



**Frequently Asked Questions  
of  
United Methodist Men**

The General Commission on United Methodist Men staff receive numerous questions that may be of interest to other men and clergy. It is hoped this booklet meets the needs of our constituency.

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# Frequently Asked Questions...

## ***1. Where does the Book of Discipline talk about United Methodist Men?***

The *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church refers to several paragraphs concerning United Methodist Men at the local, district, conference, jurisdictional and general church level. Paragraphs pertaining to the local church organization of United Methodist Men in the *2008 Book of Discipline* include paragraphs 226, 253, 256, and 257. Jurisdictional United Methodist Men are covered under paragraph 537. Annual Conference UMM is covered under paragraph 631. District organizations are covered under paragraph 670.

The GCUMM is covered under paragraphs; 705, 2301, 2302, and 2303.

## ***2. What is the purpose of United Methodist Men?***

The purpose of United Methodist Men is to declare the centrality of Christ in every man's life, to promote the spiritual growth of men through effective discipleship, and to model the servant leadership of Christ in our daily lives.

## ***3. What is the General Commission on United Methodist Men (GCUMM)?***



The GCUMM is one of 8 program agencies of the United Methodist Church. There are twenty-three elected commission members who represent the Council of Bishops, Jurisdictional Presidents of United

Methodist Men, The National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men, the United Methodist Men Foundation, the National Association of United Methodist Scouters, and the Central Conferences. The General Commission is responsible for the resourcing of men's ministry throughout the denomination for the men of the United Methodist Church.

 **4. Is a United Methodist Men's organization required in every local United Methodist Church?**

Yes. Paragraph 256 of the *2008 Book of Discipline* states that "Each church or charge **shall** have an organized unit of United Methodist Men..."

**5. Is chartering and recertification a requirement of every United Methodist Men's group?**



Yes. Paragraph 256 of the *2008 Book of Discipline* states that each unit of United Methodist Men must be chartered and annually recertified through the GCUMM.

**6. Can a local United Methodist Church have a ministry to men if it is not chartered?**

Some United Methodist churches have a variety of ministries in which men participate. Men are involved in the Walk to Emmaus, Promise Keepers, Disciple Bible Study, Prison Ministries, Covenant Discipleship and a host of other ministries that group same gender persons. These ministry efforts should be affirmed and supported. They should, however, be seen as important components of the overall ministry of the men of the particular United Methodist Church

in which the ministry is being carried out. Therefore, the need to be a chartered unit becomes even more vital so that these and other ministries will be seen as part of the church's overall ministry to all men. In addition, chartered units are resourced from the national office with materials, training, information, and support in carrying out effective ministry to all men in the local church.

Unlike United Methodist Women, there is no "one" specific ministry for local units. Each local church designs its own programs to meet the needs of their specific group.

## ***7. Why should local churches charter?***

In addition to the disciplinary requirement, chartering enables the national organization of United Methodist Men to resource the local church, provide training for United Methodist Men leaders, coordinate men's materials and events, support United Methodist Men mission projects, as well as provide leadership in scouting ministries (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, Camp Fire USA, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America). Chartering connects each local UMM unit with units across the country and around the world. Chartering provides the national office with income to reach men in every setting (urban, rural, international) of the church. Charter income helps to provide a national staff of specialists in men's and scouting ministries.



## **8. What does the local church get when it charters?**

The local church president and treasurer receive periodic materials from the General Commission on United Methodist Men. These materials include the *UMMen* quarterly magazine, membership cards, brochures and information about the various ministries and mission projects of United Methodist Men, training event information and materials, program booklets, website information, and other materials helpful in the ministry to all the men of your local church.

It also places men of the local church, through the president and treasurer, in the worldwide network of UMMen.

## **9. How do I get my men to organize and charter?**

First, enlist the support of the pastor. The clergy are a vital link to successful men's ministry in the local church. Second, find a few men with enthusiasm who understand the importance of men's ministry and being connected to the global church. Third, start with what you have. Don't wait for every man in the church to get on board immediately. Fourth, call the national office if you need help or additional materials. Fifth, prayerfully, develop a plan for your UMM men's ministry. Sixth, order the new *Men's Ministry Action Plan*. Seventh, get as many men as possible to attend a men's event (i.e., 11<sup>th</sup> National Gathering 2013, Promise Keepers, district or conference UMM event). Eighth, offer a variety of program options to which men can connect in the ministry of your church. Ninth, if possible break into small groups that meet at different times (and perhaps in different locations). Tenth, embrace all the men's activities and ministries already in existence in your church. Claim them as part of the ministry of United Methodist Men of your church. Invite them to all your meetings, events and fellowships. Let them know you consider them United Methodist Men.

## **10. How do we handle the finances of the local organization?**

Each local organization should follow the policies of their local church regarding the handling of funds collected for UMM. Paragraph 256 (h & i) of the *2008 Book of Discipline* speaks to funding. In most cases UMM is set up in similar fashion to UMW. However the goal is to cooperate with the leadership of the church in finding the best way to handle financial matters.

## **11. What kind of resources is there for my local organization?**

Charter units regularly get resource information from the national office. The UMMen magazine and website: <http://www.gcumm.org>, offer resources for local church men's ministry. In addition the online store, [www.dozierwear.com](http://www.dozierwear.com) offers resources, supplies, pins, hats, shirts, certificates, and other UMM and Scouting materials.

## **12. What is EMS?**



EMS is a second mile personal investment made by individuals who are committed to ministry and mission of United Methodist Men. EMS means Every Man Shares in Evangelism, Mission and Spiritual life. The income benefits the individual member as well as different programs and ministries of United Methodist Men. Membership cost is \$45.00 annually.

## **13. What does my EMS membership do for me?**

EMS members receive *UMMen* quarterly magazine, a devotional resource (changes each year), a premium gift

(changes each year), and valuable discounts on UMMen events.

## **14. How is my annual EMS membership fee spent?**

\$7.00 of each membership fee collected goes to the annual conference of the member. This money is shared with the member's district, and is used to support Evangelism, Missions, and Spiritual Life ministries of men. The money is sent to the conference president quarterly. The conference president is responsible to distribute funds to the district president.

\$.75 goes to support the UMM Jurisdiction Evangelism, Missions, and Spiritual life ministries.

\$.75 goes to the National Association of Conference Presidents to support its programs of Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual life.

\$1.50 goes to enhance and expand our Scouting and Civic Youth ministries.

\$.75 goes to support United Methodist Men sponsored mission opportunities within the five jurisdictions.

\$.75 to support the Upper Room Prayer Ministry.

\$19.00 of each membership goes toward the direct expenses related to developing training materials, events, producing resources, EMS renewals, reports, *UMMen Magazine*, *MensNews*, postage, etc.

\$14.50 goes to the General Commission on United Methodist Men to provide administrative supervision of the Every Man Shares ministry.

**15. What are some of the mission works EMS membership supports?**

Society of St. Andrew's Hunger Relief Advocate Program, Upper Room Prayer Ministries and Hope of Hearing.

**16. If I am a Life Member of United Methodist Men, do I still have to pay for the EMS membership?**

Yes. Life membership is an honor or award given by a group such as the Conference, District or local men's group to an individual. The EMS membership is a separate, individual commitment to United Methodist Men and its ministries.

**17. What are the advocate ministries of UMMen?**

United Methodist Men have two advocate ministries. The Hunger Relief Advocate is a local, district and conference United Methodist whose responsibility is to be an advocate for hungry people in the community, state, nation and across the globe. This person's responsibilities include educating, informing, and participating in hunger relief activities in the local church, the district and the annual conference. The Hunger Relief Advocate inspires the entire church and men in particular, to become personally involved in hunger relief efforts. The Hunger Relief Advocate promotes the UMMen Meals for Millions program as well as other poverty combating ministries such as the Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty and the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) "One Great Hour of Sharing."

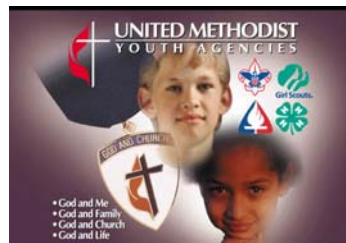
The UMMen Prayer Advocate is responsible for educating, encouraging and advocating prayer among the men of the local, district and annual conference. Prayer Advocates also raise funds for the Upper Room prayer line, are a part of the overall prayer ministry of the local church, and attend prayer advocate training events.

## ***18. Why do United Methodist Men have responsibility for Scouting and Youth-Serving Agencies?***

Several years ago the United Methodist Men's Foundation stepped in to provide funding for the Office of Civic and Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting when it was about to be discontinued. At that point the decision was made to place the responsibilities of this ministry under the portfolio of United Methodist Men. The UMMen Foundation continues to support 54% of the expenses of this office. In addition, many men are involved in Boy and Girl Scouting as well as Camp Fire Boys and Girls, and 4-H clubs.

## ***19. What is meant by Scouting as a ministry of the local church?***

Scouting as a ministry of the local church is an emphasis on local churches considering scouting/civic youth-serving agencies, as an integral part of the local church ministry to youth. Instead of just having these agencies 'use the church building', these



organizations are seen as a vital part of the church's ministry to youth and the community. In some cases they could be considered the youth ministry of the church. It also indicates to potential volunteers that this is one of the ministries of the church they could be directly involved in.

## ***20. What are the affiliate organizations of the GCUMM and what do they do?***

The National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP) is the organization of conference United Methodist Men's presidents that meet annually to plan, coordinate and

facilitate men's and scouting ministries in the annual conferences. The program committees of the NACP are considered the program committees of the GCUMM. They also co-sponsor the quadrennial men's event.



The United Methodist Men Foundation is the national foundation set up by United Methodist Men to support scouting and other national men's ministries through endowed funds.

The National Association of United Methodist Scouters (NAUMS) is an association of United Methodist Scouters that plan training events across the country, maintain a UM scouting website, and encourage church-sponsored scouting ministry across the connection.

The Society of St Andrew (SoSA) is the hunger relief ministry of UMM. UMM sponsors the Meals for Millions program designed to feed hungry people in the local community, state and nation. Hunger Relief Advocates are appointed in the local church, district and conference, to inspire, teach and involve persons in hunger relief at all levels.

## ***21. Who is the staff of the GCUMM and what are their roles?***



Gil Hanke is the General Secretary of the GCUMM. His responsibility is to supervise and manage the staff, programs and ministries of the GCUMM. In addition, he represents the general church in communicating the ministries of the United Methodist Church to men. He is responsible for articulating and carrying out a vision for men and scouting ministry in the United Methodist Church.

Larry Malone is the National Men's Ministry director. His responsibility is to direct men's ministry programs in the United Methodist



Church. He plans, coordinates, initiates, and produces resource materials, training events, retreats and other relevant programs for men in the United Methodist Church.



Larry Coppock is the national director of the office of scouting and youth-serving agencies. He is responsible for overseeing the scouting ministries of the United Methodist Church. He also is director for the *Strength for Service to God and Country* devotional book project.

Martha Davis is operations manager and executive assistant to the General Secretary. She assists the General Secretary, oversees network support, as well as supervises and manages the GCUMM office.



Joshua Eidson is the Web and Financial Services Assistant. He handles the day to day financial transactions for the agency as well as updating and designing the GCUMM website.

Bari Eason is our marketing and development director, charged with developing our marketing tools and funding for ministry to men.



LaNisha Sayles is our volunteer coordinator who works with the new specialist programs—scouting ministry specialists and men’s ministry specialists.

Rich Peck serves as part time communications coordinator. He edits and produces the magazine and handles communication pieces.



Marc Stowe is the support staff person to the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting as well as the UMM Foundation.

Ann Waller is the charter system administrator to record charter and EMS payments and provides resources to local churches and UMMen leaders.

## ***22. How can I request staff leadership for an event?***

Because of the small national staff (only three staff persons normally travel), it is important to maximize the use of the staff for local events. Therefore, staff usually can only accept invitations that cluster churches, district events, or annual conference events. Staff available for events is: Gil Hanke, Larry Malone and Larry Coppock. They should be contacted at least six months before the proposed event, retreat, or speaking engagement.

## ***23. Is there any cost involved in using national staff?***

Because of the limited budget of the GCUMM (smallest program agency budget in the UMC), we normally request that the inviting party cover the travel, lodging and meal expenses of staff if possible. No honorarium is required. However, if one is given it is used to cover the expenses of the various ministries of the GCUMM. If the inviting group is unable to cover all related expenses, we still make every effort to make the event, retreat, or speaking engagement as successful as possible.

## ***24. What kind of events does the national staff accept invitations to?***

Various kinds of speaking engagements, retreats, training events, clergy and laity events, Bishop's dinners, UMM events and other appropriate events.

## ***25. How is the GCUMM funded?***

The GCUMM receives 22% of its budgeted income from World Service apportionment giving. 78% of its income is derived from charters, EMS, individuals, grants and gifts. The GCUMM percentage of income from World Service apportionment is the **lowest** of any program agency.

## ***26. Who holds the GCUMM accountable for its programs and use of its funds?***

As a program agency of the United Methodist Church, the GCUMM is directly accountable to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. Between General Conferences, GCUMM is directly accountable to the General Council on Finance and Administration for its financial responsibilities and to the Connectional Table of the UMC for the ministry focus. The GCUMM board of directors has responsibility for the focus, policies and staff of the GCUMM.

## ***27. What are the recognition awards given out through United Methodist Men?***

The John Wesley Fellow recognition is for United Methodist laity or clergy for distinguished service to the church. It is designed to promote greater awareness of Christian principals and practices embodied by individuals in the United Methodist Church. This award is given through the United Methodist Men Foundation.



The United Methodist Men Life Membership Award is an honorary recognition available to local, district, conference, jurisdiction and national organizations of United Methodist Men. Applications can be obtained through the GCUMM office. The donation supports the UMM Foundation.



The Good Samaritan Award is given to recognize individual youth that demonstrate the attributes of the Good Samaritan by reaching out to others through outreach, humanitarian assistance, or advocacy. Candidates for this award demonstrate significant personal and selfless contributions toward others or assistance to individuals in need. The GCUMM administers this award. Brochures can be obtained through the GCUMM office.



The Bishops Award of Excellence recognizes outstanding United Methodist Church scouting units, and is presented by the presiding bishop at the regular session of the annual conference. This award is administered through the office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting of the GCUMM.



The Torch Award is a recognition given to adult leaders in the annual conference or districts who have given service (minimum ten years) in the use and promotion of the Scouting and Civic Youth-Serving Agencies programs in the life of the church at any level of the church. This award is administered through the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting of the GCUMM.

The Silver Torch Award is a recognition given to adult leaders for exemplary service to scouting and/or youth ministry beyond the annual conference. This award is administered through the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting of the GCUMM.



The Cross and Flame Award gives recognition to adult leaders in the local church who have given exceptional service (five years minimum) in their use and promotion of the programs of the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting. This award is administered through the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting of the GCUMM.



***28. How do I obtain job descriptions for local, district or conference presidents of UMM?***

Job responsibilities for all levels of UMM leaders may be obtained through the GCUMM national office and on the GCUMM website, [www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org).

***29. When is the fiscal year for UMM and how are officers of units elected and when does their term begin and end?***

In most cases, at the local church level, the local UMM president is elected in the fall by the unit and names are submitted to the Committee on Nominations to be added to the list of officers for the church. That list is prepared in time for the Charge Conference. Although that list is approved by the Charge Conference, both the local UMM and UMW elect their own officers. The office usually begins January 1. On a district and conference level, bylaws determine the process, but most take office at the time of the Annual Conference. Example: In one Conference, the election was moved to the fall, so that the Conference office would have the entire name to put in the Journal...when officers were elected in the spring, the Journal was wrong for a year.

***30. We have a small church with few men. Can we join with men from other churches and form a men's group?***

We encourage men in your situation to join with other men to form "cluster" units. Benefits include shared costs for the charter and other resources, and the advantage of working

together as a team of men in a local community. Members of the cluster can also include men from other denominations, as long as the charter is placed through a United Methodist Church.

***31. Can I make checks payable to GCUMM instead of General Commission on United Methodist Men?***

Yes. Checks for charters (\$85 annually), EMS memberships, specialty items, and scouting awards can be made payable to GCUMM (to keep it short). You can make your charter payment online at [www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org). Click Donations/Payments or checks should be mailed to: GCUMM, PO Box 440515, Nashville, TN 37244-0515



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