

Volume 19 • Number 1

Winter 2016

UMM MEN



The magazine of United Methodist Men



THEREFORE

Matthew 28: 19-20

GO

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016



Portland, Oregon

A letter from the General Secretary

General Conference 2016

Ready or not- here it comes!

Every four years elected delegates from every UM conference in the U.S., Europe, Africa, and the Philippines hold a General Conference.

In May, 864 delegates will gather for two weeks in Portland, Ore. Joining them will be the Council of Bishops, staff from general agencies and annual conferences, translators, press, invited ecumenical guests, hundreds of volunteers and visitors.

More than a thousand pieces of legislation and resolutions will be considered through multiple committees which will then be voted on by the elected delegates. These votes will create 2016 versions of the *Book of Discipline* and the *Book of Resolutions*, and will outline the course for the UMC for the next four years.

If all goes well, we will leave exhausted but inspired by the great work this part of the body of Christ has accomplished for the Kingdom, and a clear blueprint for our work that is before us in the next four years.

The smallest number of delegates in recent years may select a new way of dealing with controversial topics, and the proposed schedule has shorter work days to protect the health and well-being of the delegates.

Experienced delegates are hoping, praying, and working hard to make this a less divisive meeting than the 2012 conference in Tampa.

So, as one of those experienced delegates, how am I feeling? In late October of 2015, all the delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences from the South Central Jurisdiction met as they had four years earlier, in Oklahoma City. This was a much better meeting than four years

ago—less anger, more hopeful, looking for solutions rather than blame, and we were able to discuss difficult issues with respect. So, if these behaviors hold up across the connection, the 2016 event will inspire and instruct us to participate in amazing ministries in our future.

For the next several months, and particularly during the General Conference session, please join with me by doing the following: Hold all the delegates in prayer. Ask delegates from your annual conference how you can assist them in this process. Remember what is discussed, is different from what is passed by the whole conference. Don't panic. As we learned last time, it is not over until it is over.

Do I expect we will agree on all the controversial issues inside and outside our local churches? Not really. My hope is that we will better understand all sides of these complex issues, avoid making this about winners and losers, and focus on what we all hold in common. I need, every day to be a disciple of Jesus Christ who makes more disciples of Jesus Christ who minister to the last, the lost and the least in all our communities. We all need this intentional on-growing relationship with Jesus.

I am honored to be a delegate elected from the Texas Annual Conference (Houston Episcopal Area). I covet your prayers.



Gil Hanke

**United Methodist Men exists to declare the centrality of Christ
in every man's life.**



contents

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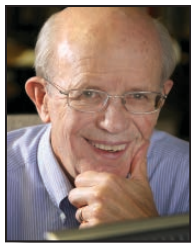
UM Men

Winter 2016

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Editor's note: 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 UM Men.



Lessons from 12 General Conferences

As we look forward to the 2016 General Conference, there is no shortage of dire warnings about how this session could

result in a divided denomination.

I have attended 12 General Conference sessions and each one was expected to be a session that would have major effects upon the denomination. While some of the sessions included traumatic events, none of the conferences resulted in the predicted chaos in the denomination.

1960, DENVER

Nearly all the attention was on a proposal to dissolve the racially constituted Central Jurisdiction. There were dire predictions that southerners would leave the denomination if they were forced to accept African American members. Efforts to eliminate the racial divide were defeated when African American delegates said the Central Conference guaranteed them bishops on the Council of Bishops and seats on the boards of directors of general agencies.

1972, ATLANTA

I missed the 1968 conference that gave birth to the UMC and the elimination of the Central Jurisdiction. And I missed the organizing conference of 1970. Both sessions were viewed as major milestones. In 1972, the joy of unifying the EUB with the Methodist Church had faded into concern about merging agencies and general church staff who would be losing their jobs. Delegates created the General Council on Ministries and approved a new doctrinal statement. Responding to an amendment from the floor, the assembly declared the practice of homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching."

1976, PORTLAND

The conference established the Commission on the Status and Role of Women as a standing unit, and established the office of diaconal minister. There was concern the creation of an office of diaconal minister could change our long-standing understanding of ordination. The assembly declared no agency could give funds that could "promote the acceptance of homosexuality."

1980, INDIANAPOLIS

The assembly established the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, but most of the attention centered on Iran hostages. They sent a delegation to meet with President Jimmy Carter. The assembly approved a controversial and expensive "TV Presence in Ministry," a plan launched with great fanfare, but the costs far exceeded benefits.

1984, BALTIMORE

Delegates celebrated 200 years of Methodist history in America with a special service. The body established a commission to prepare a new hymnal and a committee to revise the 1972 doctrinal statement, but controversy surrounded the decision to declare that "self-avowed practicing" homosexuals are not to be accepted as candidates, ordained as ministers or appointed to serve in the UMC.

1988, ST. LOUIS

Controversy this time focused on a new hymnal when the Hymnal Committee voted to delete "Onward, Christian Soldiers." After thousands of people opposed the action, the committee restored the hymn. The biggest decision was to establish Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe.

1992, LOUISVILLE

Three years of planning for General Conference were set aside to address the riots in Los Angeles that followed the acquittal of four white police officers

accused in the Rodney King beating. Delegates created Shalom Zones. They also opposed a petition from the homosexuality study committee to assert that Christians were not “of common mind about homosexual practice.”

1996, DENVER

Delegates prohibited clergy from conducting services of same-gender unions, adopted a new statement of baptism, and restructured ministry to create two separate orders of ministry: deacons and elders. Before this, ordination to the order of deacon was a stepping stone to ordination to order of elders. Controversy also surrounded the decision to create the General Commission on UM Men.

2000, CLEVELAND

Soulforce, an ecumenical group seeking full acceptance of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered individuals, led demonstrations outside the hall, and 191 people were arrested for blocking an exit outside the convention center. The next day a protest resulted in the arrest of 30 individuals, including two bishops. Leaders from black Methodist denominations were invited to an Act of Repentance service where the assembly confessed the sin of racism that had caused major divisions among American Methodists.

2004, PITTSBURGH

Delegates revised early proposals, but accepted the concept of the Connectional Table. They amended the Constitution to create two membership categories, “baptized members” and “professing members.” The body approved a theological statement of the meaning of the Lord’s Supper, and held a service to thank African Americans for staying with the denomination in spite of racist structures. “Being a self-avowed practicing homosexual” became a chargeable offense for which a clergy person could be tried in a church court.



Only 76 of the 788 delegates to the 1960 conference in Denver were from outside the U.S. Photo from the General Commission on Archives and History.

2008, FORT WORTH

While delegates proposed an amendment to the Constitution to make it appear less like a U.S. church with overseas satellites, members of annual conferences did not ratify the proposed changes. Delegates continued the church’s stances on homosexuality and defeated a proposal that would recognize UMs “deeply disagree with one another; yet all seek a faithful witness.” The assembly celebrated 100 years of men’s ministry.

2012, TAMPA

The assembly was billed as the gathering that would make major changes to the structure of the UMC. There were several structure proposals and delegates defeated each of them. Finally, delegates approved a compromise “we-have-to-do-something-before-ad adjournment” structure. That painfully adopted structure was struck down on the final day by the Judicial Council.

Rich Peck attended one session of General Conference as a seminary student, one session as conference communicator, three sessions as a staff member of the UM Publishing House; four sessions as editor of the Daily Christian Advocate and four sessions as a reporter for UM News Service.

The 2016 General Conference

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The UMC. The assembly meets once every four years to consider revisions to church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for churchwide programs for the next four years. The meeting will take place May 10-20, 2016, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

Theme

The “Therefore Go,” logo of the 2016 conference is based on the Great Commission set forth in Matthew 28:19-20: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (NIV)

Delegates

Before 1812, all traveling preachers attended an annual General Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church.

Today, every annual conference is

guaranteed one lay and one clergy delegate. The number of delegates from each annual conference is determined by a formula based on the number of clergy and local church members in the conference.

The Constitution sets the total number of delegates at no fewer than 600 delegates and no more than 1,000.

In order to save money, the Commission on General Conference reduced the number from near 1,000 to 864.

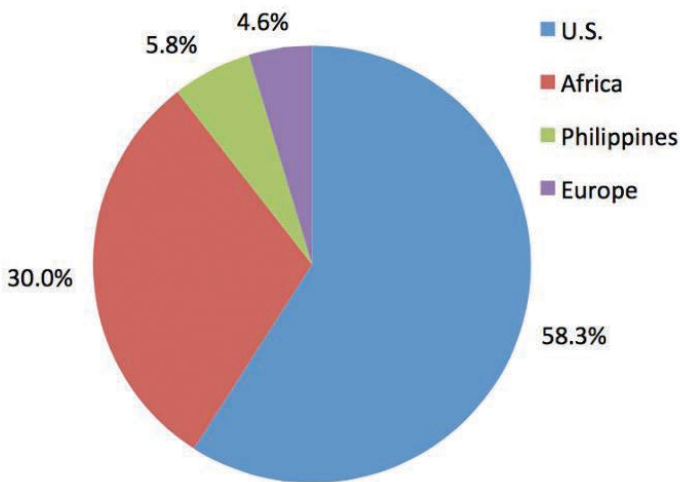
Delegates to the 2016 assembly were elected during 2014 and 2015 annual conference sessions. Lay members vote for lay delegates and clergy for clergy.

Annual conferences in Africa, Asia and Europe are grouped in “central conferences.” Central conferences will have 350 delegates. Five hundred and four will be from the U.S. and 10 delegates will be from other Wesleyan denominations with which the denomination has a formal relationship: four from Great Britain and two each from Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the Caribbean & the Americas.

Sites

In the past, sites for the international gatherings were rotated among the five U.S. jurisdictions. The 2000 conference was held in Cleveland (North Central Jurisdiction), the 2004 conference was held in Pittsburgh (Northeastern Jurisdiction); the 2008 conference was held in Fort Worth (South Central Jurisdiction); and the 2012 conference was held in Tampa, Fla., (Southeastern Jurisdiction). In 2020 the conference will be held in Minneapolis (North Central).

Delegate Distribution



The practice of rotating between U.S. jurisdictions will end in 2024 when the conference will be held in Manila, Philippines, and 2028 conference is scheduled for Harare, Zimbabwe. Meeting outside the U.S. is an important statement to say that we're a worldwide denomination," said Sara Hotchkiss, business manager of the General Conference.



Delegates and visitors fill the plenary hall at the 2012 United Methodist General Conference in Tampa, Fla. A UMNS photo by Kathleen Barry

The Tasks

During the 11-day session, delegates will revise *The Book of Discipline*, a book of law that regulates the manner in which local churches, annual conferences and general agencies are organized. The book sets policies regarding church membership, ordination, administration, property and judicial procedures.

Most disciplinary paragraphs may be amended by majority vote, but the Constitution can only be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote, followed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members voting in annual conference session. Delegates may not revoke or change the Articles of Religion or the Confession of Faith unless two-thirds of the delegates agree to change this provision and three-fourths of the annual conference members also agree.

Delegates also revise *The Book of Resolutions*, a volume declaring the church's stance on a variety of social justice issues. The book contains more than 300 resolutions that are considered instructive and persuasive, but are not binding on church members.

In addition, the assembly approves plans and budgets for churchwide programs for the next four years and elects members of the Judicial Council and the University Senate.

The Process

In the months preceding General Conference individual members, churches, agencies and annual conferences send petitions to amend the *Book of Discipline* or the *Book of Resolutions*.

All petitions are printed in the *Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate* and mailed to delegates. Each petition is assigned to one of 12 legislative committees. That group of some 50-60 delegates reviews all petitions regarding a particular paragraph or subject area; they then agree to approve, amend, combine or reject them, and send their recommendations to a full plenary session for final action.

If the proposal does not involve the Constitution, the Articles of Religion or finances, once it receives support from a majority of delegates it is approved. If it involves finances, the legislative proposal is referred to the Connectional Table, the

Quick UMC statistics

	U.S.	Central Conferences
Total church membership	7,299,753	5,525,924
Total active churches	32,608	11,013
Total clergy membership	49,814	14,212
Average Weekly Worship Attendance	2,908,352	--
Annual Conferences	56	75
Episcopal Areas	46	20
Jurisdictions	5	7

WHERE U.S. LOCAL CHURCH EXPENSE DOLLARS GO

General Council on Finance and Administration and the Financial Administration Legislative Committee for a final recommendation to the full conference. These groups will propose the manner in which the proposal is to be funded.

Bishops

Retired and active bishops attend the conference but do not vote and may not speak in plenary sessions without permission from the assembly. Individual bishops preside over business sessions, normally serving for a morning, an afternoon, or an evening session..

Presiding bishops are selected by a General Conference committee. Each presiding bishop selects two bishops to serve as parliamentarians.

The Council of Bishops selects a bishop to give the Episcopal Address, a speech delivered in the opening days of the assembly. Members of the council will also preach at morning worship services.

The budget

The Connectional Table and General Council on Finance and Administration board approved a proposed budget of \$611 million for general church funds in 2017-20. That's about a 1.3 percent increase above the \$603.1 million general church budget approved at the 2012 General Conference. However, accounting for an annual U.S. inflation rate of 2 percent, the total budget actually marks a reduction in spending in terms of real dollars.

Factors that go into budget projections include: church membership, inflation, per-capita disposable income, "giving elasticity" (the percent of giving from increased revenue), net spending and the U.S. gross domestic product. What church leaders ultimately are trying to predict is what church members will be able and willing to give in the coming four years.




The proposed \$611 million budget is a more conservative amount than the \$621 million "realistic budget proposal" suggested by the UM Economic Advisory Committee.

At the general church level, the budget supports seven apportioned funds. These include funds for bishops, United Methodist ministerial education, The General Commission on UM Men and nine other general agencies and denomination-wide efforts such as the Black College Fund and Africa University in Zimbabwe.

Worship and Music

The Rev. Laura Jaquith Bartlett of Eagle Creek, Ore., has been named worship and music director for the conference. She is a three-time delegate to the conference as a deacon in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference and president of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts. She serves as program director at the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center, as well as worship coach for several United Methodist churches.

Choirs and musicians from around the world will perform during the conference. 

Commission proposes discernment process

PORTLAND, Ore.:

The Commission on the General Conference is proposing a new way for delegates to deal with petitions regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

The proposal must be approved by delegates.

The commission suggests delegates discuss selected legislation in small groups. These discussion groups will give reports to a facilitation team of delegates, who would be elected near the start of the May 10-20 meeting. The facilitation team would compile the information, look for trends and directions, develop a report to the plenary and craft a petition or petitions which will then come to the plenary for consideration according to the current rules of the General Conference.

In a normal process, all petitions are sent to legislative committees who recommend to a plenary session:

- 1) acceptance of the original petition,
- 2) acceptance of an amended version of the petition or
- 3) the rejection of the proposal.

Legislative committees meet during the first week of the 11-day session. Under normal processes, only members of the Church and Society 2 Legislative Committee dealing with ¶161 and ¶162 of the Social Principles would handle these petitions.

The proposal from the Commission on General Conference would enable all delegates to participate in shaping sexuality legislation that would ultimately come to a plenary session. However, such a plan would reduce the amount of time other legislative committees would have to consider all other proposals.

The proposal will be presented to delegates by the Committee on Plan of

Organization and Rules of Order along with all other legislative processes.

Consent Calendar

In order to expedite the work, proposals receiving fewer than a specified number of negative votes may be placed on a "consent calendar." Delegates may vote to remove items from the consent calendar.


The Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order will recommend the number of negative votes needed for the consent calendar and the process for removing items from the calendar.

The Commission on General Conference reduced the number of legislative committees from 13 in 2012 to 12 in 2016. The Higher Education and Ministry Committee will be combined with the Superintendency Committee. The committee will deal with petitions concerning seminaries, ordination, clergy, superintendents and bishops.

Daily schedule

The Commission on General Conference will recommend a daily schedule with an adjournment time of 6:30 p.m. The one exception is Saturday, May 14, the last day of legislative committees meetings. On that day, committees would have the option of finishing their work during 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. time period.

While the goal is to keep delegates from experiencing the normally exhausting schedule, it will be difficult for legislative committees to finish their work if extensive time is devoted to small group discussions of sexuality issues and evening sessions must conclude by 6:30 p.m.

All proposals will be presented by the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order. It is not unusual for delegates to alter these proposals. 

HUMOR



What happened to the flea?

Four-year old Jimmy listened to his dad tell him a Bible story: "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt."

"What happened to the flea?" asked Jimmy.

A global *Book of Discipline*

The 2016 General Conference may have the opportunity to review a slimmed down *Discipline* that will more fully reflect the global nature of the UMC.

The 2012 General Conference asked the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters in consultation with the Committee on Faith and Order to bring recommendations to the 2016 General Conference as to which parts and paragraphs in Part VI (Organization and Administration) of the *Book of Discipline* are not subject to change or adaptation:

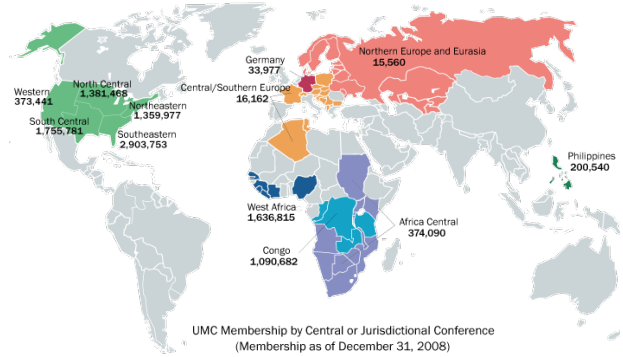
Other parts of the *Discipline* that cannot be changed are:

- I. Constitution
- III. Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task
- IV. The Ministry of All Christians
- V. The Social Principles

A draft of proposed changes to Part VI on Organization and Administration may be available for review by delegates to the 2016 conference, but the committee may or may not ask for final approval.

Central Conference members say they need feedback from the Portland gathering and time to examine and possibly pare down chapters dealing with the work of general agencies and the denomination's judicial processes. They hope

United Methodists Around the World




UMC Membership by Central or Jurisdictional Conference (Membership as of December 31, 2008)

Central conferences are seven church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. As the five jurisdictions in the U.S., central conferences encompass groups of annual conferences and they elect bishops.

to present a final version of Part VI to the 2020 conference.

While the committee members cannot propose any changes to the Social Principles, including statements on human sexuality, they could call for changes in the judicial processes chapter that includes a list of chargeable offenses against clergy including officiating at same-sex unions or being a "self-avowed practicing homosexual."

The committee is expected to ask the 2016 assembly to give it an extension through 2020 before presenting their final proposal. 

Commission asks General Conference to expedite ordination

The ordination orders of candidates for elders and deacons will be sped up, if a proposal from the Ministry Study Committee is approved by General Conference.

At present elders must serve full-time under episcopal appointments for two years following their graduation from college and seminary before they can be ordained and admitted into full membership of an annual conference.

Under the committee proposal, candidates would be ordained prior to two years of service as provisional members of their annual conferences.

Committee members hope the speedier process will encourage younger candidates.

"We're losing candidates," said Bishop Grant Hagiya, chair of the committee. "We felt if we allowed for early ordination it would encourage younger people to stay in our system."

A previous ministry study committee also proposed early ordination, but the proposal was defeated in committee at the 2012 General Conference in Tampa, Fla.

The committee did not tackle the issue of guaranteed appointments for elders. The 2012 General Conference eliminated that provision, but Judicial Council ruled that the action was unconstitutional. All elders in good standing are guaranteed appointments. 

Leaders of UM Men elected as delegates to General Conference

Hank Dozier, former UMM conference president (Western North Carolina)

Kevin Goodwin, a local UMM treasurer (Peninsula-Delaware Conference)

Gil Hanke, top staff executive of GCUMM (Texas Conference)

Dr. Joe Harris, former top staff executive of GCUMM (Oklahoma Conference)

Coley Hooker, a life member and legacy builder (Western North Carolina Conference).

Jim Labau, conference president UMM, (Alaska Conference alternate delegate)

Herman Lightsey, conference president UMM (South Carolina Conference)

Tarmo Lilleoja, member of the GCUMM board from Estonia, (Central Conference Europe)

Lew Nicholls, a local UMM treasurer (Kentucky Conference)

Ken Ow, an EMS member (Baltimore–Washington Conference)

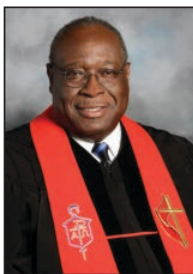
Larry Price, president of Southeastern Jurisdiction UMM (South Georgia)

David Reed, a member of UMM Foundation (Memphis Conference)

Kenneth Tielke, president of South Central Jurisdiction UMM (Texas Conference)

The Rev. Ben Trammell, a member of the GCUMM Board (Texas Conference)

Bishop Swanson to preach at General Conference




Bishop James E. Swanson Sr.

Mississippi Area Bishop James E. Swanson Sr., president of the General Commission on UM Men, will preach at the Wednesday, May 18 worship service at the 2016 General Conference.

Bishop Swanson was born in Houston, Texas, went to seminary in Atlanta, was ordained in the South Georgia Conference, served the Holston Area for eight years, and now lives in Jackson, Miss.

During the 14 years Swanson served as pastor of St. Mary's Road UMC in Columbus, Ga., the congregation grew from 16 active members to 950 and an average worship attendance of 525.

Bishop Swanson and his wife, Delphine, have six children and 11 grandchildren.

Other preachers include Bishop Bruce Ough, Minnesota-Dakotas Area; Bishop Elaine J.W. Stanovsky, Mountain Sky Area; Bishop John Yambasu, Sierra Leone Area; Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams, World Methodist Council; Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, Louisiana Area; Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, Boston Area; Bishop Sally Dyck, Chicago Area; Bishop Christian Alsted, Nordic-Baltic Area; and Bishop Warner Brown Jr., San Francisco Area, outgoing president of the Council of Bishops. 

humor

A priest and a rabbi are in a car crash and it's a bad one. Both of their cars are demolished but amazingly neither one of them is hurt. After they crawl out of their cars, the rabbi says, "So you're a priest. That's interesting; I'm a rabbi. Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but we're unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace."

The priest replies, "Oh, yes, I agree. It's a miracle that we survived and are here together."

"And here's another miracle," says the rabbi. "My car is destroyed but this bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink the wine and celebrate our good fortune," he says, handing the bottle to the priest.

The priest nods in agreement, opens the wine, drinks half of it, and hands it back to the rabbi.

The rabbi takes it and puts the cap back on.

"Aren't you going to have any?" asks the priest.

"Not right now," says the rabbi. "I think I'll wait until after the police make their report."



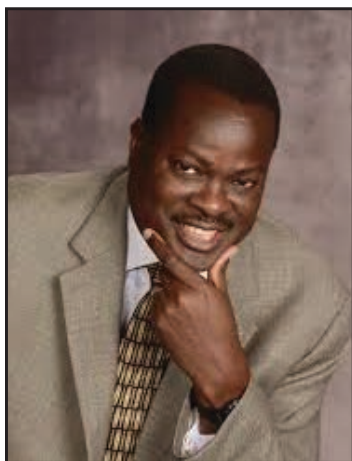
Groups seek increased accountability of bishops

The General Council on Finance and Administration and annual conference lay leaders will ask General Conference to create additional steps when regional groups of bishops fail to discipline one of their colleagues.

Currently, a complaint against a bishop is handled by the college (regional group) of bishops of one of the five U.S. jurisdictions or one of the colleges of bishops in the seven Central Conferences if the bishop is serving an episcopal area outside the U.S.

There is no role for the worldwide Council of Bishops or any other group if a college of bishops fails to act.

The problem surfaced when the General Council on Finance and Administration filed a 2013 complaint against East Africa Area Bishop Daniel Wandabula. Several audits by the General Board of Global Ministries raised questions of whether his episcopal area misused more than \$757,000 in church funds. Charges of misuse of funds were also leveled by members of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference, but no action was taken by the West Africa College of Bishops. The finance agency set a lower salary for Wandabula, but that action was later reversed by Judicial Council (Decision #1298). The complaint is still pending.



Bishop Daniel Wandabula

Some annual conference lay leaders were also frustrated by the failure of the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to censure retired Bishop

Melvin Talbert following his officiating at a same-gender wedding.

The Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders agreed to submit legislation that would set a definitive timeline of 180 days to try to resolve the matter in the denomination's supervisory process. If those 180 days expire without resolution or without referral of the matter as a formal administrative or judicial complaint, the association's legislation would send the dispute to the full Council of Bishops.

The General Council on Finance and Administration agreed with the 180 day trigger and proposed a refinement of action to be taken by the Council of Bishops.

The finance agency proposes that if no action is taken within 180 days by a college of bishops outside the U.S., a panel of three bishops (one each from Africa, Asia and Europe) would either dismiss the charges or file an administrative or judicial complaint. If the bishop is in the U.S., a panel of five bishops (one from each jurisdiction) would take similar action. All costs would come from the Episcopal Fund.

In addition, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry is submitting legislation that adds "fiscal malfeasance" as a chargeable offense for clergy and lay members.

Opponents of the plans note that bishops are elected by and accountable only to the jurisdiction or central conference in which they were elected.



Bishop Melvin Talbert

General Conference glossary of terms

Advance Daily Christian Advocate (Advance DCA or ADCA): A set of publications containing the agenda, rules, delegate listings, petitions, reports from the general agencies/commissions and study committees, information for delegates, and codes of conduct. The publications are sent to all delegates prior to the conference.

Book of Discipline: The fundamental book that outlines the law, doctrine, administration, organizational work and procedures of The UMC. Each General Conference amends *The Book of Discipline* and the actions of the General Conference are reflected in the quadrennial revision.

Book of Resolutions: This volume contains the pronouncements on issues approved by the General Conference and currently valid. The *Book of Resolutions* contains not only the resolutions and policy statements passed by the most recent General Conference, but also all such statements still considered to represent the position of The UMC.

Calendar Items: Calendar Items are petitions that have been acted upon by a legislative committee and are ready to be voted on by the plenary.

CALMS (Conference and Legislative Management System): The online legislative tracking system used by the General Conference.

Committee on Agenda and Calendar: This committee is responsible for guiding the order of business of the Conference.

Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision: This committee works with the UM Publishing House editorial staff to edit and publish *The Book of Discipline*.

Committee on Courtesies and Privileges: This committee considers matters of privilege and recommends to the conference that they be heard. The committee also considers resolutions of commendation, courtesy and appreciation and extends courtesies of the conference.

Committee on Credentials: This committee provides guidance to the secretary of General Conference regarding the approval of credentials

of delegates.

Committee on Journal: This committee approves daily the record of proceedings of the General Conference prepared by the DCA staff.

Committee on Presiding Officers: This committee selects bishops who serve as the presiding officers for each plenary session.


Committee on Reference: This committee reviews the assignment of petitions, reports, recommendations and resolutions to the legislative committees.

Committee on Central Conference Matters: This committee handles all petitions relating to the Central Conferences, Autonomous Methodist Churches, Affiliated Autonomous Methodist Churches, Affiliated United Churches and Concordat relationships.

Consent Calendar: In order to expedite the legislative process in the plenary session, committee items are grouped together, placed on a Consent Calendar and voted on in blocks. Any 20 delegates may have a Consent Calendar item removed by having such a request on file with the secretary of the General Conference.

Daily Christian Advocate (DCA): The official journal of the General Conference. The DCA contains three sections: news and features, verbatim transcript of the conference proceedings and calendar items. A calendar item must be in the DCA for 24 hours before it can be voted on by the General Conference unless the conference suspends that rule.

Legislative Committee: 12 committees meet during the first week of the conference to review and make recommendations on petitions assigned to them. The General Conference Rules of Order set the number and name of each legislative committee and the *Discipline* paragraphs or topics assigned to each legislative committee.

Minority Report: A minority report allows for the expression of differing views held by a significant portion of a legislative committee. 

Adapted from listing by UMCommunications

DISCIPLE Bible studies expands to prisons in Arkansas and Texas

DISCIPLE Bible studies are now being taught in prisons in seven states; that list now includes Arkansas and Texas.

The effort to teach DISCIPLE in state prisons was begun in 1998 by Mark Hicks, a clergy member of the North Carolina Annual Conference. In 2010, he was elected president of Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries National.

Bible studies in North Carolina prisons were followed by similar ministries in Virginia, Tennessee, Louisiana and Illinois.



Arkansas

In 2015, the Arkansas Annual Conference officially recognized the ministry led by Steve Smith.

Following visits to chaplains of several Arkansas prisons, seven chaplains stepped forward to request Bible studies in their prisons.

"This was wonderful news," said Hicks. "Steve Smith has already begun placing volunteers in Arkansas state prison sites." Hicks says former Arkansas bishop and the originator of Disciple Bible study, the Rev. Richard Wilke, was a key player in getting Arkansas engaged.



Texas

The Rev. Jason Fry, a clergy member of the Rio Texas Annual Conference, has convened a steering committee composed of members from the five annual conferences in the state.

Texas Department of Correction staff has identified prison that will welcome the Bible study, and volunteers are being recruited and trained.


Following steering committee meetings in Houston, the group will present formal proposals to June 2016 sessions of the five annual conferences.

"Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, helped bring the five conferences into this new venture," said Hicks. "The cooperation across conference lines is a celebration of our UM Connection."



National training

The national office has developed online training and certification modules for annual conferences in the seven states. "This will ensure that all volunteers are trained and certified prior to in-prison service and will make our training and certification process much easier and more accessible," said Hicks. "Training will be hosted by the Richard and Julia Wilke Institute of Discipleship at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan."

Hicks says he hopes additional annual conferences will want to introduce the prison ministry in their states. For information, please contact Hicks at MHicks@northstate.net or visit the website: www.disciplebibleoutreach.org. 

More than 1,000 churches now support *Strength for Service* with HOME DEPOT purchases

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

A total of 1,017 United Methodist Churches have spent \$1.75 million at Home Depot stores.

Under an agreement arranged by the General Council on Finance and Administration, those purchases will provide \$53,000 to the Strength for Service Corporation. The amount will provide 10,600 *Strength for Service* books for members of the U.S. Armed Services, fire fighters, police officers, and other first responders.

Bobby Smith, an executive with Home Depot, told the 11 Strength for Service Board members that if more churches would register, the possibilities of providing spiritual support for thousands of veterans, active troops and first responders is enormous.

Meeting Sept 25-26 at the offices of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, Smith told the non-denominational board the agreement to provide 3 percent of the purchase amounts spent on local church programs will extend to Dec. 31, 2017.


Account registration is fast and easy at
www.HomeDepot.com/proxtra

Username: sponsorship@gcfa.org
Password: [gcfasponsor1](#)
Agreement Code: USC

“The dynamics and commitment of this board are unbelievable,” said L.W. Smith, a South Carolina United Methodist layman, who chairs the 11-member board of directors. “Our mission to ‘serve those who serve us’ is in good hands. We look forward to communicating how everyone can participate and assist to make our resources available to our military

and first responders. God is good.”

In other business, the board:

- approved Sept 23-24, 2016, as dates for next board meeting in Nashville;
- commissioned L.W. Smith and Larry Coppock to coordinate and confirm sub-committees to work in specific areas to report back within designated time frame;
- were led in a devotion by Robert Noland, a Nashville author and song writer who served as the ghost writer for *Strength for Service to God and Community*;
- approved a \$142,520 budget for 2016;
- learned that the books are now being sold by Amazon, Cokesbury, BSA Shops and The Pennsylvania Fire Store;
- learned that the corporation has a new license to develop special editions of *Strength for Service to God and Country* with Abingdon Press, owners of the copyright of the 1943 book;
- agreed to make greater use of social media including Twitter;
- learned that *Strength for Service* e-books are available through Amazon (Kindle), Barnes and Noble (Nook), Google Play and Apple (I-book store) for \$4.99;
- called for a re-design of website; and
- learned of free book distributions following killing of five Navy personnel in Chattanooga, Tenn., the killing of a sheriff's officer in Houston, Texas, the killing of two and wounding of nine people in Lafayette, La., movie theater, and the shootings in Roseburg, Ore. 

Former member of Joint Chiefs of Staff joins Strength for Service Advisory Team

General Charles C. Krulak, former commandant of the Marine Corps and a former member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has agreed to serve on the Advisory Committee of Strength for Service Corporation.

A 35-year veteran of the Marines, Krulak commanded a platoon and two rifle companies during two tours of duty in Vietnam and then held a variety of command and staff positions. These included deputy director of the White House Military Office; Commanding General, Sixth Marine Expeditionary Brigade during Desert Storm; Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command; and Commanding General, Marine Forces Pacific.

During his military service, General Krulak was awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star Medal, three Bronze Star Medals with Combat "V", two Purple Heart medals, the Meritorious Service Medal, the French Legion d'Honneur Commandeur rank, and many other decorations and medals.

Upon his retirement from the Marine Corps, General Krulak joined MBNA America Bank as chairman and chief executive officer of MBNA Europe Bank, Ltd. After four years in this position, he returned to the United States and served as vice chairman, MBNA America Bank as head of corporate development, mergers and acquisitions. He retired from MBNA in June, 2005.

President of Birmingham Southern

General Krulak was introduced as president of Birmingham-Southern College on March 21, 2011, and retired from that post June 30, 2015. In his first year on campus, he raised \$12.5 million for the college and put the school's budget in the

black.

In addition, he currently sits on the Board of Directors of Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Corporation and on the Board of Directors of Union Pacific Railroad Corporation. He sits on the Board of the CEO Forum and serves as a director with Aston Villa Football Club in the United Kingdom. He is an adviser to the Center for Naval Analysis and Human Rights First, and he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

General Krulak was a standout wrestler at the U.S. Naval Academy and at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. He earned induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1996.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy, he received a master's degree in labor relations from George Washington University.

General Krulak and his wife of 51 years, Zandi, have two sons and five grandchildren.



General Charles C. Krulak

Welcomed to the board

Members of the Strength for Service non-denominational Board of Directors are pleased to welcome General Krulak to the Advisory Committee.

"General Charles C. Krulak will bring years of experience and knowledge from the military to our Advisory Committee," said Board President L.W. Smith. "Our efforts for distribution and outreach will be enhanced greatly through his involvement."

The season of the summit

By Tom Tozer and Bill Black

Next spring, delegates across the spectrum of the UMC will meet for General Conference. While this gathering doesn't always produce results loved by all, a constructive meeting of the minds is preferable to a showdown at high noon.

Send out an alert

So it is with the most basic unit of community—the family. As United Methodists look forward to this global church summit in 2016, we suggest that you dads plan a “family summit.”

If it is true that the family is the most basic and vital social influence in our lives, then the family deserves to have its own summit. Send out a call, note, email or text message to schedule a get-together time that is convenient for everyone. (This will be your greatest challenge.)

The agenda

Think of all the good things a family summit would do for you, your wife and your children. It would allow you to get reacquainted with one another. Imagine being able to put names with those faces that you pass in the kitchen every morning.

A family summit would provide a way to avoid scheduling conflicts. Why run the risk of committing the family car to the senior prom and an engine overhaul on the same day. What a great opportunity to pull out social and to-do calendars and do some cross-checking.


A family summit would allow every member to catch up on one another's lives. “What? I have a new baby sister!” “You were expelled from school—three weeks ago?” “You have a new job? At a deli? Your deli? You bought a delicatessen!”

Three powerful words

A family summit will provide every member with the opportunity to say “I love you” to those vaguely familiar but wonderful people sitting with you around the table. Yep, we know, it's kind of cheesy and may create a few awkward moments. But can you think of a phrase in any language that packs a greater, more profound wallop? Don't we all need to say those words more often?

A meeting of the minds

Remember, a summit is a meeting—not a managing—of the minds. Take turns suggesting topics. You'll want to pass the gavel of leadership. Most importantly, you'll want to listen as other family members share their thoughts and concerns. If the family summit proves to be a positive experience, suggest that you hold one every month.

While the 864 delegates may not be able to come together every month, rest assured they will fill those 11 days in May with love for their church and for one another. You can do the same in your home. 



Tom Tozer (left) and Bill Black write a syndicated column on fatherhood and are authors of Dads2Dads: Tools for Raising Teenagers. They are available for workshops. Contact them at tomandbill@Dads2Dadsllc.com.

Walk or jog?

By Bryant Stamford

Moderate exercise is more comfortable and convenient than vigorous exercise, but it takes longer to achieve similar outcomes as far as burning calories is concerned.

Let's do the math: A brisk walk will burn about 100 calories per mile for an adult male. Jogging will burn more calories per minute, because you will jog the mile more quickly and will burn about 120 calories per mile.

So the question becomes, "Am I better off to walk three miles in one hour and burn 300 calories, or jog 2.5

miles in less than half the time and burn the same number of calories?"

When it comes to weight management and insulin sensitivity, it doesn't matter, so the choice is up to you. But additional health benefits can be yours from jogging or other vigorous exercises.

Health advantages

If you are willing to bite the bullet and engage in fitness-producing exercise, you will achieve all of the benefits associated with moderate exercise, plus a few more.

Take blood pressure for example. Moderate exercise can help lower blood pressure indirectly by reducing body fatness and increasing insulin sensitivity (a major factor in reducing chances of type 2 diabetes). Vigorous exercise does the same, but it also has a direct effect on the vessels that control blood pressure.

This means a much greater overall impact to lower blood pressure. The same is true for raising HDL, the good cholesterol. Vigorous exercise exerts a direct effect on HDL, which is more powerful than the indirect effect of moderate exercise.

Vigorous exercise stresses the heart muscle much more and causes adaptations that do not occur with moderate exercise. There is the proliferation of stress proteins in heart muscle cells, which can lessen the severity of a heart attack. Stress proteins help protect heart cells when an artery is blocked, because they can keep heart cells alive longer even though oxygen is denied. Stress proteins also help heart and muscle



cells cope with excessively high body temperatures that can occur during exercise on a hot day or as a result of an excessively high fever.

Another unique benefit of vigorous exercise is nitric oxide production in the arterial wall. Nitric oxide is a powerful vasodilator (it expands the diameter of vessels), which lets more blood flow through vessels and reach hungry tissues.

Moderate and vigorous exercise relieves stress. But vigorous exercise may be more effective in creating a physiological effect as well as a psychological effect (change of scenery, getting your mind off what's bothering you, etc.). After a demanding workout, the muscles are more relaxed, and chemicals released into the bloodstream help promote a sense of well-being.

How much?

Research is clear about how much vigorous exercise is needed to increase fitness. Assuming the exercise involves major muscle groups in the body (principally the legs and trunk), the heart rate must be elevated into the target zone. Minimally, this is 70 percent of the maximum heart rate (220 minus your age equals your maximum heart rate).


For a 50-year-old, the target zone is 119 beats per minute. Once elevated, the heart rate must be sustained at the high level for at least 20 minutes continuously, and exercise must be performed at least three times a week, and preferably four.

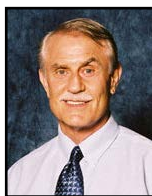
The bottom line

Exercise does not follow a one-size-fits-all model. On the contrary, there is an exercise strategy for everyone.

If a comfortable and convenient

brisk walk fits nicely into your lifestyle, that's fine. If you find the additional health benefits associated with vigorous exercise attractive and are willing to pay the price required by exercises like jogging, go for it.

You also could opt for something in between, like interspersing jogging intervals into your walks. This may bestow at least some of the additional health benefits associated with vigorous exercise. 



Bryant Stamford is professor and chairman of the department of exercise science at Hanover (Ind.) College. This article first appeared in "The Body Shop," and is published courtesy of The Courier-Journal in Louisville, Ky.





Across the Nation

GARDENDALE, Ala.—

Golf tournament raises \$7,200

UM Men of Mt. Vernon UMC raised \$7,200 at their first annual golf tournament. They contributed \$3,600 of the total to help with construction costs of The Hitch, a pavilion for the Cornerstone Ranch named in honor of Jon Hitchler, a church member who died during construction.

The men also grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for several day camps.



UM Men present a \$3,600 check to the Cornerstone Ranch.

NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C. —

UMC and AME Zion celebrate 'commonality'

More than 250 people attended a service led by Dr. Keith Franklin, pastor of First UMC, and Dr. Richard Watts, pastor of Rickards Chapel AME Zion.

The service was a response to the killing of nine people at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., the killing of five military personnel in Chattanooga, Tenn., and the killing of two people and wounding of nine in a movie theatre in Lafayette, La.

Choirs from the two churches sang "We've Come This Far by Faith," and each choir also sang separate selections.

Leaders of the two congregations hope this will be an annual event.



JACKSON, Miss.—

Judge speaks on Men's Ministry Day

Mississippi Southern District Judge Carlton W. Reeves addressed the theme "Men standing up for God" at an August Men's Ministry Day at Aldersgate UMC.



Judge Carlton W. Reeves

Appointed to the federal bench in 2010, Reeves is a 1986 graduate of Jackson State University and he obtained a graduate degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1989.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—

Children think UMC booth is animal exhibit

UM Men of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference sponsored a "UM Day at the Philadelphia Zoo."

Zoo officials say 7,000 people visited "America's first zoo" in August, and UMs received discounted tickets.

"Nearly all of the 7,000 passed right by our UMC booth that was located right at the front gate," said Ross Brightwell, former conference president of UM Men. "Little kids thought that I was the first exhibit."



Ross Brightwell (right) and the Rev. Bob Strauss, pastor of Jarrettown UMC, are still smiling at the end of a long day.

JBER, Alaska—

Chaplain sends daily encouragement to airmen

Captain Ronald N. Lawrence Jr., chaplain at the Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson, sends "Daily Encouragement" to men and women of the 673 Medical Group. He always includes the day's entry from *Strength for Service to God and Country* in his email messages.

The joint base is key to defending U.S. interests in Asia and the Pacific.

After distributing copies of the historic book of daily devotions to the medical team, Lawrence says a group meets weekly to discuss the meditations.

"The manual is small enough to fit in the ABU (Airman Battle Uniform) cargo pocket," says Lawrence. "This makes for much convenience when on the go."



GARDENA, Calif.—

Men promote health screenings

UM Men of Hollypark UMC hosted a cancer prevention event that included information about prostate cancer and the sickle-cell trait. Twenty women received free mammogram screenings

A health panel featured Dr. Anton Bilchick; Dr. Ronald Hurst III; Dr. Dana Scott; and Farron Dozier, a retired U.S. Army sergeant with the sickle cell trait.

Dozier said 3 million people in the U.S. have the trait, which can cause death during high-exertion. He nearly suc-

cumbed to the condition in 2006 after having completed a vigorous exercise routine.

Dr. Scott said African American men are approximately 60 percent more likely to develop prostate cancer than Caucasians or Hispanic men. The risk of developing prostate cancer increases with age. While only one in 10,000 men under age 40 will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, 1 in 15 men in their 60s will be afflicted.



Jerry (left) and Larry Dozier of the "Dozier Singers Family and Friends" perform during the opening session of a cancer prevention, detection and intervention workshop at Hollypark UMC in Gardena. Hollypark men provided a continental breakfast and entertainment.

WICHITA, Kans.—

UM Men take kids fishing

Saint Mark UM Men took boys and girls in the church and community on a fishing outing.

Over the last five years, the men have teamed up with the "Pass it on—Outdoors Mentors," an organization that sponsors fishing and hunting trips along with other outdoor activities.

The youth are provided with fishing gear, bait and assistance.

Most of them succeeded in catching some fish.

Following the outing, the young people returned to the church for hotdogs, chips and lemonade.

Men of Saint Mark also host an annual "Dad, Lad and Lass Banquet."



CARTHAGE, Texas—

Police receive copies of devotional books

The Charles Matthews Foundation provided funds that enabled the distribution of *Strength for Service to God and Community* books to law enforcement and fire fighting personnel in Panola County.

The books were distributed by Carthage Police Chief Jim Vanover. "We are grateful that The Charles Matthews Foundation offered to make certain that our first responders in Carthage have a copy of this devotional book, particularly considering the streets of today's emergency world," said Chief Vanover.



Carthage Police Chief Jim Vanover

ST. FRANCISVILLE, La.—

Knights serve as cooks

Members of the Knights of Columbus cooked breakfast for men of First UMC.

Danny Brouillette provided the men with keys to understanding the Bible and ways to develop strong relationships with God during the September event.

The Rev. Ashley McGuire, pastor, gave the benediction.



Ron Broussard plays the guitar along with Danny Brouillette, guest speaker at a St. Francisville breakfast.

FALMOUTH, Mass.—

Children receive free bikes

In 2014, men of John Wesley UMC repaired and gave away 150 donated bikes to sixth through ninth graders who attended training sessions on bike safety, riding and repair.

Adults can earn bicycles by volunteering to spend four hours working in the bike shop.



FOLEY, Ala.—

Crowd Enjoys the 'Mouth of the South'

The Rev. Ed Cotton, a retired clergyman from Pace, Fla., delighted 180 UM Men and their guests in Foley UMC with his impersonation of Jerry Clower, the late great Grand Ole Opry star.

Howard Gerald "Jerry" Clower (1926 -1998) was a popular country comedian best known for his stories of the rural South and nicknamed "The Mouth of Mississippi."

Brian Grantham, president of the Foley UM Men, said the evening grew out of the cooperative efforts of men from Providence UMC in Spanish Fort, Ala., and Rosinton UMC in Robertsdale, Ala.

The primary purpose of the dinner



Brian Grantham, president of Foley UM Men (left), welcomes the costumed Rev. Ed and Mrs. Cotten.

event was to have a good time with friends, but the event also raised more than \$1,000 for a new roof on the Foley church.

COLUMBIA, S.C.—

Conference sponsors five teaching events

UM Men of the South Carolina Annual Conference conducted five teaching events in various locations across the state.

"These teaching churches have just been amazing, and the main thing is, it's showing how, not just telling men," said Herman Lightsey, conference president of UM Men. "When we first started looking at 'teaching churches,' we wanted to teach men how to build up men's ministries in churches and get men and their families into church, but now you see men going out in the community, in reading programs, and in fighting human trafficking."



A "teaching-event" at St. Mark UMC in Taylors, S.C. provided highly emotional opportunities for cross-racial dialogue. Photo by Tony Ballenger, South Carolina Advocate.

The first teaching church event was held in August on "Unconditional Love." The event at St. Mark UMC in Taylors helped bridge racial divides by focusing on diversity, biases and discrimination.

Later that month Grace UMC in North Augusta hosted "Awaken the Warrior," drawing from Romans 13:11-14, and Belin Memorial UMC in Murrells Inlet, hosted "An Effort to Stop Human Trafficking." That event featured law enforce-

ment, theologians and representatives from the U.S. Senate to learn what men can do to put an end to what organizers called “this modern-day form of slavery.”

In September, Stewart Chapel UMC in Huger hosted “In Search of the David within You,” a conference featuring two nights of worship and words of wisdom from the Revs. James Friday, Keith Britton, Jeffrey Salley and Jeff Dunn.

The final event occurred in October at Journey UMC in Columbia on the topic “Facing the Future with No Fear: Creating a Culture that Attracts, Wins and Sends.”

TUCSON, Ariz.—

Young people participate in co-ed STEM Scouts program launch

Douglas G. Wright, scouting coordinator for the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, introduced STEM (a co-ed Scout program focused on science, technology, engineering and math) to the district superintendent of the Tucson school district.



Dave McKeehan (left) and Doug Wright talk about solar-powered crickets at a STEM day camp in Tucson.

High school, middle school and elementary school programs are now underway for young people who might not be into camping or hiking, but who can now participate in scientific laboratory experiments.

“I believe the more we can prepare our young women and men for the world in which science, technology, engineering and math skills are so critical, the better the world will become,” said Phoenix Area Bishop Robert Hoshibata, “Kudos to

the STEM Scouts Program.”

The bishop held three Bishops Dinners for Scouting in 2014.

STEM Scout units are now being formed in Tucson, and will later be introduced to Las Vegas and Phoenix area school districts and churches.

CIMARRON, N.M.—

Scouts receive New Testaments

Boy Scouts who are about to hike through Philmont’s rugged wilderness receive New Testaments at a Protestant worship service prior to their departure. The books are gifts from UM Men and other denominational groups.



WATSON, La.—

Men honor pastors

UM Men of the Baton Rouge District invited 86 district pastors to a pastor appreciation breakfast. Volunteers from Live Oak UMC prepared and served the food

Joe Kelley, former Louisiana UM Men president and current national prayer advocate, provided door prizes, and each pastor received a \$25 gift card at a local restaurant.

At the end of the breakfast, laity laid hands on the clergy, and prayed for them.

CHESTERTON, Ind.—

Troop awards 165 merit badges

BSA Troop 929 at Chesterton UMC awarded a record 165 merit badges, 25 rank advancements, and 25 special awards including an award for a mile

swim by a father and son.

Chesterton UM Men reactivated the troop in 1995 with eight Webelo Scouts; the troop has grown to 55 Scouts.



**COLUMBIA, S.C.—
Church aids home for troubled women**

UM Men of Windsor UMC and men of Christian Faith Fellowship, a neighboring congregation, painted and made structural repairs at the Killingsworth Home, an eight bedroom residence for women recovering from alcohol and/or drug abuse, incarceration, mental and emotional problems, violence and assault.

The churches also provided a grill-out for the workers, staff and residents of Killingsworth.

**NATCHITOCHES, La.—
Football team packages Stop Hunger Now meals**

UM Men of Natchitoches underwrote the cost for the Northwestern State University Demon Football team to pack 20,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now.

One hundred players were joined by 10 Scouts and other volunteers to mix, weigh, seal, box, and deliver dry-meal ingredients for schools and orphanages worldwide.



Coach Ben Norton (left) and Doug Ireland, NSU sports information director and president of Natchitoches UM Men, lead the October meal packaging event.

**ROSEBURG, Ore.—
200 books of daily devotions sent to first responders**

Following the Oct. 1 killing of eight students and one professor at Umpqua Community College, the Strength for Service team sent 200 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to first responders.

The books were sent at the request of Roseburg Police Chaplain Tom Pohlman following his debriefing of 70 first responders and 10 ambulance drivers.

Police officers responding to the incident engaged the shooter, Christopher Harper-Mercer, a 26-year-old student enrolled at the school. After being wounded, the gunman killed himself. Ambulance drivers rushed nine wounded students to nearby hospitals.



There were tears and cheers when Umpqua Community College students returned to classes for the first time.

**HIXSON, Tenn.—
Troop and church prepare shoeboxes**



Previous recipients of shoeboxes express their appreciation.

Boy Scout Troop 166 assisted the Aldersgate Sunday school class and other members of Burks UMC with preparing 370 Christmas shoeboxes for the UMCOR disaster warehouse in Decatur, Ala.

Shoeboxes for children ages 2-12 included small gifts, combs, hand mirrors, flip flops, underwear, shorts, tee-shirts, socks and school supplies. Each box was marked with the age and gender of the intended recipient.

BLUFFTON, S.C.—

Men give \$1,000 to Boys and Girls Club

Men of Bluffton UMC annually support Bluffton Self-Help, Beaufort Council on Aging, Bluffton Meals on Wheels, Bluffton UMC, and the Bluffton Boys and Girls Club.

“BUMMs” raise funds from the Bluffton Village Festival, Bluffton Christmas parade, pecan sales, and donations.

Send news of your men’s organization to Rich Peck (rpeck@gcumm.org).



The Year 2015 by the numbers

19	Hunger Relief Advocates	6,500	Churches with scouting units
19	Organizations granted affiliate or endorsed relationship with GCUMM	10,503	Scouting units in UM churches
21	Scout leaders trained at Philmont Training Course	20,000	New Testaments with Psalms given to Scouts at high adventure centers
36	Men certified as men’s ministry specialists with 31 in the candidacy process	20,209	Volunteers engaged in Society of St. Andrew projects
37	of the 56 Conferences in the U.S. maintained or increased the number of local church charters with the GCUMM in 2014	\$20,980	Contributed to the Upper Room Prayer Line
24	Bishop’s Awards of Excellence	35,000	Copies of <i>Strength for Service to God and Community</i> distributed
75	Good Samaritan Awards	\$182,000	Provided by UM Men to Meals for Millions
80	Conference presidents and prayer advocates trained face to face	273,590	Prayer requests received by the Upper Room Prayer Line
220	Small group e-meetings conducted from the GCUMM office	331,000	Youth served by scouting units in UM churches
224	Cross and Flame Awards	500,000	<i>Strength for Service</i> books printed for military troops since 2000
303	Scouting Ministry Specialists	8,200,000	Servings of food provided by UM Men through Meals for Million.
3,568	Chartered groups of UM Men		
5,716	PRAY awards given through UM churches		

Enter the National Contest

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Now is the time to enter the second annual national contest for the most outstanding local church, district and conference ministries to men.

Wall plaques will be presented to each of the top five local-church ministries, the top district and the top annual conference. The top local church will receive a trophy and a wall plaque.

The deadline for entries is Feb. 1, 2016.

There is no cost to enter and there is no form to fill out.

If you are chartered, simply describe the ministries, the number of people involved, the amount of money raised and to whom it was contributed, along with ways in which the ministries have made a difference in the church and community. Do not confine your report to the activities of the small group of men who engage in Bible study. The ministries encompass all the activities of men in your church, district or annual conference.

E-mail information and optional photos to RPeck@gcumm.org or mail entries to Rich Peck, 1000 17th Ave. S., Nashville, TN 37212.

Entries will be judged by a panel composed of conference and jurisdictional presidents of

UM Men selected by Dan Ramsey, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP).

Winning entries will be announced at the March 3-6, 2016, NACP meeting in Nashville. Winning ministries will be advised in advance of the meeting so representatives may plan to personally receive the awards. Plaques and

trophy may also be presented during annual conference sessions.

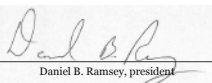
Local church, district and conference winners will be featured in the summer 2016 issue of *UM Men* magazine.

NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR BEST

FIRST PLACE

Your church in your city and state

Selected in 2016 by the General Commission on United Methodist Men
And the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men



Daniel B. Ramsey, president



James E. Swanson, Sr., president



Larry Johnson, president of Wylie, Texas UM Men (right) receives a second-place plaque from NACP President Dan Ramsey.

Groups related to the General Commission on UM Men

Affiliate Partners

These are nonprofit organizations that have the closest relationships to the commission. In each case, there is an exchange of board membership, and some level of financial support to or from the commission and UMM members to support common projects.

United Methodist Men Foundation
National Association of Conference Presidents
Society of Saint Andrew
Strength for Service

Affiliate Organizations

These are nonprofit organizations with which the commission and UMM members have a history of cooperative ministry. Representatives of these agencies attend meetings of the commission and representatives of the commission attend board meetings of these organizations.

Boy Scouts of America
PET International
Programs of Religious Activities with Youth
Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries National
The Upper Room Living Prayer Center
Girl Scouts of the USA

Endorsed organizations

These are ministries which the governing board of the commission, the National Association of Conference Presidents, and staff have a cooperative working relationship. The ministries share at least one common goal with the commission.

Camp Fire National Headquarters
Denominational Men's Ministry Leaders
The Hope of Hearing
Man in the Mirror
National Coalition of Ministries to Men
Stop Hunger Now
The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries
Wesleyan Building Brothers
Lead Like Jesus



PET International celebrated a new affiliate relationship with the General Commission on UM Men at a September conference in Austin, Texas. Dan Ramsey, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men (seated in cart), said it was a great "fit" for the national organization. PET is an acronym for Personal Energy Transportation, a non-denominational volunteer-driven organization that provides \$300 hand-crank mobility carts for people without the use of their legs. There are 24 shops across the U.S. and in Zambia. Pictured behind Ramsey and the 50,000th PET mobility cart are (from left) Von Driggs (Lindale, Texas), PET director of operations. Scott Walters (Alpharetta, Ga.), PET executive director; Jim Conn (Maple Grove, Minn.) chair of PET Board of Trustees.



UM Men awards

Pete Blankenship

Lay leader restarts UM Men

ANDERSON, S.C.—

Men of Zion UMC presented Pete Blankenship with a Life Membership Award for restarting a dormant group of UM Men in 2012 and serving as president since that time.

The lay leader directs fundraising efforts including a “Chili Cook-off” and “Pig Roast.”

He delivers most of the devotionals, arranges speakers, and provides breakfast for monthly UM Men meetings, and he preaches when the pastor is on vacation.

He is also the driving force behind an annual UMM banquet for women, and he directs the collecting and giving of a “love offering” for Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and mission projects.

Blankenship encouraged men to support a conference effort to provide 1 million books for children and he organized a spiritual retreat for men at Myrtle Beach.



Wife Toni, pins a Life Membership Award on Pete's jacket. Photo by Danny Thompson.

John Kelley

Bus driver cooks breakfasts and build homes

WEST COLUMBIA, S.C.—

Men of Mt. Hebron UMC honored John Kelley with a Life Membership Award for his service on mission trips, Habitat for

Humanity builds and cooking crews, including the team that provides Easter Sunday breakfasts for the entire congregation.

He also drives the church bus, ushers, leads meetings, and delivers devotions.

Henry Wentz

Candy man makes life sweeter

RALEIGH, N.C.—

Men of Wesley Memorial UMC presented a Life Membership Award to Henry Wentz in recognition of his significant contribution to the church and to the UM Men's organization.

“Henry is never without his bag of treats, offered with a warm greeting,” said Jerry Barker. “A Sunday school and worship without Henry is not the same because the candy man always makes our life a little sweeter.”



Henry Wentz admires his life membership pin.

Wentz participates in Bible studies, leads an adult Sunday school class, assists in leading worship services, and supports fund-raising activities.

“His focus is not inward, but outward to all, assisting them to engage in the process of spiritual growth,” said Barker. “You would be hard pressed to name one area where Henry has not been an active church member and a UM Man.”

The Rev. Rick Mang *Pastor serves a therapeutic music entertainer*

GRAPEVINE, Texas—

First UMC presented Rick Mang with a Cross and Flame Award for 10 years of service prior to his June, 2015, appointment to First UMC of Crowley, Texas.

A 1976 graduate of Texas Wesleyan College, Mang served for six years as a Fort Worth policeman, prior to his 2000 graduation from Perkins School of Theology and his ordination as an elder.

For more than 20 years, Mang has been singing to senior adults and children in libraries, hospitals and Scout camps. He has also served as a volunteer police department chaplain.



The Rev. Rick Mang

Rose Schrader *Church honors teacher, music director and secretary*

QUEENS N.Y.—

Men of Richmond Hill UMC presented Rose Schrader with a Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence for 23 years of service to the church as a Sunday school teacher,

Vacation Bible School director, part-time church secretary, organizer, and music director.

The 25-year veteran school teacher also served as treasurer of the



Rose Schrader

Board of Trustees, a member of the Missions Committee, the Membership and Evangelism Committee and the Nominations and Personnel Committee.

The widow of a clergyman and mother of two, Schrader said the award was especially meaningful as her grandmother was also named Susanna.

Charles Cedars *Fishermen founder serves in soup kitchen*

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. —

Charles Cedars, a retired Marine Corp officer and one of the founders of the Fishermen, a UM Men organization at St. Peter's UMC, received a Life Membership Award.

"He served for many years as our ministry representative at the local county prison, and faithfully served monthly at the local soup kitchen," said Michael Fleming, scribe of the Fishermen of St. Peter's.

William D. Crosby *Former conference president inducted into John Wesley Society*

DENVER, Colo.—

Bill Crosby, former president of Rocky Mountain Conference UM Men and men of Park Hill UMC, was inducted into the John Wesley Society on Father's Day.

"His leadership has kept men's ministry a mainstay support of the church's mission work and youth trips," said Bill West, cur-

rent conference president. "Bill pioneered the annual Spring Pancake Breakfast that serves 2,000, and the Hamburger Picnic and Car Show that attracted 350 people to view



Bill Crosby and his wife, Louise, now deceased.

40 antique cars and motorcycles.” Funds from the events supported two annual youth mission trips, the monthly shelter and food service for homeless women, and the “Nothing but Nets” campaign.

Errol Kramer

Five-time president fries fish and makes repairs

MISSOURI CITY, Texas—

Men of First UMC presented five-time president Errol Kramer with a Life Membership Award.

Kramer started a church-wide golf tournament and supported efforts to distribute *Strength for Service* books. He purchases and fries filets for an annual fish fry, and he is always first to volunteer when minor repairs are needed in the church.

Steve Mahaffey

President coordinates meals, movies and car washes

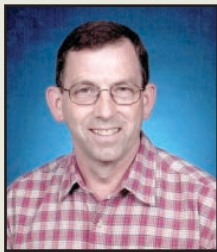
WASHINGTON, W.Va.—

Men of Lubeck UMC honored their president with a Life Membership Award for coordinating monthly breakfasts, mother-daughter dinners, and movie nights for the congregation.

Steve Mahaffey also led a hanging-of-the-greens dinner to begin Advent, and he helped raise funds through car washes, ice cream sales at a homecoming festival, and catering for a picnic for DuPont retirees.

He serves the church as worship leader, a trustee, a participant in the puppet ministry, and a member of the choir.

Mahaffey also serves as president of Little Kanawha District UM Men and as president of a home owners’ association.



Steve Mahaffey

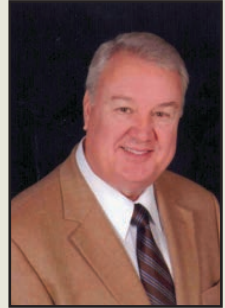
The Rev. Ken Lyons

UM clergyman honored by PRAY Board

ST. LOUIS, Mo.— Directors of Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY) presented Dr. Ken Lyons with an award for six years of service on the board, including a two-year term as president.

The former district superintendent in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference also served on the PRAY Nominating Committee and Endowment Board.

Lyons served as the conference coordinator of scouting ministries and a member of the Baltimore Area Boy Scout Council and president of the council’s Interfaith Committee.



The Rev. Ken Lyons.

Edward R. Frank

Still volunteering at age 96

EAST POINT, Ga.—

Men of First Mallalieu UMC presented Edward R. Frank, a U.S. Army veteran, with a Life Membership Award for exceptional service to the church and the community.

“Ed has worked diligently with UM Men for decades,” said UMM President Larry Few. “Ed was always first to volunteer for any effort the UMM established.

At 96 years of age Ed proved that his age was only a number.”



UM Men President Larry Few (right) honors Edward R. Frank.

Does scouting change lives? YOU BET!

A three-year survey of young people aged 6-12 in the Philadelphia area shows the more time kids spend in scouting the better the outcomes in character development.

The survey of 1,800 Cub Scouts and 400 non-Scouts under age 12 found youngsters who are engaged in scouting report positive changes in helpfulness, helpfulness, obedience, cheerfulness, kindness and trustworthiness.

For three years, a research team from Tufts University worked with the BSA Cradle of Liberty Council to measure the character attributes of Scouts and non-Scouts. The study was funded by the John Templeton Foundation.

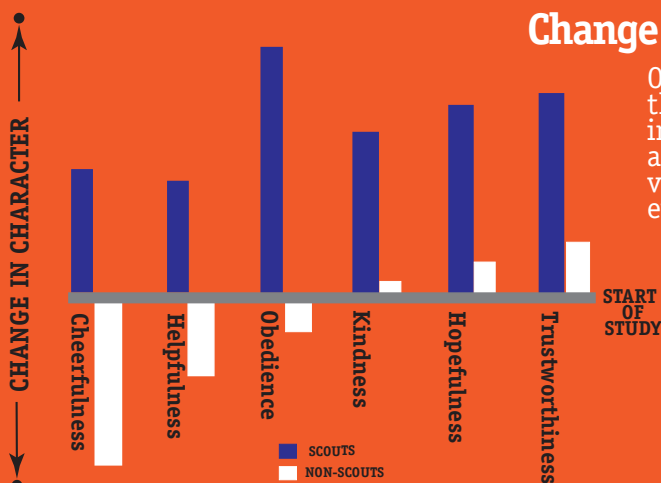
At the beginning, there were no differences in character attributes between Scouts and non-Scouts.

At the end of three years, non-Scouts decreased in cheerfulness, helpfulness and obedience while Cub Scouts showed major improvement in all three character attributes. Both groups showed some improvement in kindness, helpfulness, and trustworthiness, but Cub Scouts were far ahead of the non-Scout group.

When asked what was “most important” to them, Scouts were significantly more likely than non-Scouts to choose “helping others” or “doing the right thing” versus “being smart,” “being the best,” or “playing sports.”

Change in Character

Over the course of the study, the change in positive character attributes for Scouts vs. non-Scouts became evident.



UM Scout represents U.S. at Nagasaki Event

NAGASAKI, Japan—

Theo Johnson, a member of Boy Scout Troop 175 and First UMC in Waukesha, Wis., served as the sole ambassador of Boy Scouts of America to the August Nagasaki Peace Forum.

Theo joined 30,000 other Scouts attending the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Yamaguchi, Japan. During the event one person from each of the 161 nations attending the jamboree was invited to participate in the Aug. 5-6 Nagasaki Peace Forum.



Theo Johnson (center) is joined at the World Jamboree in Yamaguchi, Japan by Dr. Charles Goodwin (left) and Greg Godwin, a pastor in West Virginia who served as a chaplain at the jamboree. Godwin gave Theo the kimono from the 1971 World Scout Jamboree in Japan.

The event at the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Park commemorated the 70th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

“The program provided delegates with opportunities to learn more about the impact of war as well as focus on the positive aspects of peace,” said Theo. “As I observed how the events that occurred 70 years ago affected the featured speakers (people who had survived the bombings), I had a

better understanding of how war had defined their views of Americans. Although this was a very uncomfortable situation for me, it has profoundly changed how I see the world and all its citizens.”

Theo said the two days in Nagasaki and the 12 days in Yamaguchi were “an incredible experience.”

He said the “wow” factor really hit him as he boarded a bus to Nagasaki. “I realized that I had the opportunity to represent BSA and USA at an international forum.”

Theo is a high school sophomore, an honor student and a member of the soccer and robotics teams. He is also a member of the Key Club, and the International Club.

He was selected to represent American Scouts for a variety of reasons including the fact that in 2013 he raised \$820 for the “Nothing but Nets” campaign to eliminate malaria. He received the Good Samaritan Award following the presentation of the check to West Virginia Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball during the National BSA Jamboree.



The World Jamboree of Scouting was held July 28 to Aug. 8, 2015, with the theme “A Spirit of Unity.” The Kanji Character “和” (WA) embraces many meanings such as unity, harmony, cooperation, friendship and peace. The Aug. 4 issue of the daily newspaper noted how 30,000 Scouts from the 161 nations spent 12 days, eating, sleeping and trading patches.

Twenty-five leaders attend Philmont training session



A large amount of time was spent in small group discussions to focus on the specific needs of participants. UM clergy discuss ways in which scouting can expand youth ministry opportunities.



Every evening four religious services occur at the same time. Members of the UM training group attend the service of The Church of the Latter Day Saints; they also attended the Jewish service, the Catholic service, and the Protestant service.



Participants in the training event gained new insight on scouting programs and shared personal experiences.

CIMARRON, N.M. —

Twenty-five UM leaders attended a July training seminar on Scouting in the UMC at the Philmont Scout Ranch. Sessions were led by Amanda Vogt, former national president of Venturing and a member of the General Commission on UM Men.

Topics covered during the week-long seminar included:

- 1) Studies available through St. Louis-based Programs of Religious Activities with Youth;
- 2) charter organization representatives;
- 3) local church coordinators;
- 4) *Strength for Service* devotional books for Scouts;
- 5) safe sanctuary and youth-protection programs; and
- 6) changes in Boy Scout and Cub Scout programs.

“They all left Philmont recharged for the next year in service to Christ and to the youth of America,” said Vogt.

20,000 New Testaments will be sent to four Scout camps

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

The Scouting Office of UM Men is cooperating with the Association of Baptists for Scouting, members of Churches of Christ for Scouting, the Catholic Committee for Scouting, and the National Lutheran Association on Scouting to produce and distribute 20,000 copies of the New Testaments for Scouts at four high-adventure sites.

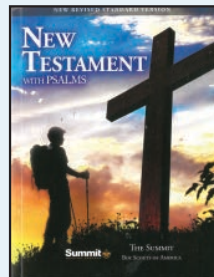
The BSA Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico will receive 11,000 copies. The Northern Tier High Adventure Centers in Minnesota will receive 2,000. The BSA Florida Sea Base will receive 5,000, and the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Tennessee will receive 3,000 copies of the New Revised Standard Version.

The books will be given

out to Scouts at base camps prior to their departure for hiking, canoeing or boating adventures.

Usually chaplains distribute the books at worship services at base camps.

Larry Coppock, top scouting executive for the General Commission on UM Men, celebrated this first-time cooperative effort. “While sometimes it is challenging for faith groups with very diverse teachings to work together, the Boy Scouts of America through its Religious Relationships Committee, offers a unique venue for collaboration and partnership,” said Coppock. “The high adventure New Testaments are a testament to the servant leadership of the members of this committee to share the Good News.”



Covers of the New Revised Standard Version of the New Testaments include the name of high adventure centers.



Back covers of the New Testaments include the names of the denominational groups.

Scouting missionary returns to states

Ty LaValley, a scouting ministry specialist, and his wife, Cheryl, have returned to their Springfield, Ga., home following their service in Côte d'Ivoire.

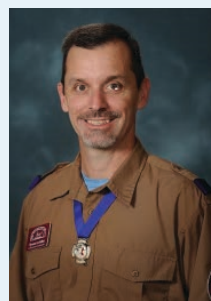
Ty cited deteriorating health as the reason for his return. “The conditions in the field were very austere,” he said. “The workload and lack of rations made it easy to succumb to ailments that I have been able to fight off back in the United States.”

Ty was commissioned as a missionary by the General Board of Global Ministries at a November, 2014, service in Quito, Ecuador.

While serving in the West African nation, Ty introduced Le Prix du Cheminement, a

scouting award with three journeys: 1) a spiritual-formation journey, 2) an evangelism journey, and 3) a mission-engagement journey.

“The youth worked together as missionaries in their own country,” said Ty. “They distributed treated mosquito nets to combat Malaria, provided water filters for villages, and gave information about preventing the spread of Ebola.”



Ty LaValley



Chaplains needed for National BSA Jamboree

The Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting of the General Commission on UM Men is recruiting chaplains for volunteer service for the BSA National Jamboree, July 19-28, 2017, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Beckley, W.Va.

In order to qualify, chaplains must be ordained clergy (active or retired). Seminary students and local pastors will be considered.

All clergy are welcome to apply, but women, ethnic minorities and adults of 40 years of age and younger are especially welcome.

Candidates need to be in excellent physical condition and have an interest in the spiritual well-being of youth and scout leaders in an outdoor setting.

If you are interested or if you need additional information, contact Larry Coppock, national director of scouting ministries (615-620-7261) (lcoppock@gcumm.org), or write GCUMM, 1000 17th Ave. S., Nashville, TN, 37212. You may also contact the Rev. Dr. J. Jason Fry (revjasonfry@gmail.com).

The “Live Scouting’s Adventure” theme of the jamboree is a nod to what happens daily in packs, troops, teams, posts, ships and crews nationwide, says Ralph

de la Vega, jamboree chairman and president and CEO of AT&T Mobile. “We know that our members live scouting’s adventure every day by pursuing challenging and diverse experiences.”

National Scout jamborees from 1981 to 2010 were held at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. The 2013 event moved to its permanent home at the

Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia’s New River Gorge region.

The site includes five miles of zip lines, 36 miles of mountain bike trails, 13 acres of shooting sports ranges, kayaking, rock climbing, bouldering, and skateboarding.



Clergyman reunites with his former mentor

By Erik Alsgaard

FULTON, Md.—

When he was in second grade, Chris became a Cub Scout. He joined scouting because his cousin was always “out doing really fun stuff, like camping.”

Chris wasn't raised in the church. In fact, the only time he attended church was on Scout Sundays.

To his surprise, his mother enrolled him in the “God and Family” program which happened to meet at Baldwin Memorial UMC in Millersville. The pastor of the church and the leader of this program at that time was the Rev. Ken Lyons, and he required everyone to bring a Bible to every session.

Introduced to Bible

Chris found a Bible at home; it hadn't been touched in decades.

Lyons showed Chris and the others how to use it. “That's the first time I ever learned how to use a Bible,” Chris said.

Chris also learned, for the first time, at age 9, that the church—specifically, The United Methodist Church—is a warm, welcoming group of people.

Eventually, Chris's cousin became an Eagle Scout and, at the age of 18, so did Chris.

“My scouting experience has prepared me for a lifetime of leadership and cultural impact with integrity and honor,” said Chris — the Rev. Chris Owens, now pastor at Trinity UMC in Annapolis. He shared his story and the power of scouting at the annual Bishop's Dinner for Scouting, held at the Conference Mission Center in October.

Owens spoke about all the ways scouting have impacted his life, none more important



The Rev. Chris Owens (left) reunites with his former teacher, the Rev. Ken Lyons,

than the relationships he formed along the way. “If it was not for scouting,” he said, “if it wasn’t for pastors like Ken Lyons, if it wasn’t for churches who took an interest in my troop, my life would not be what it is today.”

Introduced by former mentor

The person who introduced Owens as the speaker at the Bishop’s Dinner was none other than Lyons, now a retired elder in the Baltimore-Washington Conference and scouting ministry coordinator for the conference.

“Chris is someone I look up to, now,” said Lyons in his introduction of Owens. “I’m proud to say that.”

“I hope you can see what a powerful impact a church can have on Girl Scouting, on Boy Scouting, on Adventure Scouting,” Owens said. “When congregations host a troop, you do far more than just open the doors and pray that nothing gets broken.”

Owens encouraged the 120 representatives from 55 churches to look at scouting as an extension of their youth ministry. He offered four practical ways that churches can form partnerships with scouting.

- Show up – visit troop meetings, attend Courts of Honor.
- Make a relationship with the troop’s planning committee –support their work by doing more than unlocking doors and turning on lights.
- Teach a religious emblems class.
- Volunteer.

Bishop Matthews

Bishop Marcus Matthews echoed Owens’ words, noting that it would only take one hour a week to make an impact on another person’s life.

“These young people who we are privileged to see in our scouting programs, these young people need us,” Bishop Matthews said. “They need people like Ken or Chris. They need citizens who are willing to be role models, people who are willing to give up

some of their time to help make a difference in someone else’s life.”

The bishop stressed the urgency of the situation, saying that the fast-paced nature of society today places heavy demands on youth.

“Our task is to continue to go and seek out those young persons and to instill in them something of the hope, something of the joy, something of the blessings that you experienced, so that they, too, can be receiving some of this joy,” Bishop Matthew said.

Ken Lyons

Involved in scouting for 61 years, Lyons says he’s passionate about it because scouting is faith-based and builds character.

“When the church and scouting come together,” he said, “it becomes an evangelism tool. Because children will join the Scout unit quicker than they will come through the door to participate in a church program.”

Lyons, a former district superintendent, noted that the PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) awards are a key entry point into exploring faith in scouting. Formerly called “God and Country” awards, PRAY awards are given to more than 28,000 Scouts of all ages every year.

“These precious lives, these young people who come to us, often every week,” Owens said, “I pray that we would bless them richly, and that we would love them with our prayers and our support and our presence. And then, watch them become God’s blessing in the world.”



The Rev. Erik Alsgaard is a clergy member of the Baltimore-Washington Conference and serves as editor in the Ministry of Communications there. He was introduced to the UMC through scouting.

Scouting Awards

Rob Shelton

Cubmaster helps 60 youth receive PRAY awards

NORTH AUGUSTA, S.C.—

Grace UMC presented Cubmaster Rob Shelton with a Cross and Flame Award for enabling 60 young people to receive “God and Me” and “God and Family” awards through PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth).

Shelton became a Cub Scout at age 9. In 1982, he took a 32-mile canoe trip down Delaware River flood waters.

He later became a senior patrol leader for a 50-member troop in Greensboro, S.C.

After achieving the rank of Eagle, he served as activities director for the Old North State Council’s summer camp and later camp director for the Oconeechee Council at Camp Durant. He served as a trek leader at the Philmont Scout Reservation, and he attended the National BSA Jamboree. He also held several Order of the Arrow offices.

William Norris

Church honors advancement chairman

PALMDALE, Calif.—

First UMC presented a Cross and Flame Award to Bill Norris for his past service as a scoutmaster and his present role as the advancement chairman for the Antelope Valley District of the Western Los Angeles County BSA Council. He also chairs the District Eagle Scout Board of Review.

“Bill has consistently promoted service to God as an essential part of scouting,” said Craig Moles, scouting coordinator of the Palmdale church. “He encouraged many Scouts to earn their religious emblems.” Norris serves the church as an usher and a trustee.

Evelyn Archer

Girl Scout plans to become pastor

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—

Chestnut Memorial UMC presented Evelyn Archer with a Good Samaritan Award for her service on mission trips, Vacation Bible School, the food pantry, and other projects around the church.

For her Girl Scout Gold Award project, Evelyn designed an educational program for preschool children that explains sea life in the Chesapeake Bay. The activities are associated with preschool trips to Watermen’s Museum.

Evelyn is going to be a great leader in whatever she does, and she will honor her Lord and Savior by going into the ministry,” said Tim Ewing, co-scouting coordinator for the church.

Jasen Smith

Prayer life serves as example to other youth

HUDSON, Texas—

Bethlehem UMC presented Jasen Smith with a Good Samaritan Award for inspiring a 15-hour “prayer-a-thon,” providing meals in a homeless shelter, assisting in worship services, and leading the youth group.

“Others have told me how seeing him quietly pray in the school cafeteria has influenced them to be more intentional about their prayer life,” said the Rev. Cynthia Doran, pastor. “Jasen shared some entries in his prayer journal with me, and they are all gracious and discerning. Nothing he does is self-centered.”



Evelyn Archer

Jacob Manges *Scout provides corner markers for 97 gravesites*

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—

Leaders of Troop 55 and Fountain City UMC presented Jacob Manges with a Good Samaritan Award after Jacob marked the corners of 97 graves in a church-owned cemetery.

For his Eagle project, Jacob and other troop members also brought in a ton of gravel and planted flowers and bushes for the 83-year-old cemetery entranceway.

Adam Broussard and Collin Loyacono *Scouts achieve rank of Eagle*

ST. FRANCISVILLE, La.—

Adam Broussard and Collin Loyacono, members of BSA Troop 61, achieved the rank of Eagle.

Both Scouts are students at West Feliciana High School. Adam is a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church and Collin is a member of Grace Episcopal Church.



Linda Underwood *Cub leader introduces community service projects*

WARNER ROBINS, Ga.—

Trinity UMC presented Cub Scout Committee Chair Linda Underwood with a Cross and Flame Award for coordinating the efforts of 52 Cub Scouts to provide lunches for Habitat for Humanity workers, ringing Salvation Army bells in December, collecting canned goods for a food pantry, delivering Meals on Wheels, and removing flags from Andersonville National Cemetery after Memorial Day.

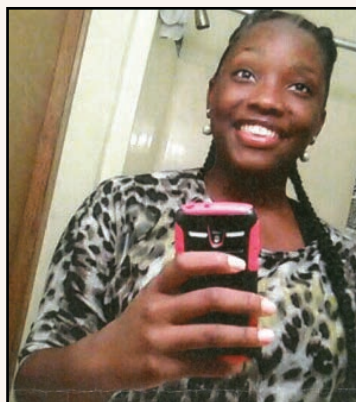
“Linda is responsible for the sustained growth of the organization and the ability to provide a vehicle for fun while teaching them citizenship, service to others and faith in the Lord,” said Roger Boan, a scouting ministry specialist.

Vicie Pope and Ariel Wigley *Charter members of Scout troop complete God and Life course*

PENSACOLA, Fla.—

Myrtle Grove UMC presented Vicie Pope and Ariel Wigley with Good Samaritan Awards for being charter members of the Heritage Girls Troop and for completing the God and Life course offered by PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth).

Vicie helps at a retirement home where her grandmother works and she also volunteers to work with children at the



Vicie Pope

church and at a UM clothing and food bank for the homeless.

Ariel helped an elderly person clean up after a flood and helped her move back into her home after restoration work was completed.

She also gave out school supplies, served dinners to the homeless, and supported children's ministries.



Ariel Wigley

Garrett Little *Scout builds prayer garden*

MIDDLETOWN, Pa.—

Geyers UMC presented Garrett Little with a Good Samaritan Award after he organized a team to raise funds and build a prayer garden for the church. Forty volunteers spent 300 service hours to provide the church with a gazebo, five benches, shrubbery, stepping stones, and an angel statue.



Garrett Little

A sophomore at Lower Dauphin High School in Hummelstown, the 15-year-old is a member of the cross country and track teams.

In 2011, he was named the American Legion Cub Scout of the Year for Pennsylvania.

Jadyn Meyer *School supplies for Kenyan children*

ALLEN, Texas—

Suncreek UMC gave Jadyn Meyer a Good Samaritan Award for providing school supplies for preschool children in Kithetu, Kenya.

She raised \$200 to purchase books, memory games, markers, crayons and paper supplies, and she helped lead a Vacation Bible School for 450 children in Kenya.



Noah Foster *Scout renovates outdoor chapel*

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—

Chestnut Memorial UMC presented Noah Foster with a Good Samaritan Award following an 8-day effort to renovate the outdoor chapel. He raised \$450 to, add four benches, build an altar, replace a railing and install new steps.

Noah also helped with the church's ministry to the homeless, delivered Christmas cards to nursing homes, laid wreaths on the graves of veterans, served on a mission team to Costa Rica, and helped with children's church and Vacation Bible School.

In Memoriam

FAIRFAX, Va.—

Jack Koefoot, a 78-year Boy Scout leader died at age 91 in a senior care center here. He joined the Boy Scouts in 1936 at the age of 13 and completed 70 merit badges and became an Eagle three years later.

He was a scoutmaster in the early 1950s and later formed an Explorer Post. He received a Silver Beaver Award in 1963, and in 2011 at the age of 88, Koefoot was recognized by the Boy



Scouts with its 75-year veteran award.

He received an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and a graduate degree from the University of Chicago in 1953. He worked for Sears, Roebuck and Company as a quality control engineer.

A memorial service was held on the lake at Owasppe Scout Reservation near Whitehall, Mich.

Bishop receives scouting gifts

The Rev. Greg Godwin, vice-chair of the UM Scouting Ministry Committee, presents gifts to Nigeria Area Bishop John Wesley Yohanna.

Godwin, a pastor in West Virginia, presented the bishop with a Scout scarf from Philmont Training Center, New Testaments for Scouts at high adventure bases, and Nothing But Nets Scout patches.

Attending his first meeting of the General Commission on UM Men in August, the bishop said communities in his episcopal area received 10,000 bed nets to protect them against malaria. He expressed appreciation to Scouts for their role in making the nets available. He also noted that Boy's and Girl's Brigade in his nation are closely related to churches.

The commission worked with other denominations to provide 20,000 New Testaments with Psalms to the all four BSA high adventure bases: Philmont Scout Ranch



Greg Godwin (left) presents scouting-related gifts to Nigeria Bishop John Wesley Yohanna.

in New Mexico, Northern Tier in Minnesota, the Florida Sea Base and the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. Each edition includes the official grace prayer of the respective high adventure base.



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