives to join us for the new adventure. Both of us were married to a Diane--go figure!

The toughest part of the early days in the agency was the tension between the old guard and the new guys.

Some tension

One day, I was asked if I had any new or good ideas for the future. Before I could describe a few, I was cut off. "Don't bother with new ideas; we have tried them all and the only ones that work we have already put in place."

How's that for an encouraging word? That day I kept a card in my wallet with the names of a few men for whom I would faithfully (and painfully) pray daily.

Together as staff and with God--who says all things are possible with Jesus--we made it through the first quadrennium.

I am grateful and blessed.

Larry Malone served as the director of men's ministry from 1997 to 2010.



LARRY SPEAKS TO THE WORLD
 METHODIST COUNCIL.

Scouting's role in the rich history of the commission

By Larry W. Coppock

Before starting October 1, 1997, I attended the first board meeting of the commission with my colleague, Larry Malone, director of men's ministry.

Dr. Joseph Harris, the first general secretary of the commission, wanted to bring in "outsiders" -- that we were.

Our newly established team, combined with volunteer and episcopal leaders, created many new programs and events.

However, our ministry was not without challenges.

Challenges emerged from ex-officio representatives of affiliate organizations who did not understand the responsibility of a general agency and its relationship to the General Conference and scouting.

Scouting as a ministry

While I was the first scouting director for the commission, there had been two previous directors who related to the General Board of Discipleship. The Rev. Dave Worley and the Rev. Byron White established a firm foundation to build upon.



Larry W. Coppock is the former national director of scouting for the General Commission on UM Men, and former executive director of Strength for Service Inc.

Upon being hired as the third director of scouting and civic youth-serving agencies, the enormity of the responsibility dawned on me. The UMC was the number one charter organization of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

In 2006 we added Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

Coming from a professional scouting background, I reasoned my primary responsibility was to strengthen our partnership with BSA while initiating agreements with lesser utilized organizations like Girl Scouts of the USA and Camp Fire. We did that from 1998-2001.

Our relationship with 4-H was more challenging as their leaders leaned on separation-of-church-and-state status. How ironic, since long-standing men's events in North Georgia and West Virginia were held at 4-H camps. This was a reminder to me that ministry happens at a local level and I should not get too caught up with national decisions that may impact local ministries.

First, we had the huge job of changing the mindset of volunteers from scouting as a "program" to one of "ministry." We would no longer emphasize Wood Badge, scout-o-rama, scout camp, merit badges, and popcorn sales.

We did not need to duplicate what BSA did so well, we needed to leverage spiritual aspects such as chaplaincy, chaplains' aides, and church-charter relationships. While we needed to strengthen the existing foundation, we needed to add second and third stories to the framework.



LARRY COPPOCK GIVES COPIES OF STRENGTH FOR SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY TO MEMBERS OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE. FROM LEFT: STAFF SERGEANT CRIPPS, COPPOCK, CHAPLAIN LTC BOWLUS, AND CHAPLAIN MAJOR HORNBERGER.

A growing ministry

Our programming and volunteer leadership facilitated unparalleled UMC growth within BSA membership and units from the time we started in 1997 to my retirement in 2018. It was like being a member of a think tank for God.

We focused on substantive and strategic areas including, volunteer leadership, awards and recognition, training, fund-raising and collaboration.

Developing a strategic plan to inform our work was pivotal. It guided our collective efforts and focus for my 21 years with the commission (revised each quadrennium). It was composed of five areas: volunteerism, program/training, chaplaincy, communication, and development.

Volunteer leaders

With Bishop Joe Pennel as president of the commission, we created a Scouting Ministry Committee (SMC) to establish scouting plans and activities that would impact local churches. The commission committee created new awards and revamped training events. I give credit to ministry pioneers like the Rev. Greg Godwin, Phil Howard, Judge Carl Stewart, Dr. Sam Bala, Dr. John Bright Cage, former chairs of SMC, along with Dr. Karen Heim-Baugh and Mildred Keeney, exceptional scout leaders who have passed to their Heavenly rewards.

Additional key leaders and mentors in these developments included Gil Hanke, Dr. Joe Harris, Don York, Greg Pope, Doug Wright, L.W. Smith, president of Strength for Service, and Mark Wappel. Thank you!

Similarly, the creation of the Scouting Ministry Specialist (SMS) program in 2009 was a seminal moment and facilitated an environment of expansion and communication of scouting as a ministry at the local church level.

Awards and Recognition

Good Samaritan Award for youth was created in 2001; it recognizes youth for acts of mission and ministry; more than 1,200 awarded.

Silver Torch is an award for adult leaders on the national, international, and regional levels.

Shepherd Church Charter Recognition presented to churches chartering units.

Training and Events

Establishment of Florida Sea Base as a training venue (held in jamboree years: 2010, 2013, and 2017).

Establishment of The Summit in Glen Jean, W.Va., as a training venue. We were the first BSA denominational group to conduct a training event there in 2016.



LARRY COPPOCK AND LAURA BUSH

In collaboration with BSA, we established Nothing But Nets as the first international BSA “Good Turn” in 2010. We raised more than \$17,000 for the Malaria-preventing project.

We introduced the BSA edition of Strength for Service to God and Country at the 2005 BSA National Jamboree in Fort A.P. Hill, Va. More than 5,000 scouts and leaders attended the UMC worship service at that jamboree with Dr. Joseph Harris as preacher.

Chaplaincy

Our SMC identified and recruited UM pastors as chaplains for every jamboree (2001, 2005, 2010, 2013, and 2017) as well as high-adventure bases like Philmont.

We recruited the first female chaplains in 2010 and the first female African-American chaplain in 2017.

UM chaplains participated in every World Jamboree.

Fundraising

There was always a steep cost related to developing new programs, events, award creation, and staffing.

Our leadership team visited Cal Turner, chief executive officer of Dollar General, in 2001. The visit ultimately led to an endowment gift of \$1 million to the UM Men Foundation, doubling the corpus.

Another leadership team visited Ed and Gwen Cole in Nacogdoches, Texas. That visit led to a gift of \$500,000, an amount that paid off the mortgage of the commission office building in Nashville. That property on Music Row is now worth millions.

Frequently, we raised funds for Bibles and New Testaments given to scouts on the trail at Philmont and other high-adventure bases.

Strength for Service

It is difficult to discuss the 25th anniversary without mentioning Strength for Service, a ministry birthed in 1999 when Evan Hunsberger contacted us. After Sept. 11, 2001 the staff and volunteers of the commission and UM Men were unleashed in total support of Evan and his groundbreaking Eagle Scout project.



DURING A 2005 TIP TO CAMEROON, LARRY COPPOCK CONGRATULATES DANIEL MBONG, 14, FOR MEMORIZING THE SCOUT OATH. LARRY BROKE HIS WRIST DURING A FALL ON SOME SLIPPERY MUD WHILE INTRODUCING SCOUTING TO THE AFRICAN NATION. IN SPITE OF PAIN PILLS, LARRY DESCRIBED THE TRIP AS A “SPIRITUAL HIGHLIGHT OF HIS LIFE.”

After the re-publication of Strength for Service to God and Country in 2002, I spent 30 percent of my time on the advancement of this project. We were shipping 3,000 books a month from 2002-2010 to accommodate military chaplain requests, mostly from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2013, SFS was established as a non-denomination corporation. At that time, we published Strength for Service to God and Community, a book of daily devotions for first responders.

Many of these initiatives, awards and publications will foster a shelf life that may extend beyond our expectation. Some call that a legacy.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

GIVE

LOVE JOY HOPE & PEACE



Our work continues as well for abundant health for all, disaster response and recovery, the work of missionaries around the world, and evangelism and church revitalization.

We need your help to give love, joy, hope and peace to those who need it the most... in your community, in this nation and in nations around the world.

Learn how you can give love, joy, hope and peace at
umcmmission.org/GiveLove



Global Ministries
 The United Methodist Church

JOIN US IN GIVING TODAY:

BY PHONE:
 800-862-4246

BY CREDIT CARD:
umcmmission.org/advance

BY MAIL:
 Send check to:
 Advance GCFA P.O.Box 9068
 New York, NY 10087-9068
 (Please note Advance number on the memo line)

Twenty actions by the commission in the last 25 years

1. Provided ways for people to seek prayers

UM men supported the Upper Room prayer ministry before the commission was created. However, the newly formed commission formalized the relationship between the center and UM Men, and it provided a reliable means of financial support.

While the early days focused on financial support for the toll-free telephone line, groups of UM Men also operated remote lines to answer prayer requests.

The commission helped establish prayer advocates in annual conferences and the UM Men Foundation provided funds so they could attend annual sessions of the National Association of Conference Presidents.

In 2019, the Upper Room eliminated phone-line requests and shifted to [on-line prayer requests](#). United Methodist men groups would join in praying for those who posted prayer requests.

Men have also found other ways for people to seek prayer.

Men of First UMC in Alice, Texas, put up a Prayer Wall across the street from the post office. People can post prayer requests on the chalk board.

Wesley UMC in Aurora, Ill., invites the public to post prayer requests on the church's sidewalk.

The Rev. Robert Johnson, pastor of Louisiana Avenue UMC in Lafayette, La., led a team offering drive-through prayers on Good Fridays.

2. Republished *Strength for Service* books and created a new book for first responders

In 1999, Evan Hunsberger, a Roman Catholic Boy Scout in California, asked the commission if it could help him with his Eagle Scout project. Evan said his grandfather, Eugene, served as a Navy corpsman in World War II and he continued to read from a book of daily devotions given to him in 1943. Evan discovered that the book, *Strength for Service to God and Country*, was published by the Methodist Publishing House. Since the commission was responsible for scouting ministry, Evan wanted to know if the agency could help him gain the publishing rights so he could republish a revised edition of the book for sailors and marines serving at Camp Pendleton, near San Diego. Larry Coppock, director of youth-serving ministries, served as the point person for the project. He secured the support of the Defense Department and helped Evan add 40 devotions from current religious leaders.

In 2013, Coppock was also instrumental in editing and publishing *Strength for Service to God and Community*, a similar book written for police officers, fire fighters and other first responders.

In 2014, after publishing 480,000 copies of the historic book of devotions, the commission created SFS, Inc. as a non-denominational non-profit organization. L.W. Smith, a South Carolina leader of UM Men, was elected president, and Coppock was named "acting executive director."

In 2018, Coppock retired from his position with the commission after 21 years and became the first executive director of Strength for Service, Inc. He retired in October 2021. Hazel Coleman, former regional director of development for Washington University in St. Louis, was named as the new executive director.

Strength for Service to God and Country has 580,000 books in print. Some 80,000 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* have been distributed.



3. Fed the hungry

UM Men have a long relationship with [The Society of St. Andrew](#) (SoSA), a Virginia-based ministry that provides food for the hungry. In 1998, the agency established hunger relief advocates and a Meals-for-Millions fund to support the advocates. Del Ketcham, a regional hunger-relief advocate, was based in the commission's Nashville office and led the staff in gleaning projects. He served in the office from 2001 to 2007; he died in 2015 following a five-month battle with lung cancer.

SoSA also led gleaning and potato drops during quadrennial national gatherings of UM Men. A potato drop at the 12th National Gathering of UM Men in Indianapolis resulted in the distribution of 21,000 pounds of white potatoes to eight local agencies and three UM churches.

In addition, the commission has a partnership with "[Rise Against Hunger](#)." UM churches have packaged more than 100 million dehydrated rice and vegetable meals for people in emergency situations. Each package contains food for six people.

4. Created resources to strengthen men's ministry

One of the first resources created by the commission was "T-Quest," (transformation quest) a spiritual-life resource for small groups. Several thousand copies of the study, including a notebook for personal reflections were printed.

In 2003, the commission introduced "Power Tools," a weekly electronic resource available by e-mail and on the Internet. Produced by the Rev. Kwasi Kena, a commission staff executive, the online publication provided tips to enrich ministry to men along with a Bible study and prayer suggestions.

In 2010, the commission developed a course titled "Understanding Men's Ministry." The course is based on materials used in the "No Man Left Behind" a training session offered by Man in the Mirror. Taking the course is one of the requirements to become a men's ministry specialist.

UM Men have also participated in Lead Like Jesus, a seminar based on a book of the same title by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges.

5. Created national publications

In 1924, Dr. George Morelock, top staff executive of the Board of Lay Activities of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, created *Methodist Layman*, a digest-sized quarterly magazine for Methodist men. The magazine was discontinued in 1964; readers were encouraged to subscribe to *Together*, a church-wide publication. Following the 1968 merger of the Methodist Church with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, ministry with UM Men came under the umbrella of the General Board of Discipleship. During the 24-year stint within the board UM Men offered "Mensnews," a quarterly newsletter.

Following the 1996 General Conference, the newly formed commission launched a 24-page quarterly magazine with Larry Malone as editor. In 2002, the magazine changed from the standard size to a digest-size and Dr. Kwasi Kena, a D.Min. graduate of United Theological Seminary, served as editor of the 28-page magazine. In 2005, Kena accepted the position as director of evangelism ministries with the General Board of Discipleship, and the Rev. J. Richard Peck, former editor of the *International Christian Digest*, *Circuit Rider* and the *Daily Christian Advocate*, assumed editorship of the 42-page magazine. The commission also created a bi-monthly e-letter containing a series of inspirational articles by commission staffers and UM Men officers. Printed issues of the magazine were discontinued in 2019, and the magazine is now an expanded on-line publication with more than 40 pages of information and inspiration.

6. Enabled cross-racial dialogue

One of the first events established by the commission was an October 1998 Black Men's Conference, which brought together more than 1,000 African American men who left the Methodist Church with those who stayed in the denomination (116 from The African Methodist Episcopal Church; 75 from African Methodist Episcopal Church, Zion; 122 from Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; 517 from the UMC, and 184 unknown affiliations).

Last year, the commission re-opened dialogue with leaders of men's ministry in these African-American denominations. Leaders of those denominations sponsored a three-hour on-line prayer and devotion service. Each of the five U.S. jurisdictions sponsored on-line events addressing racism and the commission hosted a six-hour on-line international gathering focusing on racism and evangelism.

7. Provided a home base for the ministry to men

When the commission was formed, it was given a small office space in the Kern Building, home of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In 2006, the agency was able to purchase property on Music Row formerly occupied by the General Council on Finance and Administration. Funds for the new building were provided by the UM Men Foundation.

Soon after, Robert Powell, president of the foundation, and Larry Coppock called upon Ed and Gwen Cole. The couple gave the foundation the funds needed to completely retire the debt.

8. Expanded our understanding of the ministry to men

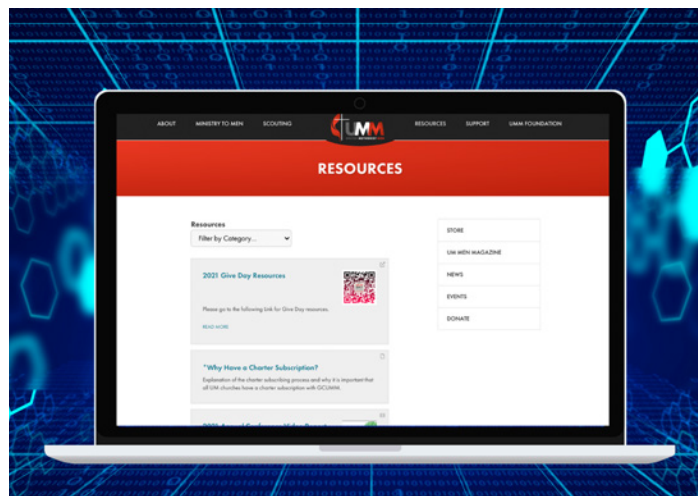
The commission asked the 2004 General Conference to create a Men's Ministry Sunday along with an intensive study of men across the denomination. "If we cannot get in the door from the front," said the Rev. Joseph L. Harris, "we will go in whatever door we find to help the church minister effectively to and through men." The front door has traditionally included chartering local church units of UM Men. The number of churches hosting local units increased in 2003 to some 6,000. However, more than 29,000 churches remained without organizations. While continuing to charter groups, the commission drafted General Conference legislation that sets as a goal the development of programs and policies to help all UM churches strengthen their men's ministry regardless of the presence or absence of chartered units. General Conference approved the special Sunday that can be held at any time of the year and the \$36,000 study. "We have heard claims that men are the sleeping giants in the church," said Harris, "perhaps it is the church that is asleep to men's spiritual needs and men are merely waiting for it to wake up and take those needs seriously."

Every year since 1997, the commission has provided programs and materials designed to "coach men and youth to thrive through Christ so others may know him."

Larry Malone conducted some 150 retreats under the themes of Heart Quest, Flight Quest and Godstory. Other retreat leaders included David Reed, Tom Albin, and Ed Bruce.

Dr. Rick Vance joined the commission in 2016 and conducted conferences and retreats in the areas of accountable discipleship, younger men's ministry, dismantling racism, leadership, and spiritual development.

In 2021, the commission published *Out of the Box*, a ministry study by Hanke and Vance; *The Way Home*, a book by the Rev. Jay Hanke; *An Analytical Tool for Men's Ministry*; videos; workshops, Understanding Men's Ministry training, and Lead Like Jesus training



9. Increased use of technology

From the beginning of its existence, the commission utilized technology by hosting a website that included news articles, merchandise, videos, and training materials. The use of technology increased in response to COVID-19. The pandemic led staff and volunteers to begin using computers instead of in-person events. In 2020, each of the five jurisdictions conducted a three-hour on-line prayer events, The Office of Scouting Ministries switched to on-line training events, the commission met virtually, and the number of on-line Class Meetings exploded. In early 2021, the commission hosted a three-hour Zoom meeting with meditations by leaders of African-American Wesleyan denominations and the 2021 International Gathering of UM Men switched to an on-line event.

10. Provided hundreds of ways to care for people

It would be impossible to list the thousands of projects supported by individual groups of UM Men across America.

For decades UM Men filled flood buckets for the UM Committee on Relief. Men and Scouts of Virginia Beach, Va. filled 44 flood buckets at a cost of \$65 per bucket.

Cape Hatteras UM Men helped over 90 families with food, rent, utilities, medical emergencies, and other needs. They also elevated 13 house trailers above flood levels.

UM Men of the Greenwood (S.C.) District built a complete bathroom after a home was damaged by a hurricane.

Harold Wallin of Santa Rosa, Calif., led an effort to build 30-square-foot wooden shelters on the campus of First UMC to provide homes for the homeless.

Men of Faith Community UMC in Xenia, Ohio spent 2,400 hours over a five-year period renovating a house for students at United Theological Seminary.

11. Mentored young people

The commission created a Scouting Ministry Advisory Committee in 1998 and in 2001, that committee created the Good Samaritan Award. Nearly 2,000 people have since received the award.

In 2006, the commission signed a partnership agreement with Big Brothers Big Sisters. There was a special interest in the Amachi program, an effort to link men with children of incarcerated parents. Larry Coppock launched a two-year effort to introduce Amachi to 18 conferences. Staff members Coppock, Hanke, and Scheid all have served as big brothers.

While serving as president of Rocky Mountain Conference, Bill West was matched with nine-year-old AJ under the Amachi program. The two stayed together from 2012 until AJ turned 18.

Ingram Howard, a leader of UM Men in the Tennessee Conference served as a big brother to Christopher for 10 years.

Cliff Fanning, a pastor in Wichita, Kans., began serving as a big brother to Kevass Harding after the 10-year-old stole candy from a candy machine. Today, Kevass is a pastor in the UMC and a big brother in the Big Brothers program.

In 2009 the commission created the position of scouting ministry specialists and more than 300 people have now been certified in that position. That year the agency also created the Silver Torch Award.

In 2010, 5,000 Scouts and leaders attend a UMC worship service at the BSA Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

In 2013, the National Scouting Jamboree was held at the Summit in West Virginia.

Hank Dozier launched a special effort to include young men in UM Men as he created a Think Tank, a group of 16 younger men in in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

12. Reestablished Wesley Class Meetings

Gil Hanke heard Dr. Kevin Watson, author of *The Class Meeting—Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience* speak on class meetings at Council of Bishops meeting. He invited Watson to speak at the 2017 National Gathering of UM Men in Indianapolis. From that time on, Hanke led efforts to form Wesley Class meeting groups across America. On several occasions he invited men to participate in a class meeting only after each participant agreed to later form his own class meeting group.

13. Created tools to eliminate domestic violence.

Noting that one in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, in 2011, the commission joined with the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries to create "I Believe You," an hour-long video or responses to intimate -partner violence. Commission staff created a discussion guide to use with a DVD of the video.

In 2015, Gil Hanke and Harriet Olson, top staff executive of UM Women, met with White House staff after the launch of a campaign called "It's On Us," calling attention to sexual violence. That same year, Bishop James Swanson, president of the commission, wrote an article in the *UM Men* magazine telling the painful story of the day his mother died from wounds inflicted by his stepfather.

In 2014, the YWCA of Middle Tennessee, an agency that provides housing for 60 victims of domestic abuse, created the AMEND (a combination of Men and end) to address the root causes of violence against women. The commission joined the effort by creating *Amending through Faith*, an 8-week study that helps men and boys challenge a culture that supports violence against women.

14. Expanded prison ministries.

The commission is the only agency in the denomination specifically charged with the responsibility to provide resources for men engaged in restorative justice and prison ministries. The commission was an early supporter of [Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries](#), a North Carolina-based organization that was bringing *DISCIPLE Bible Study* to state prisons. Dr. Mark Hicks started working with presidents of UM Men in North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Kansas, Delaware, and Louisiana.

Bishop Richard Wilke, principal author of the Bible study, told *UM Men* magazine about an experience he had with a Kansas prisoner. "Why are you here?" he asked. "Taken back, I couldn't speak," said the bishop. "Then a bit softer, he said, 'Couldn't you be home, sitting by the fire, watching TV with your wife? Why are you here?' I'm here because I love Jesus and I love you guys," Wilke responded. "The big man sat down, looked at me and said, 'No one in my whole life ever said they loved me.'"

In 2021, the commission began a partnership with [Kairos Prison Ministry](#). Volunteers meet for three and one-half days with a group of 42 prisoners selected by the prison chaplain. "Prayer-and-share" groups continue to meet after the Kairos weekend.

The largest group of UM Men is in the Louisiana State Prison.

15. Established positions of men's ministry specialists and scouting ministry specialists

In 2008, the commission established two new positions. The requirements for men's ministry specialists were greater than the requirements to become a scouting ministry specialist (SMS) and by 2010, 67 people had registered as an SMS. People in that position encouraged neighboring church leaders to establish or expand Boy and Girl Scout troops, Camp Fire organizations, Venturing, or Big Brother – Big Sisters ministries. They also encouraged churches to participate in the religious award program provided by Programs of Religious Activities for Youth, formerly God and Country awards.

There are now 38 certified men's ministry specialists and more than 300 scouting ministry specialists.

16. Provided carts for people who can't walk

In 1992, the Rev. Mel West, retired director of the Office of Creative Ministry for the Missouri Annual Conference, received an appeal from Larry Hills, a UM missionary in Zambia. Larry needed wheelchairs for people maimed by landmines. West knew a standard wheelchair would not work on the rough terrain of Zambia. He went to work with Earl Miner, an engineer, to construct a hand-crank-three-wheeled cart. In 1994, Personal Energy Transportation units were produced at a shop in Columbia, Mo. Today, [Mobility Worldwide](#) has 21 shops in the U.S., one in Zambia, and one in Sierra Leone. These shops produce 7,000 units each year.



17. Addressed emerging scouting issues

In 2019, Boy Scouts of America changed the name of its program for 11-17-year-old youth to "Scouts BSA." The program remains single gender—all male Scout troops or all female Scout troops. The Center for Scouting Ministries supported the change, and also supports Girl Scouts of the USA. That controversy seemed major at the time, but BSA bankruptcy issues make that issue seem minor. BSA filed for bankruptcy protection in February 2020. Steven Scheid, director of the Center for Scouting Ministries, and Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the commission, worked with 12 conference chancellors to recommend responses to issues surrounding the bankruptcy. That group advised local churches not to renew their charters with BSA units beyond December 31, 2021. This delay gives denominational leaders time to work out an agreement with Boy Scouts of America (BSA) regarding settlements of charges of sexual misconduct.

"BSA has served 160 million youth in the last 100 plus years," said Scheid. "If one were to accept all initial 96,000 claims as valid, that is a rate of abuse of only 0.006 percent. That percentage compares well to the fact that one in six young men across America experienced sexual abuse: a rate of 17 percent."

"The safest place for your child is in Scouts in the UMC," said Hanke. "That is good news." The leaders are checked and trained. The youth are trained and safety paramount.

Required Youth Protection training was begun by BSA in 1984 and Safe Sanctuary training by Methodist churches followed in 1998.



18. Provided new means to support the ministry

When the commission was created one of the major means of support was "Bowl-a-Thons" where UM men would seek pledges for each pin knocked down in a tournament. The fund-raising effort was later expanded to "Sport-a-Thon," where men would seek pledges for each mile run, each golf hole, or each softball hit.

In 2010, the commission hired Bari Eason, former director of athletic marketing at Belmont University, to raise additional funds. She created the Circuit Rider Society and invited men to join with a minimum gift of \$100 per month. That same year the agency received a \$7,200 grant from the Human Relations Day offerings for the commission's effort to recruit men to serve as big brothers to children whose parents are incarcerated.

Over the years, the commission has raised funds from charters, EMS and Legacy members. In 2021, there were 2,644 EMS charters and 1,867 EMS members. The commission also receives grants from the UM Men Foundation. That fund-raising organization receives funds from individuals, Legacy pledges above \$120, Life Achievement Awards, and membership in the John Wesley Society.

In 2019, the commission established Give Day, an event that occurs annually on the Monday following Laity Sunday in October.

19. Supported projects in nations outside the U.S.

While UM men have supported thousands of projects, none is more visible than "Hope of Hearing," an effort to provide hearing aids for children in Haiti. The effort is led by Gil Hanke, former top staff executive of the commission, who has made trips to that island nation nearly every year since 1989.

In 2012, UM Men noted the increased number of UM congregations in Vietnam, and, at the invitation of Joseph Bishman, coordinator of Vietnamese ministries for the West Ohio Conference, the men agreed to provide \$35,000 for a 16-passenger bus for the Vietnamese churches. Within a year, the churches had a new bus.



20. Supported national gatherings

Men conducted national gatherings prior to the creation of the commission, but the agency expanded the outreach of those events.

The theme of the 2001 event at Purdue University was "A UM Men Odyssey—Christ's Men in the New Millennium." Dr. Tony Campolo, Bishop Woodie White, the Rev. Maxie Dunum, and Coach Tom Osborne were speakers.

The 2005 event at Purdue featured Rudy Ruetiger, the Notre Dame football player made famous by the film "Rudy"; Clay Dyer, an award-winning fisherman born without any lower limbs and no arm on the left side and a partial arm on the right; Bishop Violet Fisher; the Rev. Tyrone Gordon, and the Rev. James Moore.

Some 1,200 men attended the 2009 gathering at Belmont University in Nashville. Speakers included Chicago Area Bishop Hee-Soo Jung; Dr. Patrick Morley, chief executive of Man in the Mirror Ministries; and the Rev. Kevass Harding, a pastor in Wichita, Kan. Vince Gill was the musician and Bishop William Morris was the preacher.

During the 2013 event at Belmont University in Nashville, men assembled scores of hand-crank carts, packaged 17,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now, and bagged 25,000 pounds of sweet potatoes for local food pantries. Speakers included Bishop James Swanson; the Rev. Shane Bishop, an Illinois pastor; Don Davis, a former NFL football star; and David Delk, president of Man in the Mirror.



The 2017 gathering was held at St. Luke UMC in Indianapolis. At that event, men built a handicap ramp and started a relationship with Servants at Work (SAWS) and they assembled hand-crank carts for Mobility Worldwide. It was at this session that Dr. Kevin Watson introduced The Class Meeting. Shan Foster, former NBA basketball star and a member of the YWCA staff of Middle Tennessee, encouraged men to be part of the solution to violence against women. That was the beginning of the Amend program.

The [2021 gathering](#) was held on-line and addressed racism and evangelism.

Dismantling racism – Our unfinished agenda

By Hank Dozier

Racism has rightly been called America’s original sin.

Past and present acts of racism remain a blot on our national life and negative racial attitudes continue to trigger hateful and violent acts.

The need to condemn and combat the demonic ideologies of white supremacy, neo-Nazism, and racism is especially urgent.

While we must be led by prayer, that prayer must be accompanied by concrete action.

Recognize and celebrate diversity

In Galatians 3:28, Paul states: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave or free, male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Some Christians use Paul’s words to advocate color-blindness in the church. They espouse vague pieties about why Christians should stop talking about race, move beyond race, and stop emphasizing the need for multi-ethnic churches and reconciliation. They suggest race does not matter since Paul teaches that Christians are all one in Christ.

Because of this verse, they conclude “we’re just



Hank Dozier is the former president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of UM Men and one of the principal architects of national and jurisdictional dialogues on racism.

Christians, not black Christians or white Christians or Latino Christians or Asian Christians, but just Christians.”

In my view, however, to conclude that the Galatian verse affirms Christian color-blindness is a gross misinterpretation.

We should not try to be color-blind but we must recognize and celebrate our diversity.

Miseducation blocks path to racial healing

Too many times, miseducation blocks the path to racial healing.

Too many times, apathy serves as a diversion to roads that could lead to racial healing.

People of faith are called to attend to the wounds of racism with prayer and action—to move out of pain to healing by transforming systems and structures that perpetuate injustice.

The sin of racism needs to be wiped out with some meaningful actions on our part.

UM Men are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” and, as Bishop Latrelle Easterling says, “Racial injustice is a discipleship matter.”

We cannot make disciples and ignore the history of abhorrent racial oppression and white supremacy.

It is our moral imperative to listen, learn, and act to help bend the arc of justice toward God’s vision of love, wholeness, peace, and justice for all of His children.

UNITED METHODISTS STAND AGAINST RACISM

[UMC.org/EndRacism](https://umc.org/EndRacism)

Early efforts to eliminate racism

UM Men should be proud of the efforts we've made to dismantle racism. We started this journey in June 2020 by creating an alliance with leaders of men in the African-Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church Zion, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Our messaging centered on shared ministries and meaningful, actionable efforts to dismantle racism.

In August, the commission sponsored a six-hour International Gathering that focused on racism and evangelism. Dr. Ron Bell Jr., pastor of Camphor Memorial UMC in St. Paul, Minn., told the gathering his church was on a list of places likely to be terrorized following the killing of George Floyd in nearby Minneapolis. "One of the main reasons we are seeing an increase in violence is because we dehumanize one another," said Bell. We use words such as "gang-bangers," "hoodlums" or "illegal aliens." These terms permit us to view others as less than human. Breakout sessions provided time for participants to engage in personal discussion on the matter.

Each of the five jurisdictions of UM Men sponsored an on-line National Day of Prayer in 2021 where hundreds of participants focused on "Dismantling Racism through God's Amazing Grace."

Future efforts

In April 2021, Bishop Swanson asked me to participate in a task force of the General Commission on UM Men to address racism within our organization and the denomination.

In June 2021, we agreed that people need to be delivered from the sin of racism and the formation of "healing circles" would be a start. We recognize that this will be a transformative journey as no single event can change hearts.

I hope that you will become a participant in one of the soon-to-be-formed "healing circles."

As you can see, God is not through with us yet. As Gil Hanke says, "We need to move beyond writing about racism to taking active steps to build relationships together"

We will continue our partnership with our Pan-Methodist brothers, and we will work with them to establish a National Gathering of Pan-Methodist Ministries.

Let's share "glory stories."

Let's tell how God has opened our eyes to routine racist policies, statements, and practices. And then let us take steps to eliminate racism.



Introducing the *NEW*

United Methodist Men Store

Visit our store on the GCUMM website to order materials and gift items.

www.gcumm.org

Books	Apparel
	
Gift Items	Literature/Brochures
	
Scouting Collectibles	Videos
	

Be sure to keep checking it for more items to be added.



A vision for our future

By Greg Arnold

Each day we choose which parts of our past are valuable enough to carry forward and which parts we should off-load.

This practice is beneficial for personal growth, spiritual growth, relationships, and the work we do.

During the past 25 years, the General Commission on UM Men embarked on many missions, created impactful ministry opportunities, and stretched to reach ambitious goals. The result has brought us to this wonderful place.

The most challenging part of assuming the role as general secretary is to prayerfully discern which programs and ministries should be carried forward and which items have served their purpose and should remain in their places.

The result of this process means change is on the way and change can be difficult.

Change frequently results in the commonly uttered phrase, “But, we’ve always done it this way.”

This is a natural and acceptable response, but it is not a compelling reason to carry things forward.

The changing needs of the church, pressures in our global communities, and evolving needs of those we serve means this agency must engage in the challenging work of evolving.



Greg Arnold is the general secretary of the General Commission on UM Men.



GREG ARNOLD PRAYS FOR NEWLY COMMISSIONED MEN'S MINISTRY SPECIALISTS.

The next four years at the commission will look different, feel different, and sound different.

Some programs will be left behind, some will be carried forward, and unfamiliar initiatives and new ways of doing our work will be implemented.

Doing the work of change requires us to loosen our grip on the past so we can grab hold of the future.

The apostle Paul summed up this practice of evaluation and gives us a biblical roadmap.

It's not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. Brothers and sisters, I, myself, don't think I've reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus. So, all of us who are spiritually mature should think this way, and if anyone thinks differently, God will reveal it to him or her.

– Philippians 3:12–15 (CEB)

We are prayerfully narrowing our broad swath of programs to focus on paths which can make the most impact. At the same time, we are preparing to roll out effective new ways to do ministry.

THE FOUR-YEAR PLAN WILL INCLUDE:

- Innovative uses of technology and communication to reach people where they live, work, and play.
- Answers to the long-standing question: “How can we reach younger men?”
- Re-engineering the credentialing of the men's ministry specialist program to broaden our service to those answering the call to do ministry with men.
- An expansion of our outreach to multicultural and multilingual communities in the United States and around the world.
- New ways to engage districts to better serve local churches.
- Identification of natural intersections between the Center for Men's Ministry and the Center for Scouting Ministry to open new opportunities to answer God's call to serve.

Our vision: Every connected person, equipped to be a disciple of Christ Jesus.

Our mission: Assist every local church in our global connection to establish, grow, and sustain men's ministry and scouting ministry.

Our values: High-quality resources, Leadership development, and effective training to carry out the programs and initiatives in our four areas of service.

I look forward to the journey ahead. The plans are ambitious, and the energy is high. We will set the course and we will reach our goal, pressing on and upward to answer God's call.

If you are in, then follow me as I follow Christ.



GREG ARNOLD SPEAKS AT RETREAT OF UM MEN.

Strength for Service taps new executive

Strength for Service Inc., a ministry to military personnel and first responders, selected Hazel Coleman, a mission-minded person with 15-years of fund-raising experience, as its executive director.

Meeting October 1, the 13-member Board of Directors selected Coleman as the successor to Larry Coppock, acting executive director from 2014 to 2018 and executive director from 2018 to 2021.

In 1999, while a staff member of General Commission on UM Men, Coppock helped Evan Hunsberger, a California Boy Scout, republish *Strength for Service to God and Country*, a 1942 book of daily devotions for World War II troops. Coppock also was instrumental in publishing *Strength for Service to God and Community*, a similar book of daily devotions for fire fighters, police officers and other first responders.

“Hazel Coleman’s experience makes her a perfect fit as the new executive director of Strength for Service,” said Coppock. “She has more than 15 years of successful fundraising. Her education is extensive as well. Most of all our search committee recognized her passion for mission and ministry. She exudes servant leadership. Our board of directors and advisory committee look forward to an exciting journey with Hazel at the helm for many years to come.”

Coleman served as regional director of development for St. Louis-based Washington University from 2016-2018 where she was part of a \$3.5 -billion university campaign.

She served as development officer for Arkansas Children’s Hospital in Little Rock from 2010 to 2012 and director of development for University of Louisville from 2006 to 2010.

She also has experience in writing grant proposals.

Interviewed on October 5, her first day in the new position, Coleman says she hopes to enlarge the circle of first responders who receive the books. She also plans to launch additional fund-raising efforts and to seek foundation funding.

Coleman is completing a master of theological studies degree from Duke Divinity School while serving as spiritual-life intern for Habitat for Humanity International. She also served as student pastor at Massey UMC in Durham, N.C., while attending classes at Duke.

She holds a B.S. degree in communications from Arkansas State University and a graduate

degree in public administration from the same Jonesboro school.

“The Nominating Committee felt like Hazel is a God-send,” said L.W. Smith, president of the Strength for Service Board of Directors. “She comes to us during a time of transition, and we know she will hit the ground running. She is a creative and forward-thinking leader—the ideal executive for this life-changing ministry.”

Strength
for Service .INC



HAZEL COLEMAN

search, find, lead

All of the denominational information you need is in one place: **ResourceUMC.org**.

Clergy and laypeople are saving valuable time and energy by relying on the site’s all-encompassing content.

Explore it for yourself!

You’ll discover the latest ministry ideas, tools, updates and resources that have been created to support busy church leaders just like you.



ResourceUMC.org
One site to search, find, lead

Weekend retreat helps men cope with chaos

“How do men cope with the chaos that exists today?” That was the topic tackled by the Rev. Dr. Rick Vance, director of the Center for Men’s Ministries at the General Commission on U.M. Men, and the Rev. Tommy Vann, pastor of First UMC in Fayetteville, at an August retreat at the Beersheba Springs Assembly Camping and Retreat Center.

“Living in chaos is a choice,” said Vance. “The first steps to overcome the chaos in our lives is to pray, to form an intentional relationship with Christ, and to engage in accountable relationships with other men.

Vance offered the 27 participants ten additional ways to cope with chaos:

- Exercise
- Eat and sleep well
- Meditate
- Attempt to solve the cause of your stress
- Avoid stressful situations
- Accept things you can’t change
- Don’t take on more than you can handle
- Assume a glass-half-full attitude
- Tackle the most critical things first
- Take time to celebrate victories

Vann used Moses as an example of a man who had an intentional ongoing relationship with God. That relationship did not mean Moses would gain popularity or success as defined by Egyptian culture.



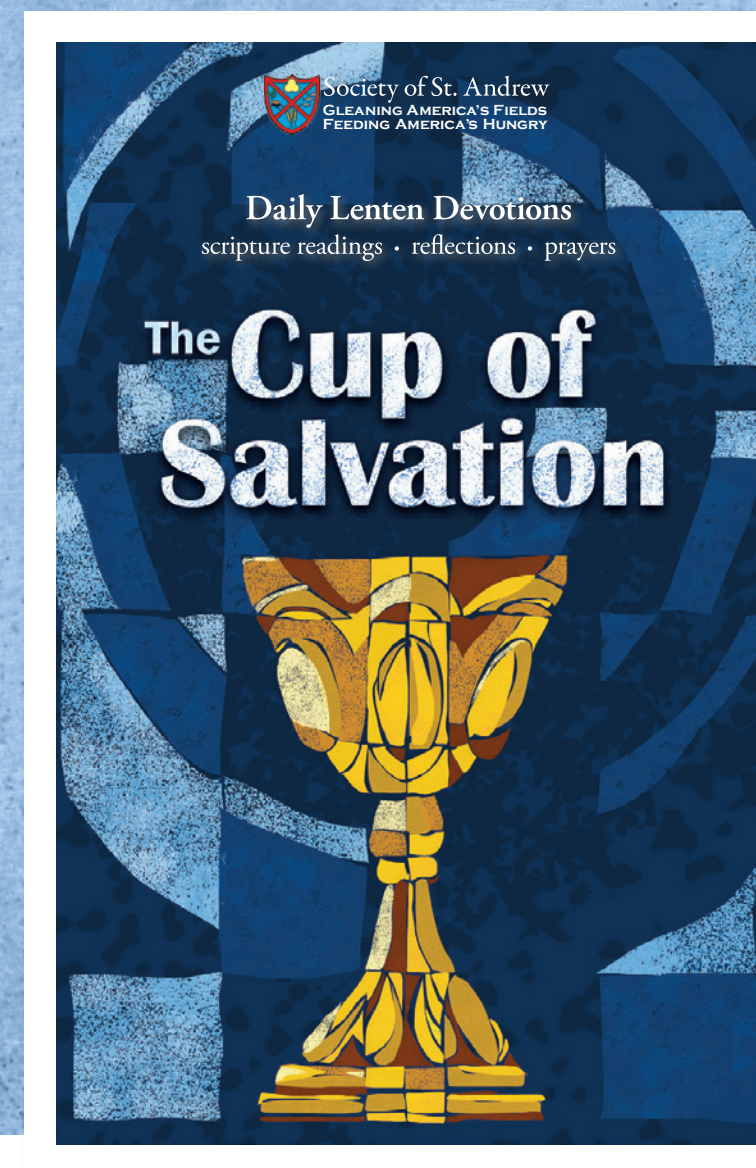
THE REV. DR. RICK VANCE SUGGESTS TEN WAYS TO COPE WITH CHAOS.

Van said it was not easy for Moses to follow the difficult pathway God set for him. It required a burning bush and Moses had to rely on Aaron to hold his tired arms up.

Mark Barrow, executive director of Aldersgate Renewal Ministries, served as worship leader for the two-day event. The weekend concluded with a service of Holy Communion during which the men were reminded they are united by God’s grace.

Titled “Refocus,” the retreat was a collaborative venture of the Center for Men’s Ministries and the U.M. retreat center. It was originally scheduled for 2020 but was rescheduled for 2021.

Lent Resources for You and for Your Congregation



Order or download
"The Cup of Salvation" Lent resource today.

EndHunger.org/lent or call 800-333-4597

- Order free devotional booklets for your congregation
- Download the booklet as an eReader
- Sign up for daily devotional emails



During turbulent times, Methodist men challenged to ‘stay focused on Jesus’

By George Hohmann

During these turbulent times, Mississippi Bishop James Swanson Sr. challenged UM men of West Virginia to stay focused on Jesus because “one thing I know is, he holds the future.”

The president of the church’s General Commission on UM Men, Swanson served as keynote speaker for the annual gathering of the West Virginia UM Men.

Because of the pandemic, the gathering was held virtually. A video of the proceedings — including Swanson’s message — is posted [here](#).

“The trick of the enemy is to get you off-focus,” Swanson said. He cited the verses in John chapter 21 where Jesus is talking to Peter, but Peter is distracted by someone else and asks: “What about him?”

Jesus replies that Peter must not be distracted but must stay focused. Jesus said, “You must follow me.”

In the midst of the pandemic, racial upheaval, strife, and a very contentious society where “everybody seems to have their feet anchored in concrete with no sense of how we can find a way to live not only together but to bless each other,” Swanson asked, “How do we hear the voice of Jesus that so clearly says, ‘Follow me’? How do we do that when we seem to be so easily distracted?”



George Hohmann is president of West Virginia Annual Conference UM Men.

Jesus provides the answer as he tells Peter to stay focused on the mission of making disciples.

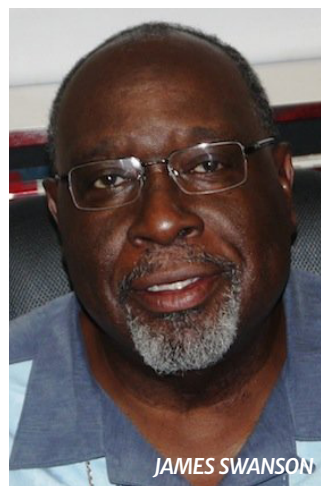
I don’t know what the future holds, Swanson said, “but one thing I do know is, He holds the future. He also holds my hand.”

“The trick of the enemy is to get you to a point where you’re not focused,” Swanson said, “so that when somebody who is a candidate to get to know Jesus walks by, instead of you putting your focus on being able to give them a Christian witness...your mind is turned somewhere else where it does not need to be.

“Not only must you stay focused, your passion has to be centered and focused in the Lord Jesus Christ,” Swanson concluded.

Sandra Steiner Ball, resident bishop of the West Virginia Annual Conference, introduced Swanson to the men’s gathering. She noted the gathering was held on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack. That day people wondered: “Where is our God?” People have continued to ask that question during the past 20 years.

The answer, she said, is “God is in our midst 24/7.” She reminded the men that Jesus is the Great Physician. His message is one of “hope and life.”



Bishop Steiner Ball urged her audience to “allow Christ...to touch and heal our eyes, our ears, our tongues so that our witness might not be just about human things, but about Jesus, the Great Physician, who wants to give and bring spiritual and physical healing to our world.

“It’s a story about the Great Physician. About living water. About the bread of life. Be open! This world needs a message from people like me and like you, who have struggled with the challenges, the disappointments and the pain of life. Be open, for this world needs to know and meet and receive its Savior — that One who can bring healing to this mess, bring hope in the midst of hopelessness and bring life, not just for the moment, but for eternity.”

Also during the annual gathering:

Rev. Dr. Barry Steiner Ball spoke about the church’s mission to help the children. He said unpredictability in a child’s life has even more negative consequences than poverty. “We represent a God who is predictable,” he said. “How are we, the church, helping endangered children understand that they are beloved children of God?”

Jeffrey Taylor, president of the West Virginia UM Foundation, said the organization has more than \$145 million in assets and was recently ranked as one of the top grant-making foundations in the state.

Ralph Herron, conference scouting coordinator, said the denomination has had a relationship with the Boy Scouts of America for more than 100 years and he discussed the BSA bankruptcy and the UMC response. He also encouraged churches to use Programs of Religious Activities for Youth materials.

Music during the gathering was provided by Steve Plantz, a member of the Holy Fish band at Elizabeth Memorial United Methodist Church, Charleston.

It was announced that the Arnold Eddy Memorial Golf Outing raised more than \$7,000 for scouting ministries.

Spruce Street UM Men received the Palmer Award for having the largest number of men in attendance at the annual gathering.

West Virginia UM Men will launch a fund-raising campaign to refurbish and help maintain the All Faith Chapel at West Virginia University’s Jackson’s Mill. Methodist Men spearheaded the construction of the chapel in 1958-1959.

The virtual gathering was produced by the Rev. Deborah Coble, the Rev. Kerry Bart and Jim Minutelli, members of the West Virginia Conference Communications team.

Program preaches that real men respect women

By Jim Patterson

What is a real man?

“Guys should not cry,” Bob Pickett said. “Anger equals strength. Guys who are physically weak aren’t as good as other men. Men should always be able to provide for their family, and a good job proves your masculinity.”

Catching on yet?

Pickett, who heads the UM Men ministry in the Rappahannock River District in Virginia, is reeling off some assumptions that can lead to trouble in men’s relationships.

Such attitudes can cause misunderstandings and even tragedy. Examining them is part of the AMENDING Through Faith program, developed to combat domestic violence by the General Commission on UM Men and the YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

Domestic violence in the U.S. went up 8.1% after lockdowns were ordered during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, according to the National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice. It’s feared that the resurgence of the coronavirus could cause that to happen again.



Jim Patterson is a UM News reporter in Nashville, Tennessee.

“We want good men that will stand against this construct that it’s acceptable in some way (to belittle or physically strike women),” said Gilbert Hanke, the outgoing top staff executive of UM Men. “It’s just wrong. It’s not what our faith teaches.”

Steve Nailor, president of the UM Men Foundation, led an AMEND class.

“The interesting thing that caught our guys’ attention was when I told them that one out of four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime,” he said. “And one of four women will experience sexual assault or abuse before the age of 18.”

The AMEND program also points out that youth who witness domestic violence are more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, become child victims of human trafficking and commit sexual assault crimes themselves. Also, three women die each day at the hands of a man who says he loves her.

AMEND began after Hanke was invited to meet with YWCA officials about six years ago. YWCA leaders said they wanted to address domestic violence with men, who most often are the abusers.

Hanke, along with the YWCA, Rev. Dr. Rick Vance, director of the Center for Men’s Ministries, and others, pulled together the AMEND program.

“We did a couple of them online, and they worked, but not nearly as well,” Hanke said. “The impact was not as strong with many of the guys as when we did it face to face.”

The program has been done with college students, including a local university basketball team.



SHAN FOSTER, FORMER NBA PLAYER AND SENIOR DIRECTOR OF AMEND TOGETHER FOR THE YWCA NASHVILLE, DISCUSSES HOW CREATING SAFE SPACES FOR MEN OF ALL AGES TO LEARN ABOUT HEALTHY MANHOOD AND DISCUSS THEIR EMOTIONS CAN LEAD TO THE END OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

“We met with them for eight weeks and at first they said, ‘We don’t do this.’ Then it got to the point somebody said that’s (not true),” Hanke said. “They worked through it, and it was really a positive experience, a life-changing experience.”

Pickett and Nailor both say getting younger men to participate has been difficult. Nailor’s group was all 50-plus, with some nearly 80.

“It’s hard to get young people to get involved in anything outside of their kids,” Pickett said. “That’s both sexes. That’s the focus of our lives.” There’s also the barrier of men’s attitudes in general, because many are reluctant to talk about their feelings or personal things, Nailor said.

Micro-aggressions are also addressed in the program. Those are smaller actions that don’t rise to the level of physical abuse, but are still harmful to women who put up with it.

“It’s more than just physical abuse,” Pickett said. “It’s a challenge when other guys are telling bad jokes or putting people down in some manner.”

Being the guy who vocally objects to something offensive can lead to being labeled as humorless and overly sensitive. Older men in particular have difficulty seeing the harm, sometimes.

“We’re of an age in this church that we grew up under different circumstances,” Nailor said. “‘You throw like a girl,’ those kind of comments, right?”

“Gosh, these guys have done that all their lives,” he said. “You don’t think about what you’re causing by that. I think that’s what we’re up against, at least in the older generation.”

Sexual harassment, discrimination, objectification and prejudiced attitudes fall somewhere between physical violence and “harmless” jokes, Pickett said.

Feedback from men after experiencing AMEND has been positive, with a lot of men saying they had never given the topic much thought before the class, Nailor said.

“It caused them to think about what they were saying and how they’re going about doing things as well as their body reactions,” Nailor said. “Because you send verbal and nonverbal messages as well with your body.”

The statistic that one in five women will be sexually assaulted in college really hit home with men who have daughters, Nailor said.

“That’s an eye-opener if you have a daughter,” he said. “I have a daughter and she got through college and didn’t have any trouble.

“But she was fortunate.”

The power to keep moving forward

By Walter Albritton

Although a brilliant man, E. Stanley Jones used simple word pictures to explain the Christian life. In his popular devotional book, *Victorious Living*, he described three kinds of Christians: the rowboat type, the sailboat type, and the steamboat type.

As I reviewed his descriptions, it occurred to me that in my Christian journey I have been each one of the three types. Early on, I was a rowboat disciple, struggling to imitate Christ in my own strength. Jones describes the rowboat Christian as “humanistic, self-dependent, trying to get along with one’s own resources.” Because their resources are limited, rowboat disciples struggle to grow in grace. That is an apt description of my life as a young Christian.

Sailboat disciples are dependent on others and on their circumstances, or as Jones says, they depend on “the winds.” They make progress only when the winds are with them; if people are constantly affirming them and encouraging them, they move forward. But if people stop patting them on the back, they are dead in the water. Yes, I will admit, there were days like that for me.

The need, of course, is to become a steamboat Christian, a disciple with inner power to live a holy life that pleases God. With power on the inside, one can move forward with or without the winds. Though a helping wind is always welcome, and the affirmation of others makes a difference, the steamboat disciple’s primary source of power is the indwelling Christ.

For me this discovery was like moving from imitation to incarnation. I moved from struggling to peace when I stopped trying with clenched fists to imitate Christ and invited Christ to make His home in my heart. Embracing the truth of “Christ in me” changed everything. I began finding the power to move on even in the most difficult times. So, my own experience confirms Jones’ observation: “This power to go on when life is dead against us is the deepest necessity of our lives.” Yes, it is indeed. Without that power we can never make headway when the seas are rough.

If life seems dead against you these days, it may be time to sell your rowboat, walk on past the sailboats and climb on board the steamboat powered by Christ. Give Him permission to become the power source of your life as a Christian. Christ alone makes victorious living possible when the storms are raging. Only He can give us the power to keep going forward when life is difficult.



The Rev. Walter Albritton is pastor emeritus of St. James UMC in Montgomery, Ala.

In Memoriam

Robert L. Imboden

CHILLICOTHE, OHIO



Robert L. Imboden, 85, former president of the West Ohio UM Men (2005-2009), died Nov. 2, 2021, following a brief illness.

He was born Aug. 25, 1936, in Logan, Ohio, son of Ernest and Lena Imboden. On Nov. 22, 1962, he married Beverly Southward, who preceded him in death in 2004.

Bob was a graduate of Ohio University and was retired from the Chillicothe City Schools after serving 34 years as a teacher and principal.

He was a member of Trinity UMC where he was a participant in the Emmaus Community, and a member of the West Ohio Annual Conference.

Bob served as a volunteer at Adena Regional Medical Center and was a member of the Chillicothe Paint’s Booster Club, a minor-league baseball team. Following his death, the team posted: “We are so saddened of the passing of one of our biggest supporters, and, more importantly, host dad, to so many of our players for many years. Mr. Bob Imboden, we will miss you and will forever be grateful for your love and generosity toward our players.”

Bob will be remembered for portraying Santa Claus in the community for many years.

Getting old isn't easy

By Bryant Stamford

Seventy-year-olds were asked if they hoped to live to be 100. Most respondents said they couldn't bear to think of living another 30 years, given the poor quality of their lives.

Before I turned 70, I told myself that their quality of life would be much improved if they took better care of themselves by exercising regularly, healthy eating, and watching their weight. If they did these things, they would do as I'm doing, gliding easily into the latter stages of life, and enjoying the golden years.

Lesson 1: Pride goes before a fall

Now that I am 75, I've learned that the Good Lord has a way of shedding arrogance.

It's not pretty.

I have always been smug about not needing to take any prescription medications. Over the past few years, even though my diet has been consistently very healthy, my total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol (the bad kind that clogs arteries) crept up and were no longer stellar and fodder for bragging rights. In response, my preventive-oriented doctor convinced me to begin taking a low dose of a statin drug.

Score one for aging.

I used to be a good sleeper, but a few years ago I noticed that my sleep was not deep nor satisfying. In addition, despite my regular intensive workouts, my muscle mass was dwindling at an alarming rate. I suspected it might have something to do with my testosterone level, so I had it checked. Sure enough, my levels were so low, they weren't even in the normal range. From there, I started on a low dose of prescription testosterone.

Score two for aging.

Want more? OK, here are two more embarrassing admissions. As an elder, my immune system isn't what it used to be, and when we got a new hot tub, I immediately came down with a severe and stubborn case of folliculitis, an infection of one or more of the pockets from which hair grows. More prescription drugs followed.

Score three for aging.

And, speaking of aches and pains, here is the ultimate zinger. Just a few weeks ago, I had complete right hip replacement surgery.

Yes, the Golden Years can be great, but I now humbly admit that no matter who you are or what you do, aging will exact a price. And if the price is too great, I now understand that it makes sense to not want to live to be 100.

Lesson # 2: Listen to your wife

When science mapped out the human genome (our complete set of genes that provide genetic instructions), we discovered a new "health gene," and each of us has one of two subtypes of this gene. One subtype is "common sense," quite prevalent among females. The other subtype is "denial," overwhelmingly present in us males.

For the past three years, I have been nursing my right hip, knowing it was getting progressively worse. In watching me grimace in pain as I dragged my leg around the house, my wife, on a few thousand occasions, suggested gently that I have someone look at it.

"Naw, I can manage it."

But it became obvious, even to me, that I had to do something and do it now.

Why didn't I act earlier?

The answer in one word: denial.

I did get my hip replaced, and I could not believe how quickly I recovered.

Why didn't I listen to my wife and do something years ago?



Bryant Stamford is a professor of kinesiology and integrative physiology at Hanover College in Indiana. This article is courtesy of the Louisville Courier Journal.

Celebrating the good

By Tom Tozer and Bill Black

We want to join in recognizing and celebrating the 25th anniversary of the General Commission on UMM Men, created by the 1996 General Conference.

Congratulations!

Having grown up in the church, we are aware of the belief, based on experience, that if something substantial needs to be done, assign it to the women of the church. This time, congratulations to the men in the UMC for your good work and for sharing the load.

Anniversaries

We husbands are pretty good at recalling and celebrating our wedding anniversaries. We better be! Other anniversaries? It's trickier. Surely, we remember purchasing our new car or shooting that eagle on the par 5 hole. We get a passing grade for etching the children's birthdays in our brain (if we don't have more than two and they're twins!).

There are, however, other anniversaries that we dads should recall and record. They are highly significant occasions, but we wonder if most of us dads even think about them.

What about the first time you and your son or daughter camped out in the back yard—pitched a tent—and got all sticky gobbling up s'mores? Has it been a year or two ago, or more? Do you need to ask

your wife only to find out it was way less or more than you remembered? Have you ever turned your back yard into a deep dark forest? If you haven't recorded the date of your first camp-out with your son or daughter, it's time to blow the dust off the tent and set up camp again. Tom's two grandsons coveted those magic back-yard adventures with their dad. It is an anniversary to celebrate.

Hard on the knees and elbows

Do you recall that first time your son or daughter weaved back and forth on a bicycle without you hanging on and running alongside? We both do. It was a big deal and worth celebrating, especially when the occasion was earmarked by dad's stumbling and falling on the pavement.

Dad, there's no excuse not to take note and celebrate those special anniversaries with your children. You probably have a camera with you all the time and a calendar. You can highlight those occasions and look ahead one month at a time to replenish your memory bank.

Make your A-list

Just think about the following significant anniversaries in your life as a father. There was the first day of school, maybe preschool. How about that first exchange of money for a tooth? Your child's first role as a shepherd or an angel. That was a big deal and nerve-racking!

Take note of the first broken bone, the first school dance, the first time your son or daughter turned the key in the ignition. That occasion shook the family tree!

Dad, start recording those firsts in your anniversary notebook or phone notes. The beauty of keeping track of these milestones in your children's lives is that you can review them year after year. Best of all, they may make you feel grateful. Gratitude is beneficial for your health and something we could all use a little more of. As the years go by, there will be more embellishments and greater laughs. An anniversary symbolizes the past revisited, a reflection on where we've been and a guidepost to where we are going. It represents our memorializing those guideposts through life. It honors a moment frozen in time that melts the heart.

We encourage reflection, celebration, and gratitude for those special anniversaries of giant and small accomplishments and transformations. Make that UMM A-list!



Tom Tozer and Bill Black are authors of *Dads2Dads: Tools for Raising Teenagers*. Like them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter at [Dads2Dadsllc](https://www.Dads2Dadsllc.com). Contact them at tomandbill@Dads2Dadsllc.com.



COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Church opens center for military families

St. Luke UMC is 10 miles from Fort Benning, the fifth-largest military base in the world with 25,000 active-duty military and a total population of 110,000 people.

To serve that community the church opened the Ranger Outreach Center, a ministry coordinated by retired Major Tony Mayne.

The ministry provides medical-claims assistance and office space for service members who work in Columbus-area fellowship programs.

“It might take someone needing help with their VA claims to get them to walk through a church door,” said Mayne. “If you show Christ’s love you can talk about Christ. But unless you can show the love, people are just not receptive to hearing the story. That’s how you build trust, and I think that’s what we’re doing here.”



MAJOR TONY MAYNE OPENS THE RANGER OUTREACH CENTER AT ST. LUKE UMC IN COLUMBUS, GA.



POWDER SPRINGS, GEORGIA

Men participate in Trunk or Treat

UM Band of Brothers of McEachern UMC participated in the church’s Trunk or Treat event. They included four cornhole tables in their display.

AURORA, ILLINOIS

Congregation thanks pastor

The Rev. Derek Rogers, pastor at Aurora’s Flowing Forth UMC, received Pastor Appreciation Day gifts from congregants at an October dinner-worship service.

Aurora church leaders encourage other congregations to find ways to thank their pastors for being on call to offer spiritual support 24/7.

A Clergy Wellbeing Survey by Wespeth found 2021 was a challenging year for clergy. “The impacts of COVID-19, social/racial injustice, and the ongoing uncertainty within the UMC weighed heavily on clergy.”



THE REV. DEREK ROGERS, LEFT, PASTOR AT AURORA’S FLOWING FORTH UMC, RECEIVES PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY GIFTS FROM CONGREGANTS SARA WILLIAMS, CENTER, AND LESLEY MILLER. PHOTO BY AL BENSON.

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

Church honors nine Eagle Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 16, chartered by First UMC in Oak Park, held an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony for nine scouts who achieved the rank during the past 18 months. The August ceremony was held at Bemis Woods in Westchester.

“This is a first for us,” said Scoutmaster Terry Dutton. “Normally we do these for individuals one at a time, but we had a number of scouts who worked incredibly hard during the pandemic to complete the rank, and, as some are going off to college, we wanted to give them their proper due. It’s been a challenging couple of years for us and we’ve had to rethink how we do a lot of things.”

Founded in 1916, Troop 16 serves over 90 young men, age 10-17, drawing from the communities of Oak Park, River Forest, Forest Park, Maywood, Elmwood Park, and Chicago.



FROM LEFT, EAGLE SCOUTS DANNY ROBERTS, DYLAN HENDRIXSON, SEAN O’CONNELL, HUGH LIPIC, DUNCAN WEIR, CAMARI BOLGER, CYRUS KACZKOWSKI, CORY YU, AND LUKE PILDICHA.



EMPORIA, KANSAS

Rummage sale nets \$14,000

Men's and Women's groups of First UMC raised nearly \$15,000 at a biannual rummage sale.

The two-day fund-raising event is a 28 year-old tradition at the church, typically held in February and August of each year.

The sale featured clothing, kitchenware, bedding, furniture, tools, toys, and books. Saturday shoppers could get a steal on any item at half price.

The event funds youth ministry, a food pantry, Habitat for Humanity, and UM mission projects.

Unsold items are delivered to Goodwill stores.



SHOPPERS SORT THROUGH CLOTHING ITEMS AT RUMMAGE SALE SPONSORED BY UM MEN AND UM WOMEN OF FIRST UMC IN EMPORIA, KANS.

GOLDEN MEADOW, LOUISIANA

Georgia aids Louisiana church



LOUISIANA CONFERENCE DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR BOB DEICH SPEAKS FROM THE PULPIT OF THE DAMAGED SANCTUARY OF GOLDEN MEADOW UMC.

Volunteers from the North Georgia Conference helped repair a badly damaged church in Golden Meadow.

"We surveyed the situation and have to admit I am haunted by the mental images," said team member Mark Brown. "The sanctuary was damaged beyond repair. Windows were blown out, part of the roof

ripped off, several inches of water and muck covering the floors." The only thing the team could do was remove and store the pews in a sheltered area.

The second section of the building that houses the kitchen and Sunday school rooms was emptied and will be usable after drying and cleaning. The third section of the building was a block structure. Two sides were knocked down and the tin roof was damaged. The team removed the blocks, emptied the room, and tarped the roof.

LANSING, MICHIGAN

Men repair mobile home

Twelve UM men from neighboring communities repaired unsafe conditions on a mobile home for a 65-year-old woman.

Partnering with "Tri-County Rebuilding Together," the Michigan Conference of UM Men invited men from across the state to volunteer for what turned out to be a two-day mission project.

The South Lansing mobile home required a great deal of work to make it safe for Rosemary.

The men replaced an entrance door, two entrance steps, missing flooring, a countertop, kitchen base cabinets, and plumbing to the sink.

Rosemary bought the mobile home five years ago, and, even with cardboard and rugs covering holes in the floor, cold winter air would still come in from around the entrance door.

University UMC, East Lansing, and their UM men's unit, hosted the event and contributed \$350. Michigan Conference UM Men contributed \$300.



MEN FROM MICHIGAN CONFERENCE TAKE A BREAK FROM MAKING REPAIRS ON A MOBILE HOME IN LANSING.

CLOUDCROFT, NEW MEXICO

Men paint house

Alan and Beverly Smith of Carlsbad, N.M., purchased a home in Cloudcroft. The exterior needed painting, so Alan started painting on weekends, but he died of a stroke before he could complete the job. UM Men at Cloudcroft UMC finished the painting for him.



THE NEWLY PAINTED HOME OF BEVERLY SMITH.



Please support the global ministry to men and young people.

GIVE NOW

ALLIANCE, OHIO

The Apple Dumpling gang strikes again

Apple dumplings have been rolling out of the Union Avenue UMC kitchen every fall for the past two decades. It's a project that started in 2002 during the annual East Ohio Conference when delegates were given \$1 from the conference treasury, along with the challenge to use it to raise money for missions.

About 25 people from Union Avenue UMC pooled their money, bought apples and flour and made a few dumplings. These dumplings quickly sold, and from there the project took off, first under the direction of the UM Women and now overseen by UM Men since 2008.

"To me, our apple dumpling project is all good," said Jed Mewborn, president of UM Men. "It is good for us because we enjoy working together on a fun project and we never have trouble finding volunteers to help; it is good for our customers because they like the apple dumplings we make, and most of all it is good because of what we do with the money we make."

The money supports church mission projects, Habitat for Humanity, Alliance Community Pantry, Salvation Army, a domestic-violence shelter, Alliance YWCA, the church's Community Outreach Fund, and monthly community spaghetti dinners at Christ UMC.

Since the men took over the project 13 years ago, they have made nearly \$85,000 to serve the community.



CLYDE LEPLEY, FRONT, AND WALT MOZZOCHI INSTALL A SIGN FOR THE CHURCH'S APPLE DUMPLING PROJECT.

WATSONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Church honors two Scout leaders

Watson UMC presented Cross and Flame Awards to Carl Mutschler, a deceased past Boy Scout scoutmaster, and Ellen Batdorf, a Girl Scout leader.



From left: Tonya Arnold, Ellen Batdorf, Paul Huffman, Pastor Brian Doyle, Lynda Schlegel Culver, Jim Mutschler, and Debra Mutschler.

DILLON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Golf tournament helps relieve hunger

Main Street UMC held a Methodist Men's Golf Tournament in September. Sixty-five golfers participated, raising a record \$35,000; this amounts to 400,000 pounds of food (about six tractor-trailer loads) given to the Helping Hands Food Pantry; the agency annually provides meals to 400 Dillon County families.



City of Dillon Municipal Golf Course.

NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Men and youth repair homes

Men of Grace UMC joined forces with church youth to complete three days of home repair projects. Working with United Way to choose sites, 13 youth and 40 adults worked in three different locations.

"We left each site a little better off than it was found," said Marianne Harlan, a church administrator. "An outpouring of appreciation was expressed from the homeowners."



MEN AND YOUTH OF GRACE UMC REPAIR THE ROOF OF A HOME IN NORTH AUGUSTA.

SIMPSONVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Church gives basketball jerseys to prison inmates

South Carolina State Representative Garry Smith told leaders of Simpsonville UMC that inmates of the Perry Correctional Institution play basketball, but they had only ragged jerseys.

The congregation responded with new jerseys for each of the teams from the four dormitories of the prison.

"We asked for decent and we got awesome," said Perry Chaplain Larry Epps.



SIMPSONVILLE UMC PRESENTS NEW JERSEYS TO PERRY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION. FROM LEFT, THE REV. MIKE SMITH, SIMPSONVILLE PASTOR; THE REV. LARRY EPPS, PERRY CHAPLAIN; COLE BULLOCK, PERRY ATHLETIC DIRECTOR; AND S.C. STATE REP.

SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

Men provide school supplies

UM Men of Mount Zion UMC donated \$200 worth of school supplies to support "Gear Up for Learning," a Sumter UM project. The goal was to provide school supplies for students in need in the community. The men donated 216 packs of notebook paper, 288 pencils, and 185 three-prong paper folders.



PHOTO BY GWENDOLYN T. WHITE

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

Scout gives new life to campus ministry

Makai Byrd, a Life Scout from Woodland UMC, needed an Eagle Scout project and the Wesley Foundation at Winthrop University needed to upgrade their signage and wanted outside picnic tables.

Makai raised funds and recruited 30 volunteers, including Woodland UM Men. Scouts from Troop 109 worked on the project along with Makai's friends and family.

The team constructed picnic tables, created a pathway from the parking lot to the building, and improved exterior signage.



MAKAI BYRD STANDS WITH NEW SIGNAGE FOR THE WESLEY FOUNDATION AT WINTHROP UNIVERSITY.

DAYTON, TEXAS

Church provides free lunch for teachers

For 42 years First UMC hosts a free luncheon for Dayton teachers.

Held at the Dayton Community Center, the 2021 luncheon was attended by more than 700 teachers and staff. No one left hungry.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us to express our love and appreciation for Dayton teachers, staff, and administrators," said the Rev. Guy Williams. "It's great to see their smiling faces and have the opportunity to bless and appreciate them,"



SEVEN HUNDRED TEACHERS AND STAFF ATTEND A LUNCHEON ON THE FIRST STAFF TRAINING DAY IN AUGUST.



United Methodist Men Foundation



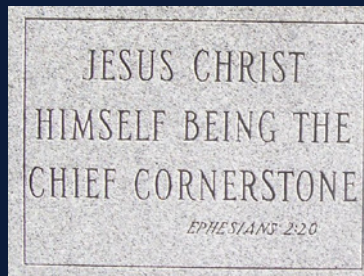
United Methodist Men have traditionally been men of vision and purpose. The vision has led the leaders of United Methodist Men to develop new methods to accomplish their goals and make their dreams become reality!

The United Methodist Men Foundation exists to serve God by funding the ministries of the General Commission on United Methodist Men to promote stewardship and philanthropy with current and prospective donors; to partner in a spirit of servant leadership in building financial assets for future men's and scouting ministries.



To Give

bit.ly/ummfoundation



Information

www.ummf.org

By giving, you help us leave a legacy for men's and
scouting ministries



615-340-7145



sdnailor@comcast.net