



# UMM EN

The magazine of United Methodist Men



## What happened in Portland?

# A letter from the General Secretary

This issue deals with several topics but the main question for us to answer is “What happened at General Conference?”

Let me begin with the obvious: it was better than Tampa. As a general secretary, I get to see the UMC at its best, and at its worst. For me, these two weeks were exhausting, challenging, frustrating, moving, inspiring, and in some parts hopeful and in some parts less hopeful. I am pleased to report that the misguided, poorly written “Plan UMC-Revised” legislation was defeated. This massive plan was considered in several legislative committees and was defeated in a combination of actions; part of the plan was declared unconstitutional (again), part was referred to an entity that will not act on it, and the rest was soundly voted down. I hope the next plan to reorganize church structures will include working with the agencies involved.

For years we have talked about being a global church; this conference actually felt like a global gathering. Many members from outside the U.S. were in leadership positions within the legislative committees. Also, a large number of well-informed younger delegates held leadership positions.

There was great music and inspiring worship every day. And there were reports that reflect successes in campaigns to end malaria, increase the percentage of vital congregations, provide scholarships, create e-readers so that all will have text books, and support of seminaries in central conferences. The



commission’s video report was well received.

The assembly established a 2017-2020 budget lower than initially expected, but higher than the final recommendation prior to the beginning of the conference. The increase is directed to theological education in the central conferences, an area of great need and growth.

Two issues were dealt with which may change future sessions of General Conference. First, it is clear that we cannot legislate how we deal with human sexuality. So, we requested a new commission to be created by the Council of Bishops, representing the whole church. If needed, we will deal with this issue in a special session before the 2020 conference in Minneapolis. Secondly, we wasted a great deal of time on parliamentary maneuvering. The unfortunate result is petitions with merit which had been considered carefully in legislative committees were not considered in plenary because we ran out of time. So, we have requested that an independent professional parliamentarian be used at future sessions.

Our exhibit booth reached lay and clergy from around the world. Our ministries to men and to youth through scouting were displayed and staffed well. We continue to do great work to bring men and youth to an on-growing relationship with Christ.

Friends, do not lose heart. I believe we saw clearer than ever we are better together than split apart. The UMC has a future with hope.

Gil Hanke



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# contents

UM Men

Summer 2016

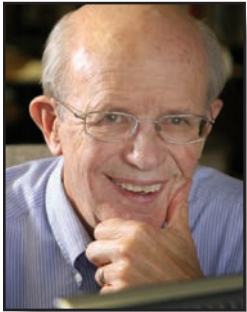
## FEATURES

- 5 What happened in Portland?
- 11 Maryland church receives top award in national contest
- 13 Additional national contest winners
- 17 More than 350 books given to firefighters
- 18 Home Depot issues rebate check
- 19 Former NFL star speaks to 2,000 in seven events
- 20 Across the Nation
- 27 MENS NEWS
- 37 SCOUTING NEWS

*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.*

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





## The four-year cycle

The general church operates on a four-year cycle, but most United Methodists are scarcely aware

of the quadrennial changes.

During General Conference sessions, United Methodists may have read about actions that took place in Portland, but most of the activities and decisions seemed far removed and slightly irrelevant to your UM Men organization and your local church.

In July, some bishops retire, some will be elected and others will be re-assigned to new episcopal areas. The average United Methodist may read or hear something about a new bishop, but, again, that news is likely to be viewed as irrelevant.

Decisions about newly elected conference and national officers of UM Men organizations may be of greater interest, but the most significant changes still occur in local churches.

While 2016 is a pivotal year, it's appropriate for this magazine to spend most of the pages on ministries in local churches. There are truly amazing ministries being conducted with, by, and for men in UM congregations around the world.

I had the joy of receiving all the entries in the national contest for the best

local churches, districts and annual conferences, and they were truly remarkable. I'm glad I wasn't a member of the judges' panel because it would have been difficult to choose among the many life-changing ministries.

Enjoy the reports on General Conference and news about the election of new national and jurisdictional officers of UM Men, but you may want to pay closer attention to the local church winners in the national contest. Here is a wealth of information about ways in which your local organization can expand its ministries to the church and community.

With 55 EMS members, Queen's Chapel UMC in Beltsville, Md., breezed away with the top award in the second annual national contest to select a UM church with the most effective ministry to with and by men. Men of that church participate in Sunday morning men's Bible study and sponsor Easter sunrise and Thanksgiving Day breakfasts. Last year, they provided 542 families with food packages valued at \$50 each. Five years ago, the men purchased a 15-passenger van for the church and they continue to pay the cost of maintenance and insurance.

Now that's a ministry worth celebrating.

We will sponsor the national contest again next year, and now is the time to expand your ministries so next year the summer issue of this magazine will carry articles about the several ministries to men in your church.

Rich Peck

# What happened in Portland?


## General Conference opens with worship

PORTLAND, Ore.—

A drum beat by indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest welcomed 864 delegates to the May 10-20 legislative assembly at the Oregon Convention Center.

A diverse group of people then welcomed delegates from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Philippines, and the U.S. and delegates joined in a cacophony of "alleluias" in many languages.

The assembly opened with an address by San Francisco Area Bishop Warner H. Brown Jr., president of the Council of Bishops. "Like the first disciples, some of us may have come to this meeting of Jesus' people we call General Conference with some mixture of hope and uncertainty," said Brown. "There are many issues on our agenda. So many things for you to consider as the plans for the church's future are adopted."

Brown noted that the "work will not be easy because we care so deeply. We are passionate about what we believe to be true." However, he encouraged delegates to "restrain our passions enough to truly listen to one another." He challenged the assembly to remember Paul's word to the Romans: "So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up" (14:19). 



In the opening worship service Bishop Warner Brown encourages delegates to restrain their passions enough to truly listen to one another. *UMNS photo by Mike DeBose*

## Swanson: It's all right for you to disagree with me; it's not all right to hate me

In a May 18 sermon, Bishop James Swanson told delegates, "It's all right for you to disagree with me, but it's not all right for you to hate me." We should not "use the weapons of Satan against the people of God."




Bishop James Swanson. *UMNS photo by Paul Jeffrey.*

"We have disagreement, said the president of the General Commission on UM Men, but "we shouldn't be in disagreement about God. Are you dependent on your political maneuvering or on God?"

The bishop addressed an unlikely text in which Jesus describes an unclean spirit who leaves a house and later returns with seven other spirits (Matthew 12:43-45).

"Jesus makes us aware that evil is personal," said Swanson. "If evil can operate in me, it will pollute everything I touch."

He noted that just as the evil spirit returned after being cast aside, sanctifying grace must follow justifying faith, or evil will again "set up shop" in our homes, and it "will come back in a pack." 

## Palmer: We are prisoners of hope

In the May 11 Episcopal Address, West Ohio Bishop Gregory V. Palmer told delegates, “We are not here for some proverbial pity party or to lick our institutional wounds. We are here because we are prisoners of hope. We have seen God at work in our lives.”

The bishop invited delegates to celebrate the places where God is at work:

- “Imagine No Malaria” raised \$65.5 million to eradicate malaria in Africa.
- The UM Committee on Relief has responded to disasters around the world.
- The church is bringing safe drinking water to such places as Sierra Leone and Flint, Mich.
- *Disciple Bible Study* is taught in local congregations and in jails.

## Acrimony is destructive

“Our capacity to turn on each other is destroying the soul of this church. We must do better, the mission deserves better; God deserves better from every one of us.

“I refuse to live into discouragement and despair because the work of becoming the beloved community is hard.”

Palmer reminded the 864 delegates that the true measure of the gospel is “how we treat one another.” He said, “The right decision can be undermined by the means we use to get there. Our credibility is at stake if we get



Bishop Gregory Palmer delivers the Episcopal Address. UMNS photo by Mike DeBose.

all the words right, but our behavior does not resemble the words.”

## Both and . . .


“The church sits at the intersection of creed and deed – social and personal holiness,” said Palmer. “We don’t get to cherry pick what we like: evangelism or social action.”

“We want to go on mission trips as long as there is a little tourism involved,” he said. However, when we return, we don’t engage in public policy that created the conditions that required mission work. “We are slow to challenge the structures of evil both in the church and the world.”

He urged delegates, staff and visitors to follow the “Therefore go” theme of the conference. “Jesus said, ‘I will be with you if you go.’”




## Strength for Service displays the ability of agencies to work together

During a report to General Conference delegates, Moses Kumar, top staff executive of the General Council on Finance and Administration, celebrated the distribution of *Strength for Service* books, a project supported by general agencies, outside corporations (Home Depot and World Wide Technology) and local churches. The effort, begun by the General Commission on UM Men, brought books of daily devotional books to first responders and military troops. 



Moses Kumar, general secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration, reviews the work of the Nashville-based agency.

## A place to hang out, shake hands and receive handouts

Every General Conference session includes an area where the ministries of UM agencies are showcased. During the 2016 session the GCUMM display offered samples of materials along with opportunities to purchase shirts, hats and other products. Sixty-seven men from 17 nations received international charters while visiting the exhibit. Managed by GCUMM staff and volunteers, the popular area included a putting green. 



## Actions related to GCUMM

The Independent Commissions Legislative Committee opposed, 35 to 10, a proposal that would change the membership and the name of GCUMM. This proposal was a replay of “Plan UMC-Revised,” which was found to be unconstitutional and unsalvageable four years ago. That committee also agreed, 42 to 2, to delete the names of specific organizations and substitute language saying, GCUMM may “promote and counsel with youth-serving organizations selected at the discretion of the commission/scouting ministries . . .” They noted that affiliations with organizations can change between sessions of the General Conference and names of more than 20 organizations with which GCUMM relates to are on the website. The Local Church Legislative Committee also agreed, 59 to 2, to eliminate the names of particular youth-serving organizations with which a local church may affiliate.

There was a last minute attempt to change the GCUMM board structure. The

petition was presented as a plan to increase the number of members from outside the US on all agency boards, but was really another “Plan UMC-Revised” attempt to revamp all the boards to reduce the number of persons selected by expertise in favor of persons selected in a prescribed formula from jurisdictions. That proposal was ruled out of order.

Mississippi Area Bishop James Swanson will return to the 2017-2020 commission, and Arkansas Area Bishop Gary Mueller replaces Bishop Tom Bickerton, who will serve on the General Board of Global Ministries. A yet-to-be-elected bishop of the Congo, will replace Bishop John Wesley Yohanna, who will serve on UM Communications.

Tarmo Lilloja from Estonia will return to the commission, and he will be joined by Carlos Manio, a new board member from the Philippines. 




## Delegates postpone action on sexuality issues

Troubled by the acrimony accompanying some 100 proposals related to human sexuality, delegates asked the bishops to help them find a way forward.

During May 17 and 18 meetings, the Council of Bishops proposed delegates defer all actions on the controversial issues until an inclusive commission, appointed by the council, has time to recommend revisions to the *Book of Discipline*.

After a lengthy debate, delegates agreed, 428 to 405, to delay all votes and support the bishops' proposal.


The bishops suggested they might call a special session of General Conference in 2018 or 2019 to deal with proposals from the commission. They also agreed to "explore options to help the church live in grace with one another — including ways to avoid further complaints,  and harm while we uphold the *Discipline*."



Bishop Bruce R. Ough reads a proposal about sexuality prepared by the Council of Bishops. Photo by Paul Jeffrey.

## Abrahams: We spend our money as if we know nothing about the gospel

In a May 17 worship service, Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams, top executive of the World Methodist Council, noted that Jesus was deeply concerned about economic activities. "It saturates the scriptures," he said. "Every 16th verse in the New Testament speaks about money." But, quoting John Haughey, he said, "We read the gospels as if we had no money, and we spend our money as if we know nothing about the gospel."

"Jesus demands costly discipleship and spirituality that feels the pain of the world," Abrahams said. "All Christian theology is a public theology shaped on the anvil of justice for those on the margins." 



Bishop Ivan Abrahams. UMNS photo by Mike DeBose.

## Don't forget who you are with

Hannah Foust, a 14-year old who helped villagers in Burkina Faso gain access to clean water, reminded delegates that the disciples assumed there was no way they could feed 5,000 people.

"They forgot who they were with," said Hannah.

Hannah did yard work, housework, baby sat, and shared her story to raise funds in order to build a well for people in that West African nation. Since then, she has funded three more wells and says she will continue to work until "I'm called to do something else."

Because of her efforts, others were led to build 13 additional wells that now provide 3,000 people with clean drinking water.

Hannah said that she found it difficult to believe a girl from Indiana could have such a powerful influence. But, she says, "It's not about me, but rather about how God is using me."

She asked delegates, "Can you imagine the miracles we can achieve if we work together?"


"God makes something HUGE happen with little things; you can help young people use their gifts to change the world.

"We have to work together so that, one day, there are no more empty plates, or cups, or hearts to fill." 



Hannah Foust talks about her efforts to raise money for water wells in Burkina Faso during a report on the work of the Connectional Table. UMNS Photo by Mike DuBose.

## The 2017-2020 budget

- \$310.7 million for the World Service Fund that supports most of the denomination's 13 general agencies (including GCUMM).
- \$104.9 million for the Ministerial Education Fund that supports UM seminaries and financial aid for seminary students.
- \$92 million for the Episcopal Fund, which supports active bishops, their support staff, retired bishops, surviving spouses and minor children of deceased bishops.
- \$41.9 million for the Black College Fund that supports 11 UM-related historically black colleges and universities.
- \$36.9 million for the General Administration Fund, which supports General Conference, Judicial Council, the UM Commission on Archives and History, and the General Council on Finance and Administration
- Nearly \$9.4 million for Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe
- \$8.2 million for the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, which supports the church's ecumenical work 



## In other actions:

Delegates began the process of amending the constitution in order for General Conference to set provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work. They established a timeline of 180 days for a college (regional group) of bishops to resolve a complaint in the denomination's supervisory process. The Council of Bishops can then assume a complaint from a college with a two-thirds vote.

Delegates authorized the creation of a 15-member Hymnal Revision Committee. The 2020 General Conference will need to approve the Hymnal Advisory Committee's recommendations, with release of the new hymnal coming as early as 2021.

Once you're a bishop, you stay a bishop — at least in the U.S. A petition to amend the constitution and impose term limits for U.S. bishops failed, 482 to 332, to get the required two-thirds vote to pass. Some bishops outside the U.S. are already subject to term limits.

Deacons may now directly ask their bishop for permission to administer the sacraments. Previously, the pastor-in-charge or a district superintendent had to make the request on the deacon's behalf.

Two new special Sundays without offering were created: Women's Ministry Sunday may be observed annually on a Sunday designated by the annual conference; Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday shall be observed annually on a date determined by the local congregation. Delegates changed "One Great Hour of Sharing" to "UMCOR Sunday." The day is observed on the fourth Sunday of Lent.

The 2012 General Conference authorized, and 2016 conference continues, efforts to define what is essential to UM theology and polity and what kinds of matters can be left to geographical units. The essentials are to be contained in a "General Book of Discipline" they include the constitution, "Our Theological Task," the "Social Principles," and sections on

organization and administration. A final draft of the general book will be submitted to the 2020 General Conference.

The body celebrated that the UMC has raised \$68 million to end malaria deaths in sub-Saharan Africa where a child dies from malaria every two minutes.


Thirty-two missionaries were commissioned during the 10-day assembly.



Delegates voted, 425-268, to require the Board of Church and Society and UM Women to withdraw their memberships in the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. They also deleted support for the coalition from the Book of Resolutions.

The assembly lamented the 1864 Sand Creek massacre led by Col. John Milton Chivington, a Methodist Episcopal Church pastor. His troop killed 200 men, women and children at a Cheyenne and Arapaho encampment. Delegates asked UM agencies to raise awareness about the harm caused by sports teams that use mascots or symbols that disrespect Native Americans.

Delegates approved a general church budget of \$604 million for 2017-2020, a slight increase over the \$603.1 million approved at the 2012 General Conference. It's also an increase over the proposed budget of \$599 million.

Time ran out before plenary sessions could act on many petitions. That will not happen again. Delegates agreed, 406 to 361, all petitions shall be acted upon at future conferences. 

## Wow — What a ministry!

### Maryland church receives top award in national contest

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

With 55 EMS members and support for scores of community projects, Queen's Chapel UMC in Beltsville, Md., breezed away with the top award in the second annual national contest to select a UM church with the most effective ministry to and with men.

Bishop James E. Swanson Sr., president of the General Commission on UM Men, and Dan Ramsey, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men, announced the winner during the March 3-6 meeting of conference presidents of UM Men and conference prayer advocates.

Queen's Chapel has more EMS (Every Man Shares in Evangelism, Mission and Spiritual Life) members than all the churches in 32 annual conferences. The church is a major contributor to the record 316 current EMS members in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference.

In 2015, the 62-year-old UMM organization raised a total of \$26,760 from a fish fry, a crab feast, citrus fruit sales, and the sale of shirts, hats, jackets and fan gear.



Bishop James Swanson (left) presents the top award to Hampton Conway, treasurer of Queen's Chapel UM Men and vice president of Baltimore-Washington Conference UM Men.

The funds supported a score of mission projects and ministries.

The men participate in Sunday morning men's Bible study and sponsor Easter sunrise and Thanksgiving Day breakfasts.

Last November and December, the men worked with the Society of St. Andrew to make two deliveries of 1,000 pounds of potatoes to three churches and one soup kitchen. In the same months



Each September, the men celebrate a UM Men weekend with an all-you-can-eat crab feast. In 2015, they served 27 bushels of crabs, smoked sausage, French fries, corn on the cob, and watermelons.



# Additional national contest winners



In 2015, the men participated in a SHARE program that provided 542 families with packages of food valued at \$50 at a cost to UMM of \$22. The food packages included chicken thighs, ground beef, fish fillets, pork chops, eggs, fresh fruit, vegetables, pasta and beans.


they provided 100 turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for families in need.

Each Valentine's Day, the men remember widows of UM Men with a dozen long-stemmed roses delivered by two UM men.



At 10 a.m. every Tuesday, UM Men receive prayer requests forwarded to them by the Upper Room Living Prayer Center. Prayer requests are sent to the Nashville prayer center and to the Queen's Chapel UM Men Bible class.

They donated a 60-inch television set to the church's Soul Echoes Café, and helped defray the costs for youth to attend a conference retreat.

Five years ago, the men purchased a 15-passenger van for the church and they continue to pay the cost of maintenance, insurance, and a Maryland toll pass. 



Each Thanksgiving, Queen's Chapel and St. Mark's UMC in Laurel, Md., host a dinner for people living in motels and a wooded encampment. Every second Sunday, UMM also help serve monthly meals on a parking lot near the encampment. The men also support the Society of St. Andrew. In 2015, they gave \$200 to hunger-relief efforts.

## BEST LOCAL CHURCHES Second Place

### Mandarin UMC

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—

Some 200 Mandarin men visit hospitals, nursing homes, and detention centers. They also cook, teach, coach basketball and soccer teams, and lead a 100-member Cub Scout pack and a 25-member Scout troop. Last year, 51 young men and women received PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) awards. In 2015, the men gave \$38,000 to local ministries and charities. Every year, some 100 golfers participate in a "Memorial Golf Tournament" to honor those who have gone on to "Heaven's Fairway." Following the event, they have a family cookout and a silent auction; the day provides \$10,000 for mission projects. The men field two softball teams in spring and fall leagues, and sponsor an annual family night at a Jacksonville Suns baseball game. They also provide a family bowling night with 80 participants, a "Steak 'N' Spud" night, and a "Boil & Oyster Roast," where they present an annual "Man of the Year" award. They sell two semi-truckloads of a Christmas trees, provide meals for a local food bank, serve with "Tool Belts United," help with a life-skills seminar at the Trinity Freedom Farm, and support an Easter pancake breakfast. Every Sunday, you can find them assisting worshippers with parking. They attend the annual conference retreat in Leesburg, and host a district rally and a barbecue meal. They provide small accountability groups, weekly Bible study, weekly prayer groups, and breakfast groups in local restaurants. They also sponsor Wednesday night studies on a variety of topics.



## Third Place

### Jarvis Memorial UMC

GREENVILLE, N.C.—

Jarvis men sponsor an annual barbecue chicken dinner that contributes to their ability to give \$15,000 to various ministries, including: the Wesley Foundation of East Carolina University, the Music Academy of Eastern North Carolina, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, a community shelter, a soup kitchen, a Boys and Girls Club, a preschool playground, a West Africa orphanage, and a Thanksgiving luncheon for first responders. The men also built more than 1,000 handicap ramps, and they provide instrumental music for a beginning music ensemble program. Once a month, they prepare, deliver, and serve hot meals to a community shelter. On Fridays, the men provide 60 students at two elementary schools with backpacks of food. The men filled 10,000 packets at a Stop Hunger Now food packaging event, and they supported a three-evening revival led by Bishop William H. Willimon.



Jarvis men fill 85 buckets with non-perishable food for Sierra Leone.

## Fourth Place

### Wylie UMC

WYLIE, Texas—

In 2015, Wyley men contributed 351 man hours to construct eight handicap ramps in Wylie, and provided leadership with youth and adults to construct 24





Wylie men complete a handicap ramp.

ramps during a mission trip to San Antonio. With funds from a Valentines banquet and a golf tournament, they contributed \$1,200 to help young people participate in mission trips, \$400 for a scholarship for Boy's State, \$500 to the Wylie Christian Care Center, and \$1,200 to a regional ministry that provides housing and meals for homeless families. They also gave \$200 for a local Bible ministry, \$1,200 to provide meals for the hungry, \$200 to the Society of St. Andrew, \$1,200 for assistance requests, and they provided funds to enable two people to attend a "Walk to Emmaus" weekend. They also assist elderly church members, including removing large tree limbs overhanging a home. Some of the men participate in a ministry at the Hutchins State correctional facility.

### Tied for 5th place

#### Asbury UMC

CROTON ON THE HUDSON, N.Y.—

UM Men host several opportunities for fellowship including an Asbury spaghetti dinner with Boy Scout Troop 49 in Ossining, a chili lunch and hot dog sale, a barbecue meal, hikes, and a pastor's



breakfast. They raised \$1,000 for the "Harry Chapin Run against Hunger." They also supported a public-health ministry in Nicaragua and a missionary in Israel/Palestine. They also repaired church buildings, maintained the grounds, sponsored a Father's Day worship service, provided school back-packs, and distributed *Strength for Service* books.

#### First UMC

NAMPA, Idaho—

UM Men prepare a luncheon at an annual bazaar. With the funds from the luncheon, they prepare and serve more than 90 meals per month to the Nampa Community Shelter. They provide the shelter with furniture and other items donated by church members. They also collected funds to provide a service dog for a veteran dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder. One member has served for seven years as a mentor for at risk children. Another member serves on the Nampa Housing Board, and another serves on the Salvation Army/Community Shelter Advisory Board. The organization meets monthly for breakfast or lunch and they are studying *Discovering Mark*.



### BEST DISTRICT

#### Shreveport, Louisiana

Men of the Shreveport District raise funds with cook offs and other events. Last year, they sent 200 pounds



Coy Birdwell repairs bikes for kids and supplies new loaner bikes for Wesley Foundation at NW State University at Natchitoches

of yams to churches and food pantries in North Louisiana. Bossier churches provide meals on the first three weekends of every month at St. Paul Episcopal Hope House. District men provide meals on the third weekend, and George McCalman, a member of Plain Dealing UMC, delivers soup and sandwiches on the fourth and fifth weekends. Men of First UMC Natchitoches provided \$6,100 to package 20,000 Stop Hunger Now meals for emergency situations around the world. Men of Ellerbe Road UMC deliver 400 Meals on Wheels to shut-ins each Monday; last year the church also provided 2,800 spaghetti meals in a monthly "Cook's Night Off" with proceeds of \$2,500 donated to the NW Louisiana Veterans Home. Shreveport men furnished 10 new bikes, and Natchitoches men furnished four new dirt bikes for the Wesley Foundation at NW State University.

### BEST CONFERENCE

It's a tie.

#### South Carolina Conference

South Carolina had two tragic events in 2015. The first was the shooting of nine people at Mother Emanuel AME Church as they were engaged in Bible study. South Carolina Conference created a fund to help Mother Emanuel families. The second event was a flood that dev-



A 2015 gathering at St. Mark UMC in Taylors, S.C. provided an opportunity for cross-racial dialogue. This was one of five teaching-church-events held during the year.

asted the state. UM Men raised money, filled flood buckets, and helped flood recovery efforts through UM Volunteers in Mission. The conference contributed \$4,500 to the Upper Room Prayer Ministry, \$300 to Africa University, \$300 to Red Bird men, \$2,500 to "No More Malaria," and \$100 to "The Summit on the Black Church." Last April, the men hosted training for the "Bishop's 100 Men" who are willing to disciple men and their families for Christ. UM Men have built strong working relations with the bishop, his cabinet, and conference staff. Each year the attendance at a "Spiritual Weekend" has increased from 160 in 2013 to 1,100 in 2016. The men participate in "Revolution," a conference event that draws 2,000 high school and college youth. To help churches expand their ministries to men, the conference hosted five "teaching church events" in 2014 and five events in




Men of South Carolina receive top award from Bishop James Swanson (center) during the March meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents.



2015. Some 700 men participated in the 2015 events. Belin UM Men partnered with UM Women to discover ways to stop human trafficking and end hunger.

### Western North Carolina Conference

The conference provided \$6,000 for scholarships for second-career clergy and gave more than \$1,000 to the Upper Room Prayer Line. They also provide funds for Carolina Cross Connection, T. Duckworth Ministries, the Society of St. Andrew, Strength for Service, Africa University, prison ministries, and a conference ministry that ministers to 400 people through 23 group homes. The conference provides e-mail news to 1,050 men across the conference. They boast the second highest number of charters in the U.S. The men packaged 10,000 Stop Hunger Now meals for emergency situations around the world. They changed their annual week-

end UM Men rally to a one-day event. The men support scouting and restarted the conference disaster-response ministry after a five-year hiatus. Early response teams are being deployed throughout the conference. The men support the conference building team ministry and the Western North Carolina Children's Home, and they assist in maintaining UMC camps along with workdays at local churches. 



Western North Carolina men package 10,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now.

## More than 350 books given to firefighters

PROVIDENCE, R.I.—

Following a massive fire and the hospitalization of several firefighters, the Strength for Service Corporation sent 360 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to all the firefighters in the capital city.

The books were provided by St. Louis-based World Wide Technology.

Twenty-five firefighters were injured, and four were hospitalized with pulmonary issues and cyanide poisoning, following March 31 fires at two triple-deck homes.

"The rest of the injuries range from burns to injuries sustained when people fell to simply physical exhaustion, not because of heat, but because they are working non-stop at a very, very high level," said Paul Doughty, president of Providence Firefighters Union.



Air packs of Providence fire fighters run on empty, but they continue to battle the blaze that endangers nearby buildings.

Trauma Center.

Fontaine's wife and three adult sons anxiously awaited in the trauma center praying for his critical condition to improve.

"Joe and I got on the job together, so we've been together for a long time and he's tough as nails," said Chief Scott Mello. "For him to get in this condition—it's really tough to see."

### Captain on life support

Captain Joe Fontaine was the most critically injured. After arriving at the Roger Williams Emergency Room for a leg injury caused by a charged water line, his oxygen levels dropped from cyanide poisoning. He stopped breathing.



Captain Joe Fontaine holds one of his three grandchildren prior to his hospitalization.

When his vital signs crashed, the 32-year fire-fighting veteran was put into a medically induced coma and intubated. He was then rushed on life support to the Rhode Island Hospital

### Fighting with empty air packs

"Hydrogen cyanide affects your central nervous system and you get disoriented," said Rhode Island Fire Marshal John Chartier. "You get confused. That's how we lose firefighters in buildings."

Several firefighters kept working the Eaton Street fire even after they knew their air packs were empty.

"When their air packs ran out, at times they were forced to maintain their position to make sure that the fire didn't spread because it was that dire of a situation," said Doughty. "It could have turned into a conflagration very, very easily. So, they did operate after their air packs had run out of air."

The Providence City Council applauded the bravery of the firefighters.

"My thoughts are with Captain Joseph

## HUMOR

### KIDS INTERPRET THE BIBLE

*As far as we know the following statements were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected.*

In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

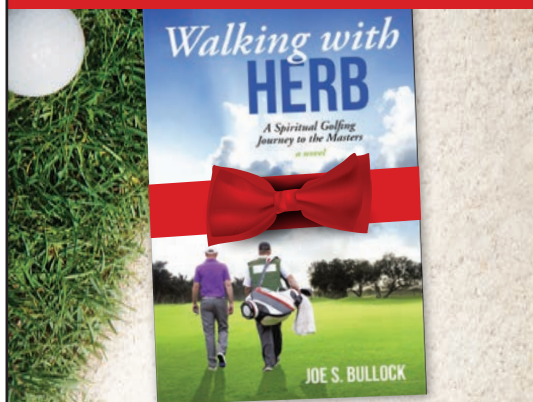
Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

Noah built an ark, which the animals come on to in pears.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.

The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with the unsympathetic Genitals.

## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



"Joe Bullock has elevated the mundane to the spiritual...My face smiled a lot as my brain immersed in Joe's journey." — Mark Medoff, Tony Award winner and Oscar nominated playwright & director

"This inspirational story touches every golfer's heart." — Bernhard Langer, two time Masters Champion, former world's #1 ranked player

"I loved the book." — Craig T. Nelson, Emmy winning actor & producer






Fontaine, who is currently in critical condition from the fire on Eaton Street," said Councilwoman Jo-Ann Ryan. "I am very concerned for the health and well-being of our dedicated firefighters who were injured while battling the inferno. They fought two dangerous fires under extraordinary conditions. They need to be commended for a job well done."

"I want to thank all of our fire personnel

for risking their lives to protect the people of my ward and their properties," said Councilman John Igliazzi. "I understand that some firefighters are now hospitalized due to their efforts; I send my prayers to them and to their families, and I wish them the speediest of recoveries."

The Strength for Service Corporation found a way to honor Captain Fontaine and all the firefighters in Providence. 

## HOME DEPOT issues rebate check

FRISCO, Texas—

The Home Depot Pro Xtra Loyalty Rebate Program partnered with the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) in 2015.

The program allows church members and contractors working on church projects to register their debit or credit cards with Home Depot to

enroll in the program. With each purchase, a percentage of the sale is given back to a selected UM ministry in the form of an annual rebate check.

With a special interest in veterans, Home Depot found the Strength for Service (SFS) ministry to be an excellent match for the program. The non-denominational organization provides books of daily devotions to members of the armed services, veterans, and first responders in honor of their service.

On April 7, Mike Daniel, Pro Account representative, and Jeffrey Watson, regional Pro Sales manager of The Home Depot, presented a check for \$62,487 to SFS at Home Depot's regional office in Frisco.



Participants in the check presentation at the Southwest Regional Office of Home Depot are: front row from left: Smith, Beasley, and Hurst. Back row from left: Watson, Coppock, and Daniel.

Larry Coppock, acting SFS executive director, and Bob Hurst, a SFS board member, accepted the check along with Bari Beasley, GCFA chief officer of shared service/communications, and Bobby Lee Smith, GCFA manager of

corporate sponsorship.

"That amount of money will translate to 12,000 devotional books for military personnel and first responders," said Coppock. "We are fortunate that the program will continue through 2017 so people who have not registered their credit cards may still do so and painlessly contribute to the ministry during 2016 and 2017."

Visit [www.StrengthforService.org](http://www.StrengthforService.org) for directions on how to register with the Home Depot Pro Xtra Loyalty Program. 

## Former NFL star speaks to 2,000 in seven events

BELOIT, Kan.—

March 7 was a full day for UM Men and former Kansas State and NFL wide receiver Kevin Lockett. They visited two elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The long day concluded with a dinner at Beloit UMC and the 67th Annual "Men & Boys Rally" at Beloit High School.

Originally called the "Men's Rally," boys were added to the event long ago. And while the event has kept its name, it's clear from the poster and publicity that women and girls are invited as well.

The event was organized by UM Men leaders Charley File and Kevin Marozas.

Lockett, newly appointed chief executive officer of the Olathe-based Kansas Bioscience Authority, talked about the decisions that are constantly made in life and how one wrong decision could ruin plans for life.

The Tulsa, Oklahoma, native talked about a major mistake he made when he joined his high school basketball teammates in a hotel beer party. His coaches busted the party and asked for a show of hands of those who had been drinking. Lockett raised his hand and was suspended from school for two weeks.

In spite of the mistake, he still received an athletic scholarship from Kansas State University.




Former Kansas State and NFL wide receiver Kevin Lockett poses with fans during the 67th annual North Central Kansas Men & Boys Rally at Beloit High School. Photo by David Burke.

"By God's grace and His mercy, he gave me an opportunity," Lockett said. Once in college, Lockett said, he looked upon the team's pregame chapel services as a "good luck charm" rather than devotion to God.

"Even though I wasn't soaking it up like a sponge," he said, "there were pieces that found a resting place in my life."

By the time he got into the NFL, first as a second-round draft pick with the Kansas City Chiefs and then the Washington Redskins, Jacksonville Jaguars and New York Jets, "God was after me in a tenacious manner," Lockett said.

The people he was around in the weight room, during practices and meetings or going out for dinner after games, were "all big believers" who inspired his faith and challenged the depth of his Christianity.

"Just because you have accepted Christ, that's not the end," Lockett said. "That's the beginning." 



Children at Beloit Elementary School. Photo by Russ Fincham.

This article was adapted from a news release by David Burke, communications director for the Great Plains Annual Conference.





CORDOVA, S.C.—

**Church celebrates Men's Day**

Men of Wesley Grove UMC celebrated their 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Men's Day with the theme "Standing for Jesus." The church expressed appreciation to the Rev. Ephraim Stephens of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Hampton and the Stephen's Funeral Home for their help.



Photo by Joyce Tucker

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. —

**Troop receives Bishop's Award**

Boy Scout Troop 55, chartered to Fountain City UMC, received the Bishop's Award of Excellence for Scout Sunday observances, worship services at campouts, and participation in PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) studies.

Troop members participated in an annual clean-up of the church cemetery, visited a senior citizen home, and placed American flags on a city cemetery graves on Memorial Day. They also participated in a "Scouting for Food" drive and collected food for a Second Harvest food bank



Members of Troop 55 participate in a Stop Hunger Now food packaging event.

ROCK HILL, S.C.—

**Cornerstone men sponsor sport teams**

Six annual fish fries enable men of Cornerstone UMC to support mission projects in Panama, Haiti, Cuba, and Columbia.

UM Men also help elderly members pay medical expenses, and they provide entertainment and food for 400 children attending Halloween "Trunk or Treat" events.

"Our most enjoyable project is the sponsorship of three sport teams of 5-12 year-olds," says UM Men President Martin Monahan. "Members provide drinks and snacks for the teams, and at the end of each season we invite team members, families and coaching staff for a cookout."



UM Men help maintain the grounds of Cornerstone UMC.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—

**Potato drop provides 42,000 pounds of food**

UM Men of Mount Zion UMC participated in a potato drop that provided 42,000 pounds of potatoes to several food pantries.

Once a month, the men make 100 peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches for the hungry and each week they pack food bags for three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school.



Mount Zion UM Men raised \$2,000 to deliver the potatoes.

EAST QUOGUE, N.Y.—

**Church honors fire fighters**

East Quogue UMC invited members of the city fire department to attend a Jan. 31 service where they were presented with copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community*.

The Rev. Patricia Chuppe, pastor of East Quogue UMC, and the Rev. Patricia Mott-Intermaggio, chaplain of the fire department, led the worship service.



CLINTON, Ill.—

**Poster contest boosts pancake breakfast**

UM Men of Clinton UMC held a poster contest to help publicize their pancake breakfast.



Winners and men who sponsored the program: Back row—Amerie Hemphill, Don Prather, Alyssa Hart, and Max Stites; front row—Carson Dillon, Amelia Bundy, Abby VanZee, and Lucy Fisher.

BERKLEY COUNTY, W.Va.—

**Four churches provide Christmas meals**

UM Men from Paynes Chapel, Inwood UMC, Darkesville UMC, and Bunker Hill UMC contacted families in the area to see if they might appreciate receiving food.

Sixty-three families said they would



be grateful. The churchmen provided food valued at more than \$3,500.



Food for West Virginia families is ready for delivery.

TULSA, Okla.—

**Troop produces 400 Eagle Scouts**

Boston Avenue UMC has chartered Boy Scout Troop 20 for 90 years; during that time, it has recognized more than 400 Eagle Scouts.

On Scout Sunday, 2016, the downtown church presented 15 Scouts with God & Church PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) awards; many of these mid-high school youth received all four PRAY awards.

Award recipients worked at a local food bank and assisted in distributing Holy Communion elements on Scout Sunday.

Jason Dill, a Cross and Flame recipient, serves as committee chair of Troop 20 and Crew 20, and a leader of PRAY studies.



Audra Fogle, director of welcoming ministries, and Ethan Kissman, a member of Troop 20, offer Communion elements during a service at Boston Ave. UMC.

CLOVIS, Calif.—

**Scouts give sundaes on Scout Sunday**

Scouts of Memorial UMC served “Scout sundaes” to 80 people on Scout Sunday.

The church presented God and Church Awards to Joey Weber, Jacob Miller; Raelynn Batten, and Saranie Chay. God and Life Awards were presented to Spencer Weber, and Kenneth Perez. “Cross and Flame Awards” were presented to Connie Alfaro, youth program director, and Steve Welborn, scoutmaster of Troop 354.

A “Building Faith in Youth PRAY Award” was presented to Michael Feist, a scouting ministry specialist and counselor for the PRAY courses.



Scouts join Michael Feist in serving sundaes to members of Memorial UMC.

ORRSTON, Pa.—

**Chaplain distributes SFS books**

Captain Kenneth Williamson, Army chaplain in the National Guard and pastor of Orrston United Brethren church, distributed 48 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Country* to members of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

The books were provided by World Wide Technology.



Chaplain Williamson (right) gives a copy of *Strength for Service to Guardsman Hoover*.

LAS CRUCES, N.M.—

**Author contributes books**

Joe S. Bullock, author of *Walking with Herb*, donated copies of his book to St. Paul’s UMC. The church sold the books and netted \$3,800. The book is humorous fictional story of a way-past-his-prime golfer who wins the Master’s Tournament.



Joe Bullock (right) signs a copy of his book for a member of St. Paul’s UMC. He is joined by Herb Wimberly, Joe’s college golf coach and namesake of the main character in the book. The book can be purchased from Amazon. If you would like to use the books for a church fundraiser, contact Joe (jbullock@firstamb.com) for special pricing.

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—

**Scouts pack meals for Stop Hunger Now**

Presented with a Shepherd Church Recognition for its scouting ministry, St. Andrews UMC sponsors a Boy Scout troop, a Cub Scout pack and three Girl Scout troops. All the organizations participated in a packaging event for Stop Hunger Now.



Boy Scout Troop 417 also assists with UM Men Christmas tree sales, cleans neighboring streets, participates in a

Veteran’s Day parade and collects food for “Santa Bags.” Cub Scouts collect blankets for the homeless, participate in the Veteran’s Day parade, and sponsor a flag retirement ceremony.

MULBERRY GROVE, Ill.—

**Cubs sign hymn**

On Scout Sunday at Mulberry Grove UMC, Cub Scouts sang and signed “Our God is an Awesome God,” and then taught the congregation how to hand sign the hymn.



Eight of the 16 Cubs received PRAY Awards.

NEW CUMBERLAND, W.Va.—

**Thirty years of making fudge**

UM Men of Trinity UMC and Point Pleasant UMC have been making fudge for over 30 years.

Each fall, New Cumberland men make some 1,500 pounds of fudge, and sell it for \$6 a pound. Over the last 15 years, they have raised \$70,000 for various local and international missions.

Bud Simmons, secretary of the UM Men organization, says the combined attendance of both churches only averages 150. “It’s not necessary to have a large group to be witnesses for Christ locally, and around the world,” he said.

The men support social service agencies, the Society of St. Andrew, Strength for Service books, a library, backpacks, the Upper Room Prayer Line, tornado-relief efforts, and expenses to attend men’s retreats.

TUCSON, Ariz.—

**Monthly meals for men at a shelter**

On the first Saturday of each month, men of Catalina UMC prepare 250 pieces of chicken, 50 pounds of potatoes, biscuits, salad, and cookies for 100 residents of Primavera Men’s Shelter in Tucson.



"Each year the men volunteer about 1,500 hours of time," says Neil West. "Food costs are supplied by the church and society mission budget of our church."



**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—  
Fire chiefs receive devotional books**

Bobby Wharton, a member of the Strength for Service Board of Directors, presented 200 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* during the March 14-17 annual meeting of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters.

Wharton serves as chairman of the board of G&W/Emergency Vehicle Specialist, a leading provider of fire trucks and fire equipment, and one of the sponsors of the event.

"We actually had people stopping us in the halls saying they had read the book overnight and were appreciative," said Wharton.

The books were provided by World Wide Technology. An article about David L. Steward, founder and chairman of the St. Louis-based corporation, and his gift of 30,000 copies of *Strength for Service* books was included in the program booklet.



*Bobby Wharton (blue shirt center) provides devotional books to fire chiefs.*

**PINEVILLE, La.—  
Church members urged to oppose human trafficking**

Men of Pineville UMC joined UM Women and the Board of Church and Society to sponsor a state-wide event outlining ways in which Christians can battle human trafficking in Louisiana.



*UM Men serve lunch to participants attending the social-action meeting at First UMC in Pineville.*

**AURORA, Neb.—  
Men honor Scout leaders**

The Prairie Rivers District of UM Men honored 19 Scout leaders of the Pawnee District of Overland Trails Council

UM Men presented certificates of appreciation and devotional books for worship services to each scoutmaster. Spouses received monogrammed blankets.



*Pawnee District Scout leaders receive gifts of gratitude from UM Men.*

**MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.—  
More than 1,000 men gather for weekend**

Some 1,100 men attended a February Men 'N Ministry Weekend at Christ UMC.

"God is blessing us in this very moment to make a difference, to make our mark," said South Carolina Bishop Jonathan Holston. "My friends, this is not a weekend of coming and sitting but about spiritual revival, about letting go of boundaries and letting God work within you."

Author Jeremy Kingsley encouraged the men to lead like Jesus; "be approachable, inclusive and gracious."

Author Robert Noland lifted up the benefits of small groups "We all need someone who will watch our backs and kick our butts."

Former professional football player Andres Davis said whenever he was in a place of discomfort, whether from joining a new team or experiencing uncertainty, he felt God move within him in new ways.

Adrian Despres, chaplain of the University of South Carolina football team, said. "There's a big difference between believing up here (pointing to his head) and believing down here (pointing to his heart)."

The weekend included 12 workshops on various topics.



**SAN ANTONIO, Texas—  
Church installs hearing loop**

Thanks to a generous donation by Dale and Betty Kuehnhoff, a hearing loop was installed in the sanctuary of Northwest Hills UMC. Dale is president of a San Antonio chapter for hearing impaired, and has participated in numerous studies for hearing.



*Dale and Betty Kuehnhoff*

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—  
Chaplain gives 250 books to police officers**

Jo Ann Keith, chaplain for the Little Rock Police Department and the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office, gave 250 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to members of both groups.

Following the suicide of a deputy in the Sheriff's Office, Keith told a committee of Immanuel Baptist Church about the suicide and the spiritual support that can be found in the devotional book. The church provided funds for the books.



*Chaplain Jo Ann Keith*

**HIXSON, Tenn.—  
Children build manger scenes**

For the second year in a row, men of Burks UMC helped 35 children build Nativity scenes to place under their Christmas trees. Photos of the children, their helpers and mangers were placed on ornaments that graced a tree in the church narthex; the ornaments were taken home after a Christmas Eve service.



**DENHAM SPRINGS, La.—  
A cleaner place to play**

Twelve men from two UM churches and one Episcopal Church power washed and cleaned a playground designed for children who are physically, mentally or developmentally challenged.



*Nate Terrance of Roberts UMC, Denham Springs, power washes the sidewalk.*



# In Memoriam – Ross Brightwell

PHILADELPHIA—

**R**oss Brightwell, 69, former president of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference UM Men from 2007 to 2015, died March 28.

While president, the former Army officer established a flood of conference-wide activities including a softball tournament, a day at the zoo, a day at the Phillies Baseball Park, a day at an amusement park, and Society of St. Andrew produce-packing events during sessions of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

The former vice president of the Northeastern Jurisdiction of UM Men, always attended meetings of the National Association of Conference Presidents and frequently suggested ways in which presidents could raise funds for men's ministry.

Brightwell never married. He listed his most thrilling moment as the day he received Indiana University of Pennsylvania's (IUP) President's Medal of Distinction for developing the school's "Boost Music in Our Schools" program.

That honor followed years of service in a high school marching band in his native Fayetteville City, Pa. He also played in the IUP marching band from 1964 to 1966 and became the school mascot – The Big Indian – at football games.

In 1969, Brightwell was drafted for Vietnam one semester short of graduation. He showed up in Uniontown to enlist but never boarded the bus.

"They started reading off the names and they load the buses and I'm still standing there," Brightwell said. "The lady said, 'Go ahead, roll.' I said, 'Ma'am, I'm still here'."

Turns out, President Richard Nixon was cutting down on the draft and Brightwell never received a letter stating he was no longer drafted. He had already quit school and his tuition had been refunded.


"I'm sitting there scratching my head thinking 'What do I do now?' when the recruiting sergeant puts a hand on my shoulder and said, 'You're a college boy, aren't you? You ever consider Officer Candidate School?'"

Brightwell became a second lieutenant in the Army and was stationed in Germany. "We'd sit on the border and stare at the Russians staring back at us," he said.

When he completed his Army career in 1979, he headed back to IUP to complete his last semester. He was stunned at how the school had changed: co-ed dorms, no curfews and recreational drug use.

But Brightwell's biggest culture shock was when he got a job working for a private company in Saudi Arabia in the 1980s. He said the country is basically three large cities with desert filling out the rest of the landscape.

In 1986, he came back to Pennsylvania and volunteered as travel manager and announcer for the 225-member IUP marching band.

After moving to Philadelphia to care for his mother, Brightwell served as coordinator of meetings of a Steelers fan club. He remained in the city after her death, and every Sunday during the football season, a crowd of 80 fans gathered at a Philadelphia restaurant to cheer on the cross-state franchise. 



Ross Brightwell

## Conference presidents set plans for quadrennium

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

**S**ome 100 presidents of annual conference organizations of UM Men and conference prayer advocates met March 3-6 at Andrew Price UMC to celebrate significant ministries, elect officers and set plans for the 2016-2019 quadrennium.

During the four-day meeting, men from across the nation honored local church, district and conference ministries to men, commissioned three men's ministry specialists, reviewed proposals to go before General Conference, engaged in two mission projects, and learned of plans for the 12th National Gathering of UM Men, July 7-8, 2017, in Brentwood, Tenn. One of the speakers at that event, Shan Foster, a leader of efforts to oppose domestic violence, spoke to the March meeting.

Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, honored 13 annual conferences for increasing the number of charters during the last year, with top award to the North Georgia Conference for adding 66 new charters in 2015.

L.W. Smith, president of the Strength



for Service non-denominational organization, challenged the men to order cases of the military or first-responder books for presentations to military bases, police offices or fire departments on September 11, the 15th anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The assembly took action they hope will lead to the re-employment of a director of men's ministry. Larry Malone left the post in 2011; since that time Jim Boesch, Mark Dehority and Mark Lubbock have served as part-time regional directors of men's ministries in Florida, Illinois and Louisiana. The UM Men Foundation unanimously agreed to provide annually \$41,000, beginning in 2017, and conference presidents agreed to help with travel expenses. Applicants are now being interviewed in the hope that the position will be filled in the fall.

## Three commissioned as men's ministry specialists

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

**G**eorge Groves, Roger Kindschi and Kenneth Tielke were commissioned as men's ministry specialists at a March 5 meeting at the National Association of Conference Presidents.

These three bring the total of men commissioned as men's ministry specialists to 41, with 28 candidates in process.

Following extensive training, these specialists will provide resources and programs to help local

congregations engage men who are growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. They connect congregational leaders with district,



From left: Kenneth Tielke, Roger Kindschi and George Groves are commissioned as men's ministry specialists.



## It may be time to move on, says Illinois pastor

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Wilson, senior pastor at Wheatland Salem UMC in Naperville, Ill., told conference presidents of UM Men that “there will come a time when you need to pick up and move on in your ministry.”

Addressing the men at a time when leaders of UM Men are moving to new positions, Wilson said, “This (moving to a new post) may be the hardest thing you do, because you may follow someone you truly loved as a leader.” However, she said “The legacy left for you is to carry on — take your leadership inheritance and move on to the next level.”

She recalled how Terah, Abram’s father, took Abram, Sarai, and grandson, Lot, on a trip from homeland in Ur to their intended destination in Canaan. Instead, when they got to Harran, they settled there until Terah died.

“Three generations leave their comfortable homeland,” she said. “Abram may have had

more than one sleepless night. He was stripped of his identity as he journeyed to unknown places.”

But, Abram receives something during this painful process. “God gives him a new identity, ‘Abraham’ and new land, new people and an extended family.

“Every leader has a back story,” she said and noted that some back stories include failures. “But if we fail, we are learning.”

“Every leader has a God who is with you and will take you places you never dreamed you would go,” she said.



*Dr. Jennifer Wilson speaks to the National Association of Conference Presidents in Nashville.*

## New Officers elected

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

The National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP) elected new officers to serve in the 2016-2019 quadrennium.

Steve Nailor, president of the Northern Illinois Conference UM Men, was elected NACP president. Lee Donley, former president of the North Central Jurisdiction and NACP secretary was elected first vice president. Wayne Prejean, president of the Louisiana Annual Conference UM Men, was elected second vice president. Cary Loesing, president of the North Georgia Annual Conference UM Men, was elected secretary, and Ken Tielke, former president of the South Central Jurisdiction UM Men, was elected treasurer.



*New officers of the NACP gather at front of the Andrew Price UMC chapel following their March 4 election. From left: Ken Tielke, Cary Loesing, Steve Nailor, Lee Donley and Wayne Prejean.*

### Jurisdictional officers:

Western: Richard Kim  
 South Central: Ken Tielke  
 Southeastern: Hank Dozier  
 North Central: Ken Hudgins  
 Northeastern: Wayne Custer

### Officers of UM Men Foudation

President: Glenn Wintemberg  
 Vice President: Larry Dozier  
 Secretary: Bill Mooney  
 Treasurer: Gard Wayt

## Basketball star urges men to oppose domestic violence

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Shan Foster, 29, the all-time leading scorer for the Vanderbilt basketball team, has re-trained his shooting eye to help men end domestic violence.



*Shan Foster speaks to the NACP meeting*

Speaking to a March meeting of the National Association of Conference

Presidents, the former shooting guard said the popular saying “boys will be boys” is “profoundly anti-male.”

“That saying assumes boys and men are incapable of treating women with respect,” said the 6’6” all-time leader in 3-point shooting.

He encouraged the conference presidents to stop language and behavior that objectifies women. “Leaders are responsible for what we allow to exist. Are we man enough to do something about it?”

Foster serves as director of MEND (Ending Violence – Mending Communities) of the Nashville YWCA. MEND is dedicated to ending violence against women and girls by engaging and educating men and boys.

“For too long, men have been conspicuously absent from prevention and intervention efforts.” Says MEND. “Men need to be part of the solution because men are the primary perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault.”

Foster will also speak at the July, 2017, National Gathering of UM Men in Nashville.

## President honored on last day of service

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Conference presidents of UM Men and conference prayer advocates gave a standing ovation to Dan Ramsey on the last day he would preside over the assembly as president of the NACP.



*Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, presents Dan Ramsey with a brick that will be placed in the front walk of the Ed and Gwen Cole Center, the Nashville building that serves as headquarters for the commission.*

## Men pack rice and beans



*Conference presidents and prayer advocates pack 2,400 pounds of rice and beans for 662 students at the Tusculum Elementary School. The students come from 23 countries and 95 percent of them are on a free- or reduced-cost lunch program.*



## Northern Illinois Conference tops list of donors to Meals for Millions

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Wade Mays, director of the “Meals for Millions” program of the Society of St. Andrew, honored Northern Illinois Conference for 2015 contributions totaling \$23,446, tops in the nation.

Last year, all UM Men organizations across the U.S. contributed more than \$170,000 to Meals for Millions, an amount that provided 8.2 million servings of fresh produce for hungry Americans.

Mays also honored Oklahoma Annual Conference with a “Bud-the-Spud Award” for increasing total contributions by the highest percentage. The conference contributed \$1,302 in 2014 and jumped the total to \$4,035 in 2015. The award honors the late Nelson L. “Bud” Curtis, who donned a potato costume to urge men to participate in “potato drops.”

Last year, UM Men organizations contributed 7.5 million pounds of fresh produce through potato projects.

The Big Island, Virginia-based society has 18 hunger relief advocates across the nation, and last year, these leaders led 1,522 volunteers into farmer’s fields to pick up 783,441 pounds of produce that would otherwise have gone to waste.

Mays underscored the importance of the ministry by playing a 60 Minutes video which noted 25 percent of the U.S. population is now living in poverty (a family of four living on less than \$22,000 places it at the poverty level).

“We would like to thank the leadership of the General Commission on UM Men and the National Association of Conference Presidents for their unwavering support of our ministry,” said Mays.



Wade Mays (left) presents the top award for conference contributions to Meals for Millions to Steve Nailor, president of Northern Illinois Conference UM Men and newly elected president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men.

### The top ten conference contributors to the Meals for Millions

\$23,446	Northern Illinois (The Rockford District raised \$14,255 of this total)
\$21,464	Virginia
\$13,475	Indiana
\$11,880	Detroit
\$9,172	Baltimore-Washington
\$6,975	Susquehanna
\$6,200	West Ohio
\$6,095	North Carolina
\$4,819	Missouri
\$4,275	Iowa

## Upper Room Prayer Line receives 264,940 prayer requests in 2015

UM Men contribute more than \$26,000

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

In a March 3 report to the UM Men Foundation, Migdiel Pérez, manager of the Upper Room Living Prayer Center, expressed appreciation for 2015 contributions from UM Men totaling \$26,756.

Those financial gifts enabled the Nashville-based ministry to respond to 264,940 prayer requests in 2015.

“Thank you for your faithful contributions, both financial and—equally important—the many hours of service provided by UM Men groups across the nation,” said Pérez.

Last year, 141,287 people called The Upper Room Prayer Center to ask for prayers; 2,400 sent letters describing their problems and asking for prayers; 120,703 posted requests on the prayer wall of the website; 300 sent requests by email; and 250 asked for prayers via social media.

Four hundred global prayer partners and more than 500 trained volunteers responded to the 264,940 prayer requests.

“As our ministry continues to grow, one of our biggest challenges is to stay current with current technologies,” said Pérez. “We have become mobile



Migdiel Pérez (left) presents the award for the highest total given to the pray ministry to Dennis Sullen, prayer advocate for South Carolina Conference, and Herman Lightsey, conference president of UM Men.

friendly so persons in need of prayer can reach us with any electronic device.”

Prayer Advocates attending the March 3-6 meeting brought checks totaling \$13,350.

Pérez honored South Carolina Conference for raising \$4,500, the highest total given by a conference to the national prayer ministry.

## UM Men give devotional books to firefighters

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Some 15 conference presidents and prayer advocates took 25 copies of *Strength for Service to God and Community* to an east Nashville fire station.

The men arrived at the station just as one of the two emergency vehicles was returning to the station and the firefighters received another call after a 20-minute conversation with the UM men.

UM Men established the Strength for Service ministry and created the non-denominational board that continues to provide devotional books to the military and first responders. L.W. Smith, a South Carolina leader of UM Men, chairs the 20-member board and led the group

presenting books to the Nashville fire station. The books were provided by World Wide Technology.



L.W. Smith (right) shakes hands with Captain Aaron Anderson following book presentation to EMT Officer Clement and Firefighter Young.



## Where's Glenn?

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

### "Where's Glenn Wintemberg?"

That's the question some 100 men attending the NACP meeting asked on March 6, the day after Wintemberg was elected president of the UM Men Foundation.

"Well, he was here yesterday," said members of the group that manages a \$2.3 million portfolio that funds national ministries of the General Commission on UM Men.

This is a significant post. Glenn had been elected to a 2-year term to lead the 25-member board. Why would he not be present to be introduced to some 70 conference presidents of United Methodist Men and 30 conference prayer advocates?

### No one seemed to know.

Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the Nashville-based commission, explained the situation.

"Glenn has returned to St. Louis to be present for the birth of his grandchild," explained Hanke. Glenn's daughter, Aubrey

Tharp, is scheduled for a Cesarean Section delivery of Glenn's second grandchild on March 4. That event takes precedence over his presence for the remainder of this meeting."

Glenn is a long-time leader of UM Men. He served as NACP president from 2004 to



Glenn Wintemberg with grandchildren: Maddelynn and Logan Tharp

2008 and president of Missouri Conference UM Men from 1996-2004. A strong advocate for men's ministry, he began the Family (Fast a Meal in 1 year) program to raise funds for the Society of St. Andrew and he was one of the guiding lights in providing funds for men's ministry by enabling men to purchase engraved pavers on the sidewalk in front of the commission office on Music Row in Nashville. He also launched the Missouri Men 5000 program to fund a conference director of men's ministry.

He has served

Mount Zion UMC as chair of Staff Parish-Relations Committee, chair of the Building Team, and a member of the Board of Trustees.

## UM Men Awards

### Howard G. Guetherman

#### Chopper rider serves two conferences

PLEORIA, Ariz.—

Desert Southwest Annual Conference UM Men inducted Howard G. Guetherman into the Society of John Wesley.

Guetherman began his distinguished service with UM Men in 1988 as vice president of Spirit of Hope UMC. He subsequently was elected president of the local group; he then became district president and finally president of Desert Southwest Conference UM Men. He was elected president of Yellowstone Conference UM Men while he was in Wyoming to care for his mother.

He spent several years working for Cokesbury and currently chairs the Desert Southwest Conference DisAbility Committee.

Among his many interests, he rides with the Christian Motorcyclists Association.

"As you can see Howard is very deserving of this award," says Cal Lackore, treasurer of Desert Southwest UM Men.

### Mark Dehority

#### Jurisdiction inducts leader into John Wesley Society

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

UM Men in the North Central Jurisdiction inducted Mark Dehority, a deployed staff member of the General Commission on UM Men, into



Cal Lackore (right) presents a John Wesley Award to Howard Guetherman



Mark Dehority proudly displays his John Wesley Society Award given by Ed Shytle.

the John Wesley Society.

Lee Donley, president of the jurisdiction, and Ed Shytle, president of the UM Men Foundation, presented the award during the NACP spring meeting.

Dehority was instrumental in establishing Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry (DBOM) in the Illinois Great River Conference. He serves as conference president of that prison ministry, and he is a member of the DBOM national board.

Dehority chairs the Vision Team at Grace UMC in Decatur, Ill, and he serves as executive vice president of the North Central Jurisdiction UMM. He teaches courses on "Understanding Men's Ministry" and "Lead Like Jesus."

### Lovell McKail

#### UM Men's president honored

LAUDERDALE LAKES, Fla.—

Merrell UM Men presented Lovell McKail with a Life Membership Award for restarting a dormant group in 2011, and for serving as UMM president since that time.

As lay leader, he directs fundraising efforts including an annual fish fry and a church picnic.

He delivers most of the devotionals, arranges speakers for UMM Sundays, and leads the men's choir and praise team.

He is also the driving force behind the annual UMM pre-Valentine's Day banquet, serves as an usher, and chairs the Board of Trustees.

### Leon Johnson

#### District leader provides 80,000 pounds of meat

ALBION, Ill.—

Men of First UMC presented Leon Johnson with a Life Membership Award following his service as president of UMM of Albion UMC and the Kaskaskia River District.

In 1999, the price for ostrich meat dropped steeply. A producer in Kentucky planned to butcher



Lovell McKail



birds for their hides and destroy the meat. Knowing of hungry people, Johnson agreed to provide 50 cents a pound to process the meat. He then asked UMM groups to provide \$35 to process the meat of each 70-pound bird. Other farmers learned of the effort and agreed to provide pigs for \$10 each and the same 50-cent-a-pound for processing. The effort resulted in UM Men providing 80,000 pounds of ostrich meat and pork to food banks and children's homes.

He also initiated a bowl-a-thon to raise funds for the Upper Room Prayer Line. For the last 10 years he has operated a twice-a-month remote prayer line at the church.

In 1997 and 1998, he led efforts to purchase a 15 passenger van for the Edwards County Senior Center.

"He is a humble man of God who sees the good in almost everyone," says the Rev Steve Livengood, pastor of the Albion church.

### **Bryan McGrew, Jim Trout and Bob Trehern**

#### **Alabama church names three as life members**

CHICKASAW, Ala.—

UM Men of Chickasaw UMC named three men as life members in a January award service.



*From left: Bryan McGrew, Jim Trout and Bob Trehern*

### **Anna Bess Kelley**

#### **Grandson honors grandmother**

ST. FRANCISVILLE, La.—

St. Francisville UMC presented Anna Bess Kelley with the Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence for "her unwavering devotion to Jesus Christ."



*From left: the Rev. Ashley McGuire, pastor, and Michael Clinton Sullivan, grandson, present Mrs. Kelly with a Susanna Wesley Award.*

### **The Rev. Aaron Gray**

#### **District honors Colorado pastor**

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo.—

Men of the Metropolitan Denver District presented the Rev. Aaron Gray, pastor of Wheat Ridge UMC, with a Life Membership Award.

A graduate of Regis College and Iliff School of Theology, Gray served a variety of congregations.

"During eight years of his 30 years of service, he served as my pastor at Scott UMC," said Bob Phillips Jr. president of Stout Hearted Men's Ministry of the Metropolitan District. "During the past five years he has not missed a gathering of the men's ministry, and he volunteered to host our seventh annual gathering."

Gray serves on the Denver School Board, supports teachers, and is an advocate of parental involvement.

### **Neil Brown**

#### **Conference president inducted into John Wesley Society**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

In one of his last acts as president of the UM Men Foundation, Ed Shytle inducted Neil Brown into the John Wesley Society during the March NACP meeting.



*The Rev. Aaron Gray*



*Neil Brown (left) receives a John Wesley Award from Ed Shytle.*

Shytle honored Brown for his service as president of UMM of Western North Carolina Conference and for writing a parchment on "I am a United Methodist Man." Brown paid all expenses relating to the development of the parchment, and all proceeds were given to the foundation.

### **Louise Shytle**

#### **Foundation president surprises wife**

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Ed Shytle, president of the UM Men Foundation, presented his wife, Louise, with a Susanna



*Ed Shytle presents Louise a Susanna Wesley Award.*

Wesley Award of Excellence. The award was presented during a March NACP meeting.

The mother of two Eagle Scouts and grandmother of four is the retired dean of advancement of the Ashland (Ky.)

Community and Technical College. She also served as executive director of the school's foundation.

"Her career has included recruiting, training, encouraging, and equipping fellow employees who have gone onto long careers in education and other endeavors," said Ed.

Louise serves as lay leader of Centenary UMC in Ashland, Ky., and she is the former treasurer for the Ashland District UM Women. She is also a member of the Investment Committee for the Kentucky Conference Foundation and a former member of the Kentucky Conference Committee on Finance and Administration and the Conference Board of Advocacy.

### **Mack Baker**

#### **Former pilot ministers to prisoners**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—

Paradise Hills UM Men presented retired Air Force Colonel Mack Baker, 93, with a life

membership in UMM.

Baker flew a B17 bomber in World War II and a KB-29 refueling tanker in the Korean War; he also flew planes in the Vietnam War. He later served as an engineer in the USAF space and missile program. He retired from the Air Force in 1975.

A Paradise Hill UMC member since 1992, he was one of the original "Bubbas," and he started a second "Bubbas" group several years later.

He has been involved in Kairos Prison Ministry and the Light and Liberty Jail Ministry.

### **George Shipley**

#### **Breakfast program feeds 100**

SHELBY, N.C.—

Aldersgate UMC presented George Shipley with a Life Membership Award for his service as president of Aldersgate UMM. During his presidency, he established a monthly church breakfast that serves more than 100 hungry people. He supported a Stop Hunger Now packaging event and participated in building handicap ramps. He worked with UM Women to provide a food concession booth during an Apple Butter Festival, and he led an effort to purchase and install a gas grill for outdoor cookouts at the church.

### **Frank E. Feggeler**

#### **Twenty years of stocking a pantry**

WEST END, N.C.—

Men of West End UMC presented Frank E. Feggeler with a Life Membership Award for more than 20 years of service as chairman of the food pantry.

He also organizes gleanings trips to local farms to gather vegetables and fruits for the pantry, and he helps with fund-raising events for Boy Scout Troop 98.



*Bill Seldomridge, president of West End UM Men (right), presents a Life Membership Award to Frank Feggeler.*



## David Shropshire

### Treasurer serves orphanage in Honduras

MIDLAND, N.C.—

**M**en of Bethel UMC presented David Shropshire with a Life Membership Award for his service in an orphanage in Honduras and other construction efforts in the Central American nation.



David Shropshire plays with children at Mama Tara's orphanage in Honduras.

“Through David's efforts, the company he works for supplied dirt, stone, and concrete at no cost or at greatly reduced prices for our church and community

basketball court,” said Jeremy Brackett, Bethel director of family ministries. “He is also one of our church volunteers who runs the video equipment on Sunday mornings.”

Shropshire serves as treasurer of UM Men and supports barbecue fundraisers.

## Susan Smith

### District president of UM Women served in three states

GREENVILLE, S.C.—

**U**M Men and UM Women of Aldersgate UMC and the Greenville District presented Susan Smith with a Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence for 30 years of service with Girl Scouts and 40 years as a teacher and administrator in three annual conferences and four churches in Massachusetts, New York and South Carolina.



Susan Smith.  
Photo by Joe Jordan.

As president of Greenville District UM Women, she has served as a Meals on Wheels driver for more than 30 years and worked several years with teen drug-prevention programs.

Herman Lightsey, president of South Carolina UM Men, presented the award. He described Smith as a woman with “a distinctive intellect, a nurturing spirit, unwavering devotion and perseverance in the faith.”

## Nancy Harris

### Wife of former staff executive inducted into John Wesley Society

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—

**N**ancy Harris, wife of Joe Harris, former general secretary of the General Commission on UM Men, was inducted into the John Wesley Society by David Battles, a member of the Board of Directors of the UMM Foundation.

Joe Harris served as the first top staff executive after the commission was created in 1996 and he served until 2005 when he resigned to become assistant to the bishop of the Oklahoma Annual Conference.

Nancy assisted in the commission office while Joe was top executive and she created the Joe Harris Endowment Fund of the UM Men Foundation.

The Wesley Society Award was presented “in appreciation of your continuous support and devotion to prayer, youth, and mission efforts” of UMM.



David Battles (right) presents a John Wesley Society plaque to Nancy Harris. She is joined by her husband, Joe.

## A Bishop's Dinner — the best way to increase scouting ministries

**M**illions of youngsters spend after-school hours watching television and playing video games.

At the same time thousands of churches are frustrated by the absence of young people.

Those same churches may be unaware of the ways in which scouting can introduce pre-teens and teenagers to their life-changing ministries.

One of the most effective ways to introduce churches to scouting ministries is a Bishop's Dinner for Scouting.

Pastors and church leaders who may not be thinking of scouting as a ministry may still respond positively to an invitation to attend a free dinner with the bishop.

During the dinner, the bishop, church leaders, and Scout executives will introduce Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire and PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth).

The establishment of PRAY studies is a remarkable way to introduce young people to the faith. There are four study/award programs “God and Me” (grades 1-3); “God and Family” (grades 4-6); God and Church (grades 6-8); and “God and Life” (grades 9-12).

It is not unusual for a family to join the sponsoring church after a son or daughter receives a PRAY award.

The dinners also introduce ways in which churches can strengthen their relationship with packs and troops that meet in their buildings. Too frequently,



Bishop Robert Schnase speaks to St. Louis church leaders at a March Bishop's Dinner.

churches regard these groups as nuisances that leave messes and cause conflicts instead of extensions of their ministries to their communities.

### St. Louis Bishop's Dinner

In March, Missouri Area Bishop Robert Schnase hosted a Bishop's Dinner for Scouting at Salem UMC in Ladue (St. Louis area).

The event was sponsored by the Steward Family Foundation and World Wide Technology. David Steward is founder and chairman of World Wide Technology and a leader in scouting ministries.

Eighty-two people from 27 churches attended. Eight churches expressed an interest in starting new Scout units and 11 agreed to strengthen the ties between their units and the church.

Jim Marchbank, chair of the Religious Relationships Committee for the Greater St. Louis Boy Scout Council, told the assembly the main reason churches don't start new units is because they believe their church is too small or they don't have enough boys.





*Eighty two people from 27 churches attend the Bishop's Dinner at Salem UMC in Ladue.*

“Those are exactly the same reasons why churches should be starting a unit,” said Marchbank. “Fifty percent of the new Scouts are unchurched and these are potential church members. I think most pastors dream of having unchurched families visit their church once a week.” He encourages all UM churches to provide a link on their websites to local Scout councils or other youth serving agencies.

“Kids can join scouting at any time during the year. And if a boy was never a Cub Scout, he can still join Boy Scouts or Venturing,” said Christine Dieckmann, director of communications for the Greater St. Louis Area BSA Council. “In scouting, kids are introduced to countless hobbies, interests, sciences, and even future career choices. Scouts have the opportunity to develop confidence, self-reliance, character and values that they’ll carry with them for a lifetime.”

### Keynote address

Missouri Area Bishop Robert Schnase credits his wife, Esther, with helping their two sons attain the rank of Eagle. “A lot of Scout activities are on weekends, and I often work weekends, so for 14 years of scouting in our family, Esther took on most of the responsibility, serving as a den mother and Scout leader,” he said.

It’s not that he wasn’t involved, though. Schnase taught classes on fishing and birding and ran with kids as they worked on their physical fitness tests.

“You can’t do it for them,” he said. “You can’t push them or pull them, but you can run

beside them.”

He also served as an adult leader on camping trips. He recalled one particularly challenging portage on a Boundary Waters camping trip, when he offered encouragement to a Scout who felt he wasn’t going to be able to carry his canoe up the hill. When he got to the top, he saw one of the other leaders having a similar talk with his own son.

“All young people need a relationship of trust with adults other than their parents,” Bishop Schnase said.

That trip also involved seeing the antlers of a moose swimming across the lake in the middle of the night, and hearing the call of loons for the first time.

He spoke about the threads of service that are woven through the scouting program from simple litter clean ups and food drives to complex Eagle Scout projects, many of which serve prominent functions in communities and in churches.

“We should lift up the value of scouting when it’s done with excellence,” Bishop Schnase said. “It’s about a changed life. It’s about development, growth and maturing in faith. It matters in what kind of person someone will become, and what kind of character will develop. Let’s not let our kids be squeezed into the molds of the false values that our culture gives them.”

For more information on how to conduct a Bishop’s Dinner for your annual conference, please email Larry Coppock, national director, scouting ministries, GCUMM (lcoppock@gcumm.org).

## What does a scouting ministry specialist do?

There are more than 300 scouting ministry specialists in the UMC. Each one of these volunteers helps area churches understand how Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, and Big Brothers Big Sisters can enrich and expand their ministries to youth within and beyond their local congregations.

Steve Bays, a scouting ministry specialist in Kentucky, also helps churches understand how the Christian education program of St. Louis-based Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY) can provide their young people with educational opportunities beyond the Sunday morning classroom. He has served as the Boy Scout Council Religious Emblems Coordinator for the Lincoln Heritage Council, and he is helping the council recruit religious emblems coordinators for units and districts.

Bays also makes sure there is a display of PRAY materials and opportunities at Boy Scout Council meetings and district events. The display includes information on awards for churches, adults, and young people as well as samples of PRAY books.

The PRAY program includes “God and Me” (grades 1-3) “God and Family” (grades 4-6), “God and Church” (grades 6-8) and “God and Life” (grades 9-12). The “God and Church” program is used by some churches as part of their confirmation training. Sometimes young people who are not church members take the “God and Life” course and become church members. When that happens, their families frequently join their sons and daughters as members of the faith

communities.

Bays hosts a booth on scouting ministry and PRAY awards adjacent to the UM Men booth at Kentucky Annual Conference sessions.

“I talk with many people who say they do not have scouting because they do not have young families,” observes Bays. “I reply that is a good reason to have scouting to bring young families and children into their congregation.”

“One day the booth was staffed by a scouting district executive,” says Bays. “He was able to talk about scouting to those that had a scouting ministry and those that did not. This was a great opportunity to talk about scouting to a large group in one location.”

Bays encourages other scouting ministry specialists to provide similar display areas at a variety of events.

“The booth is easy to prepare and set up. I had assistance from the scouting ministry office for any literature I needed. I also received a scouting banner, stickers, and scouting literature from our local council office.”

Bays expressed gratitude to UM Men for paying for the booth space, and he says he will participate again next year and invite other scouting ministry specialists to help.

Bays advises other scouting ministry specialists to work closely with their local BSA council office, the General Commission on UM, and their bishop and/or district superintendents. “You will get lots of support and assistance,” says Bays.



*Steve Bays speaks to children during a Scout Sunday service at Summit Heights UMC in Louisville, Ky. The scouting ministry specialist also presented three “God and Me” PRAY awards during the service*



## Illinois church develops close relationship with Scout troop

CHARLESTON, Ill.—

Wesley UMC regards Troop 141 as an extension of its ministry to the community.

Only two of the 40 Scouts are members of Wesley UMC, but the church regards the troop as “Wesley Boy Scouts” not as tenants who use church facilities.

News about the troop is included in the monthly church newsletter, and a four-page “Welcome to our Troop 141 family” brochure is in the church’s literature rack.

Keith Kohanzo, a scouting ministry specialist and scouting coordinator, serves on the church council and provides reports on the troop at each meeting.

He also chairs the Work Area on Education, the committee that establishes the budget for Sunday school classes, children and youth ministries, and scouting. The troop receives \$100 from that budget, but the church provides an opportunity for additional giving (currently \$1,300).

“In addition to the UMC cross and flame logo, we put BSA seals of the same size (made with the troop number) on the church van, bus, and church trailer,” says Kohanzo. “All the vehicles, including our canoe trailer, are kept in



the church parking lot where they are visible to the congregation.”

The troop room is adjacent to the church’s fellowship hall/gym, with a service star flag for the number of former Scouts who are currently on active duty in the military. The room is available for use by Sunday school classes.

On Scout Sunday, Kohanzo provided a two-page report to the congregation. That report included information about service projects including providing for the Charleston Food Pantry and a homeless shelter in Mattoon, hosting two blood drives, serving meals at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life event, planting trees at neighboring schools, and collecting shoes for Soles4Souls.



**Order pins for scouting ministry at the resource section of the gcomm.org website.**

**\$10 each.**

**Call Marc Stowe  
615/620-7262 for details.**



## Scouting Awards

**Jennifer Mae Berry Ryan**  
*Leader of 10 mission trips to Haiti*  
GENESEO Ill.—

Grace UMC presented a Good Samaritan Award to Jennifer Mae Berry Ryan, a mission-minded young adult.

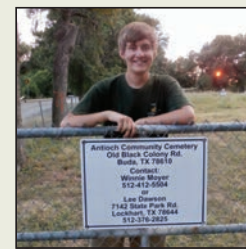


*Jennifer Mae Berry Ryan*

The 28-year-old co-founded an Illinois-based ministry for mission work in the village of Augustin, Haiti, and she has led 10 mission trips to that island nation. Her team built a church, and Grace UMC shipped a prefabricated school building to the Haitian village.

**Crispin Lyman**  
*Eagle Scout restores cemetery*  
BUDA, Texas—

For his Eagle project, Crispin Lyman, 18, spent six months pulling weeds, repairing fences and cutting down dead chinaberry trees at a local cemetery.



*Crispin provides the cemetery with a new sign*

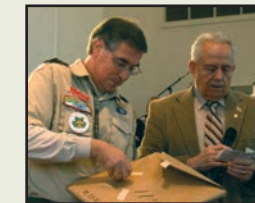
With help from friends and Scouts, he replaced 50 feet of chain link fence and fence posts, sprayed weeds, removed trees, and installed a new sign.

The cemetery sits on a curve and its fence has been struck by vehicles several times. In fact, the week after Lyman received funds from Buda Lions Club it was struck again. Fortunately, the Lions gave Lyman more money than he requested so he was able to make the additional repairs. To prevent another hit, he installed reflectors on the fence.

**Bill Fletcher**  
*Church honors scoutmaster*  
VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—

UM Men President Percy Claycomb presented Troop 362 Scoutmaster Bill Fletcher with a Cross and Flame Award.

The presentation occurred on Scout Sunday at Community UMC. Fletcher has served as scoutmaster for six years and as an adult leader for Pack 362 prior to that.



*Bill Fletcher, unwraps a Cross and Flame certificate presented by UM Men President Percy Claycomb.*

“Fletcher was instrumental in rebuilding the troop and has had seven Scouts earn the rank of Eagle since becoming the troop leader,” says Johnnie Draughon, a men’s ministry specialist.

“Members of Troop 362 have earned more than 400 merit badges since Fletcher became scoutmaster and they have hiked more than 75 miles of the Appalachian Trail in Virginia.” Fletcher also led three teams of young people on Appalachian Service Projects.

**Aaron Kohler**  
*Scout improves trailer area*  
HUMBLE, Texas—

Aaron Kohler, a member of Troop 56 of the Sam Houston Area Council and a junior at Atascocita High School, achieved the rank of Eagle following completion of his Eagle project to improve a trailer storage area used by UM Men of Atascocita UMC.

Aaron and other members of Troop 56 spent three weekends cleaning out the area. He installed two metal swinging gates to allow easy access to the trailers.



**Chris Adkins**  
**Former president of**  
**UM Men serves as**  
**charter representative**

PORTAGE, Ind.—

The Rev. Mark Dicken, pastor of Portage UMC, presented a Cross and Flame Award to Chris Adkins, former president of UM Men and charter representative for Cub Scout Pack 487.

Adkins led mission teams to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, and he repairs homes of the elderly and people with handicapping conditions.



*Chris Adkins*

**Timothy Saltzer**  
**Newscaster shaves head**

FALLSTON, Md.—

Fallston UMC presented Timothy Saltzer with a Good Samaritan Award for leading efforts to raise funds for St. Baldricks Foundation, a Monrovia, Calif.-based organization seeking cures for childhood cancer.



*Timothy Saltzer*

“Each March, he shaves his head to raise money through sponsors and to show solidarity with kids who have cancer,” says the Rev. Karin Walker, pastor. “In the last six years he has raised more than \$5,000.”

Walker says the 14-year old is part of a “newscast” crew and is “an all-around spirited and joyful youth.”

**Mason Rains**  
**Scout transforms church entryway**

DALLAS, Texas—

Ridgewood Park UMC presented Mason Rains with a Good Samaritan Award following his service as a chief of a Cub Scout den, senior patrol leader, quartermaster and Order of the Arrow representative.



*Mason Rains*

For his Eagle project, Mason led a team of adults and Scouts to landscape the front of the church. He removed existing plants,

prepared the soil, and planted a variety of plants to make the entryway attractive for an anniversary celebration.

Mason also participated in food drives, assisted Scouts with their Eagle projects, engaged in conservation work at Boy Scout camps, served as a merit-badge counselor, and helped repair bicycles for children.

**Tresa De La Cruz**  
**Scout leader serves youth around the world**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—

St. John UMC gave Tresa De La Cruz a Cross and Flame Award for 22 years of service as a Sunday school teacher and Girl Scout leader.

She taught young people at First UMC in Lafayette, La., and Holy Covenant UMC in Houston, Texas, from 1993 to 2001.

Her husband, Jerome, was transferred to Dubai in 2001, and for three years she taught a Sunday school class at a Baptist church and led a Daisy Scout Troop in that city located in the United Arab Emirates.

The family’s next stop was Stavanger, Norway. From 2004 to 2007 she led Girl Scout troops affiliated with the International School of Stavanger.

Upon the family’s 2007 return to the U.S., Tresa again led a Girl Scout troop and served as a youth counselor in Midland, Texas.



*From left: John Anderson, Tresa and Jerome De La Cruz, and the Rev. Andy Bartel, pastor of St. John UMC.*

When the family moved to Anchorage in 2011, she led a Girl Scout troop sponsored by St. John UMC, and established two additional troops.

“Tresa De La Cruz is an outstanding example of a dedicated servant leader for youth,” said John Anderson, scouting coordinator for the Western Jurisdiction.



Society of St. Andrew  
 GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS  
 FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY



**The General Commission on United Methodist Men challenges every UMMen group to become a Challenge Fellowship by donating at least \$200 a year to Meals for Millions – a partnership of UMMen and the Society of St. Andrew to feed millions of hungry Americans.**

To learn more, and to make a group or individual commitment to feed the hungry, visit [Endhunger.org/umm](http://Endhunger.org/umm). Or contact Meals for Millions director Wade Mays at 800-333-4597.





Please share with all of the men of the church.



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