

**Men's Ministry Specialists
2009 Candidate Application and
Requirements**



The Next 100 years

Table of Contents

MMS Mission, Values, Roles and Responsibilities	3
MMS Application Packet	4
MMS Leadership Training	6
MMS Spiritual Development	8
MMS Professional Reading	9
MMS Educational Courses	10
MMS Certification	11
UMC/UMM Credentials	11

Application Forms

Personal Contact / Ministry Background (Form A)	12
Pastor / spouse Recommendation (Form B)	13
Spiritual advisor commitment (Form C)	14
UMM / UMC leader consultations (Form D)	15
MMS spiritual development (Form E)	16
MMS Lay Speaker Training (Form G)	17
MMS Summary Checklist	18

MMS Mission, Values, Roles and Responsibilities

Mission:

The mission of every Men's Ministry Specialist (MMS) is to serve United Methodist lay and clergy leaders and their congregations in the ministry of Jesus Christ through men.

Certification as a MMS:

A MMS is not an elected position within the UMC. MMS is a trained position that includes required classroom style training, interactive ministry and missions training, and commitment to spiritual growth as an ongoing process. There are specified training, experience and personal growth requirements that must be completed and documented before an MMS candidate is certified to serve within the UMC.

Core Values Demonstrated and Documented by a MMS:

1. A growing disciple of Jesus Christ
2. A man mentored by and accountable to a spiritual advisor
3. A servant leader, called to serve in men's ministry
4. A man of Godly character, faithful, trustworthy and credible
5. A United Methodist Man, committed to the United Methodist Church

Demonstrated Skill Set of a MMS:

1. A man who is skilled in oral and written communication.
2. A man who is faithful, available and teachable, and one who can teach others.
3. A man who skillfully evaluates a congregation's whole ministry, seeking means expand outreach, involvement and discipleship of men.
4. A man with listening skills, who can serve as a trustworthy advisor.
5. A man who is a life-long learner; and growing with God.

Roles and Responsibilities of a MMS:

1. Communicates effectively with lay and clergy leaders, by listening and assessing their needs and goals. Offers effective training, resources and programs to help congregations fulfill their mission with fully engaged men who are growing spiritually.
2. Assists a congregation men's ministry team working as partners with clergy and other church leaders toward an all-inclusive ministry to men.
3. Connects congregation leaders with district, conference, regional and national leaders (both lay and clergy) and ministry resources. The MMS does not replace or displace district or conference leaders; he is a resource partner with and for them.
4. Equips and motivates congregation leaders to discover unique local means of ministry to and through men. The MMS will help congregations create clear pathways of spiritual growth for men at all stages of spiritual maturity.
5. Serves one or several UM congregations, using consultative skills and spiritual discernment to offer ministry resources that best suit the needs of men in each local congregation.
6. Documents meetings and interaction with congregation as a means of reporting progress
7. Identifies and trains other men to assist him and perhaps serve as MMSs.

MMS Application Packet

Personal Contact Information and Ministry Background

We need accurate contact information for you, and we want to know about your history as a Christian that is called to men's ministry. Please complete Form A.

Pastor/ Spouse Recommendation

It is important that your pastor be aware of your desire to serve as a MMS, and to gain the support and encouragement of your pastor. If you are married, it is also important that your spouse be supportive of your desire to serve God and the church as a MMS. Please complete Form B.

Spiritual Advisor Commitment

Your spiritual maturity and continued spiritual growth are of utmost importance. The leader call of an MMS is ***“Follow me, as I follow Christ.”*** (1 Cor 11:1)

Oversight and care for your spiritual development will be encouraged through your work with a spiritual advisor or mentor. This person may be your pastor, but could be a person who is spiritually mature whom you trust.

Guidelines will be provided for both you and your spiritual advisor to help you keep focused and moving toward spiritual maturity. Minimum interaction with your spiritual advisor is on a monthly “check-in” basis, by phone or personal visit. A quarterly review will entail a personal meeting, for review and planning forward.

Please complete Form C, and inform your spiritual advisor that he/she will be contacted by e-mail periodically from your MMS Coordinator. These communications will be helpful as reminders, and suggesting actions that can foster spiritual growth.

UMM / UMCI Leader Consultations

It is important that MMSs work closely with UMM leaders and clergy in their areas. In some cases, MMS candidates hold positions in UMM leadership. We request that you meet at least twice annually in person or by phone with your UMM conference and district president. If you hold one of those positions, we ask that you meet with appropriate UMM leaders at the jurisdiction, conference, and /or district level.

We request that you meet with the district superintendent in your area. For each of these three consultations, please complete Form D, with endorsements from those persons.

Personality and Spiritual Inventories

Many persons have benefited from knowing more about the ways in which they interact with others, the spiritual gifts given them, and insight on how you experience God and your faith. For MMS, your ability to function well as a men's ministry consultant and advisor requires that you "know thyself" as much as possible.

Please take time to complete the following free assessment instruments. Make three copies of each; one for you, one for your spiritual advisor, and mail a copy of each to the GCUMM MMS Coordinator for your file.

GCUMM
ATTN: MMS Coordinator
PO Box 340006
Nashville TN 37203-0006

- For a free spiritual gifts assessment, please go to http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.1355371/k.9501/Spiritual_Gifts.htm
- For a free basic personality inventory, please go to <http://www.saleshelp.com/assessments/PersonalityStylesInventory/PerStyleInv.html>
- For insight about how you experience God, please go to <http://www.explorefaith.org/seeker/index.html>

Please make sure to discuss these assessments with your spiritual advisor. You can gain valuable insight that will enhance your effectiveness as a MMS.

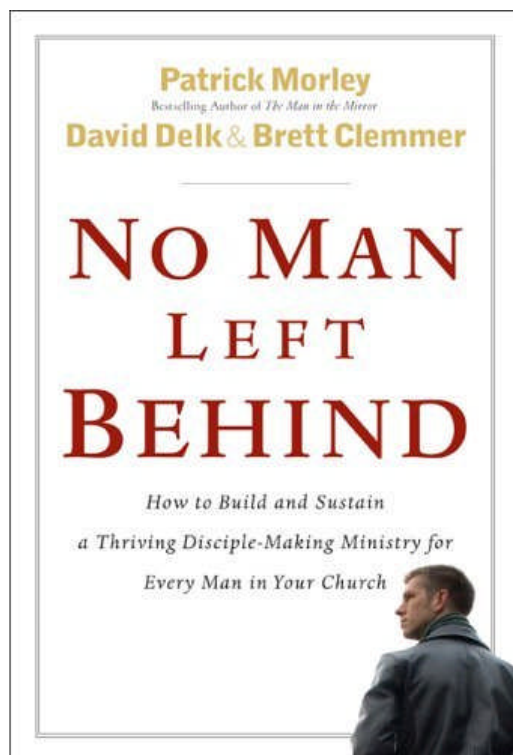
MMS Leadership Training

Core MMS leadership training is offered regionally in "No Man Left Behind", a 2 1/2 day training intended for laymen and clergy.

In this high-quality training, you will learn how to:

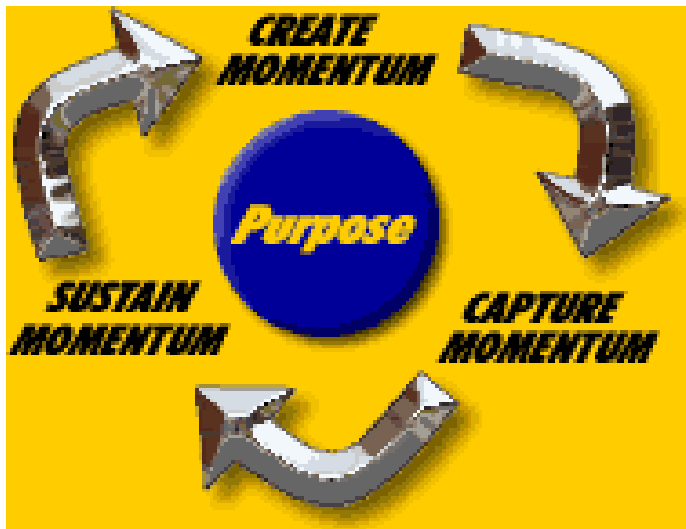
- Shift your thinking from men's ministry to a ministry to every man in your church.
- Identify the unwritten "man code" that your church conveys to every guy who walks in the door.
- Ensure long-term success by recruiting allies who will work with you to make disciples.
- Develop a concrete, seamless process to help men who don't know Christ become passionate disciples.

The course is summarized in the book of the same title:



Create—Capture—Sustain: Keys to effective ministry to men

The greatest challenge of men’s ministry is sustaining spiritual growth in men to spiritual maturity. For every men’s ministry activity, program or event – this model needs to be used.



No Man Left Behind training is offered through Man in the Mirror Ministries. We are partners with this ministry, and recommend this training for all men and clergy who desire to lead effectively.

This training was previously offered as **Building Sustainable Men’s Ministry (BSMM)**, which is recognized as equivalent training for MMS candidates.

The training is offered widely throughout the US, at UMC host churches and other Christian churches. The cost for this training is specially discounted for UMMen and clergy who attend.

Go to www.maninthemirror.org for details on training schedules, and speak to the UMM staff advisor at 800-929-2536.

MMS Spiritual Development

Spiritual maturity and a commitment to lifelong spiritual growth are essential traits of a MMS

Several elements are in place to help you become a man who carries the countenance and love of Christ:

- You will select a person to be your spiritual mentor. This person may be your pastor, or may be a mature Christian that you trust - lay or clergy. Together, you will both tend to the crucial business of your spiritual formation.
- Your spiritual history and plans are important tools for your growth. Please complete Form E. The form is a recap of your spiritual growth history (5 years), present involvement in discipleship, and the plan for your continued personal spiritual growth for the next two years. You should also include your plan for reaching out to your sphere of influence as a MMS during the next two years. This plan will be the primary document reflecting your work with your spiritual advisor.
- There are many good resources and tools that aid the process of spiritual growth. Many effective resources such as DISCIPLE Bible Study and Companions in Christ are available from UMC sources. It is important that you be regularly engaged in small group work with men as part of your spiritual formation. Wesleyan theology is rooted in small group dynamics, and getting men into such environments is key to effective local church ministry to men. Your credibility as a men's ministry leader is greatly enhanced by the effect that your men's team has upon your life and spiritual growth.
- Your present discipleship commitments and two year plan for continued growth will be reviewed and approved by the MMS Review Team. A list of recommended tools and resources will be available, both within and beyond the UMC.
- We recommend that MMSs become frequent users of an internet site for men's ministry resources at www.disciplemen.com. This ecumenical site collects information and ratings for men's resources from many sources.

Professional Reading

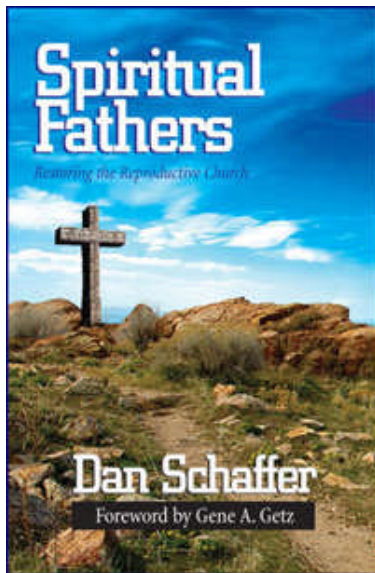
As a MMS, you are a man committed to lifelong learning and growth. Required and recommended reading will help you learn and grow.

REQUIRED READING (two books)

“No Man Left Behind”, by Man in the Mirror. (See Page 6). This book can be ordered online at www.maninthemirror.org.

The book **“Spiritual Fathers”** by Dan Schaffer is required reading for MMS certification. The book expresses an important spiritual development goal for all men: becoming spiritual fathers. The point of spiritual growth is spiritual maturity and **spiritual reproduction** – which is the foundation of evangelism

Spiritual Fathers captures the heart of a premier men’s growth resource recommended by GCUMM. Wesleyan Building Brothers (WBB) is a one-year, four phase process highly recommended for MMS to experience and lead.



Wesleyan Building Brothers is dedicated to working with the local church to remove the various barriers that keep men from being involved within the life of the church. These barriers are addressed and can be removed as a leadership team of men model these principles:

- Understand and deal with the father vacuum.
- Establish a safe, masculine environment within the church to deal with issues.
- Develop men into leaders who can be trusted.
- Help men in their pursuit of God.

You can order this book, and get information about Wesleyan Building Brothers at www.buildingbrothers.org/wbb, or call their office at 303-972-2775.

RECOMMENDED READING

A list of relevant, recommended reading for men’s ministry is available for download from www.gcumm.org.

MMS Educational Courses

Basic educational requirements are defined here, and continuing education will be a part of MMS training as a practicing specialist. Sources of educational courses will include UMC conference/ district courses for lay and clergy leaders, GCUMM developed courses, basic and Advanced Lay Speaker training, and seminary courses.

Required courses for MMS certification are:

- ✓ UMM/UMC History and Polity. This course has been developed by GCUMM staff, and is offered at no cost. The course insures that you have basic knowledge of the UMC and UMM.

The course can be accessed through the GCUMM website. The course is taken in modules, with interactive features to insure learning. Your requirement is met when you complete the last module. Estimated course study time: 8-12 hours.

- ✓ UMC Safe Sanctuary and Sexual Ethics. The denomination is educating lay and clergy leaders in the important issues of domestic violence and sexual ethics.

These courses are available through conference and district offices at nominal or no cost. They may be titled differently, depending on your conference. Some conferences offer them online. You may meet this requirement by attending any training offered on these topics, and sending the completion certificate to the GCUMM MMS Coordinator for inclusion in your training file.

- ✓ Basic Lay Speaker Course. For many years the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) has offered excellent leadership and speaker training. The basic course is a requirement for MMS. This requirement is waived for ordained clergy and local pastors. Some MMS applicants are active as lay speakers, and others have taken basic and advanced courses. If so, please complete Form G. (Optional for Lay Speakers)

This training is offered widely through conference and district offices. Check with them for upcoming dates. You are encouraged to attend training offered through other conferences as well, according to your schedule and convenience. If you have taken the basic course previously, please send a copy of the completion certificate to the GCUMM MMS Coordinator for inclusion in your training file.

We are working jointly with the GBOD Division of Lay Leader Development to offer an Advanced Lay Speaker Course on Men's Ministry in the future.

MMS Certification

Men who aspire to serve as men's ministry specialists, and who complete all program requirements will be recommended by a GCUMM / MMS Review Panel for certification.

The MMS Certification Panel will work under the authority of the General Commission of United Methodist Men, and they will work as an extension of the MMS Advisory Team. MMS candidates will be reviewed, interviewed and recommended for certification when they complete all requirements. Annually each spring, all recently certified MMS will be recognized in a commissioning service.

MMS certification renewals are granted annually based upon a desire for continuance by the MMS, and satisfactory performance as determined by the review panel. It is essential that MMS personal motivation and performance be held to high standards.

UMC / MMS Credentials

The General Commission on United Methodist Men is the UMC agency charged with helping UMC reach men effectively. The GCUMM will certify lay leaders for service as Men's Ministry Specialists within the United Methodist Church.

We have future partnership and growth plans under development at this time with other UMC agencies in the areas of MMS certification and men's ministry training courses.

In our long-term goals, we hope to build relationships with seminaries, and UMC colleges for courses, credit and advanced degrees in men's ministry, for both lay and clergy.

FORM A: Personal Contact and Ministry Background

Name	Last First/MI Nickname
Address	Street City State / Zip
Telephone	Home Mobile Work
E-Mail	Home Other
Home Church	Name Address City / State / Zip
Personal Information	Birth year Marital status Children Occupation (present or past) Other

Faith and Ministry Background

Please describe your faith history, especially information relevant to your desire to serve the church as a MMS. Include your experience in discipleship, church and men’s ministry leadership, mission and service work etc. Include work related experience that could be valuable in the MMS role.

Your past experience as a men’s leader matters greatly. This experience may have been gained in United Methodist Men leadership roles, or as a lay or clergy leader in the church. Experience can include UMM leadership roles, event planning for local or regional events, congregational leadership roles, mission and project participation and leadership, and teaching / leader roles in discipleship.

One to two pages is desired for this background summary, attached in a separate document. This information will be helpful as we develop biographies that describe the skills and experience of our MMS team. It will also help you to plan for your own growth in new areas of experience and skill development.

FORM B: Pastor / Spouse Recommendation

Please meet personally with your pastor, to discuss your desire to serve as a men's ministry specialist. If you are married, please have your wife join you to discuss your commitment and her support of this Christian ministry.

Pastor Contact Information:

Name	
Church Information	Name Street City State / Zip
Telephone	
E-Mail	
Website	
Description of congregation	

Note: If the MMS candidate is a UMC pastor, this form should be completed by a clergy person in an immediate supervisory role.

PASTOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Check all that apply:

___ I have met with _____, a member of my congregation. I understand his desire to serve the church as a MMS.

___ I have also met with _____, his spouse.

___ I will prepare a CONFIDENTIAL written report on this matter, in response to a letter and/or e-mail sent to me from the GCUMM MMS Coordinator.

___ I desire telephone contact from the GCUMM MMS Coordinator.

Pastor Signature _____ Date _____

Spouse Signature _____ Date _____

FORM C: Spiritual Advisor Commitment

MMS candidates are men who are committed to personal spiritual growth and men who understand the value of spiritual mentoring. The best mentors are well-mentored. A sustained requirement for MMS during their candidacy - and as they serve the church - is spiritual growth oversight.

MMS Spiritual Advisors must be mature disciples of Christ, who share a common bond of relationship and trust. The MMS spiritual advisor may be his pastor (male or female), other clergy, or spiritually mature lay person.

The commitment requirement for MMS spiritual advisors is as follows:

- Monthly contact in person or by telephone (30 min)
- E-mail communications initiated by GCUMM MMS Coordinator, to help guide the MMS mentoring process, including discussion items.
- Development of the MMS spiritual growth plan, with progress reviews.
- Quarterly personal meetings (One hour or more)
- Participation in the MMS Spiritual Advisor community, in an annual review process intended to maximize the potential of the MMS program.

Spiritual Advisor Contact Information:

Name	
Address and/or Church Information	Name Street City State / Zip
Telephone	
E-Mail	

I am willing to serve as MMS Spiritual Advisor for _____.

Signature

Date

FORM D: UMM / UMC Leader Consultations

It is essential that MMSs work closely and effectively as partners with UMC clergy and UMM leaders. We request that you meet personally or by phone with your UMM conference and district president, and your UMC district superintendent. In some cases, MMS candidates presently hold positions in UMM leadership. If you hold a UMM leader position, we ask that you meet with two other appropriate UMM leaders at the jurisdiction, conference, and / or district level.

The purpose of the consultations is to inform leaders of your MMS candidacy, to describe MMS roles and purpose, and to request support as ministry partners who work together. Please send an e-mail file report to the GCUMM MMS Coordinator describing these consultations.

UMM Conference President Consultation

Conference President name	
UMC Conference	
Date of consultation	
Meeting Notes	

UMM District President Consultation

District President name	
UMC District	
Date of consultation	
Meeting Notes	

UMC District Superintendent Consultation

District Superintendent name	
UMC District	
Date of consultation	
Meeting Notes	

FORM E: MMS Spiritual Development

The form is a recap of your spiritual growth history (5 years), present involvement in discipleship, and plans for your growth for the next two years. This plan will be the primary document reflecting your work with your spiritual advisor. Please use this guideline to prepare a separate document to be sent to the GCUMM MMS Coordinator.

Past Discipleship History

Please document significant elements of your spiritual growth over the past five years. Include information about:

- Your church attendance and place of worship.
- Participation in study groups.
- Quiet time and prayer life, including spiritual reading.
- Leader experience within your congregation.
- Service, mission, and project work.
- Men's ministry involvement, including UMM.
- Stewardship as reflected in your use of time, talent, and money.
- Personal accountable relationships with other men.
- The effect of your faith walk upon your close loved ones.

Present Discipleship

What are you presently doing related to your spiritual growth? Please describe your present situation.

Future Spiritual Growth Plans (two years)

Please give an assessment of where you are in your personal walk with God, and how you hope and plan to grow in the future over the next two years. It is essential for MMSs to stay engaged in spiritual formation work, and that their faith walks include being part of a men's small group for support and accountability. Please insure that your two-year plan includes these elements.

Future MMS Implementation Plan (two years)

Please show us your plan for reaching out to your sphere of influence as a MMS. Who do you plan to interface with? How will you do it? What do you hope to accomplish on the first two years as a MMS?

The MMS Certification Team will review and approve your spiritual growth plan.

FORM F: MMS Lay Speaker Training

For many years the GBOD has offered excellent leadership and speaker training through the Lay Speaker Training program. The Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course is a requirement for MMS certification. This requirement is waived for ordained clergy and local pastors. Some MMS applicants are presently active as lay speakers, and others have taken basic and advanced courses.

If you have taken basic and advanced lay speaking courses, please indicate below:

COURSE	LOCATION	DATE
Basic Lay Speaker Course		
Advanced Course 1 name		
Advanced Course 2 name		
Advanced Course 3 name		
Advanced Course 4 name		

Lay Speaker training is offered widely through conference and district offices. Check with them for upcoming dates. You are encouraged to attend training offered through other conferences as well, according to your schedule and convenience. If you have taken basic and advanced course previously, please send a copy of the completion certificate to the GCUMM MMS Coordinator for inclusion in your training file.

MMS Summary Checklist

ITEM	COMMENTS	DATE COMPLETED OR PROJECTED
FORM A: Personal Information and Ministry Background	Include your ministry background narrative in the form.	
FORM B: Pastor/Spouse Recommendation	Please meet with your pastor, and spouse if married. We will contact your pastor by e-mail after your meeting.	
FORM C: Spiritual Advisor Commitment	Please meet with your spiritual advisor. We will contact your spiritual advisor by e-mail after your first meeting.	
FORM D: UMM/UMC Leader Consultations	Please meet with leaders in person or by phone. For each meeting, please include brief meeting notes of the discussion.	
FORM E: MMS Spiritual Development	This form will be a work in progress, as you grow and make plans with your spiritual advisor. Do your best to get started, and then update the document.	
FORM F: MMS Lay Speaker Training	Complete the form and mail certificates to the MMS Coordinator. If you do not have documents or exact dates, estimate.	
<i>No Man Left Behind Training</i> (2 ½ day)	Or past course <i>Basics of Sustainable Men's Ministry</i> .	
UMC/UMM History and Polity Course	Available online linked from www.gcumm.org (est. April 2008)	
Safe Sanctuary and Sexual Ethics	Check with your conference / district. Send info to MMS Coordinator	
Required Reading	Notify MMS Coordinator when finished reading <i>NMLB</i> and <i>Spiritual Fathers</i>	

MMS requirements are listed here in recommended sequence. All forms and other information are available for download as pdf files at www.gcumm.org, under MMS. **Send all forms as e-mail attachments to the MMS Coordinator at mstowe@gcumm.org.**



General Commission on United Methodist Men

1000 17th Ave South (37212)
PO Box 340006
Nashville TN 37203-0006
Phone 615-340-7145 • Fax 615-340-1770
www.gcumm.org