

Rationale for Adding “class meeting” to Resolution 8019:

This addition reflects a current major goal of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

Date: August 26, 2015

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gilbert C. Hanke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

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Suggested Title: Add “class meeting” suggestion to resolution

Book of Resolutions #8019

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implication: No

Amend by addition:

8019 Expanding Outreach to Men and Youth

WHEREAS, membership in The United Methodist Church has declined every year since the 1968 merger of The Methodist Church with The Evangelical United Brethren Church; and

WHEREAS, an ABC poll found that only 32 percent of American men attend church compared to 44 percent of American women, and 13 million more women than men attend church in the US; and

WHEREAS, 25 percent of married women attend church without their husbands; and

WHEREAS, a Gallup poll shows declining interest among young people with only 47 percent of young adults indicating that religion is important in their lives compared to 75 percent of persons over 75 years of age answering in the same manner; and

WHEREAS, only 10 percent of US churches maintain vibrant men’s ministry programs, and most congregations struggle to find ways to minister to men and reach young people;

Therefore, be it resolved, that churches be encouraged to expand their ministries to all men in the church and the community. The group of men that meets monthly for study, worship, and fellowship serves an important purpose, but it should be only a fraction of a local church’s effort to deepen the spiritual lives of men and to minister to men and young people without church homes; and

Be it further resolved, that all churches are encouraged to charter a United Methodist Men's organization. Pastors and superintendents are encouraged to utilize DVDs, online training, lay-speaking courses, the services of men's ministry specialists, and other resources provided by the General Commission on United Methodist Men to expand the ministry to all men within and beyond the congregation; and.

Be it further resolved, that United Methodist churches be encouraged to charter Scout troops and to add other youth-serving ministries as a way to reach unchurched youth and as a way to minister to young people within their faith communities; and

Be it further resolved, that local churches encourage members to become scouting ministry specialists as a way to expand their ministries through youth-serving agencies; and.

Be it further resolved, that local churches are encouraged to provide funding to enable one or more of their members to become men's ministry specialists and to utilize the services and resources of those already accredited as men's ministry specialists.

Be it further resolved, that the one of the most effective means of making disciples takes place when men meet in weekly groups, using the "Class Meeting" model of Wesley as described in the book by Dr. Kevin Watson with the same title. These meetings can either face to face or in an e-meeting format. Here men don't talk about a "historical" relationship with Jesus, but answer transformational questions as to where they have intersected with Christ in the last week.

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Rationale for changing Discipline Paragraph 2303.1b

The current wording is confusing- some think the national president is included in the five.

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Submitted by:

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Suggested Title: Clarify commission membership
Discipline Paragraph 2303.1b
General Church Budget Implications: None.
Global Implications: No.

The General Commission on United Methodist Men petitions the 2016 General Conference to amend Paragraph 2303 of *The Book of Discipline* as follows:

¶2303.1b) the five (5) jurisdictional presidents of United Methodist Men ~~and the national~~
~~president;~~

Add a new subparagraph

c) **the president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men**

Renumber following paragraphs

c) becomes d);

e) becomes f);

f) becomes g)

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Rationale for changing Paragraph 2302.5b:

1. The commission selects youth agencies and it works closely with them to ensure their practices and goals are in harmony with the goals and practices of the United Methodist Church.
2. The organizations may change so there is no reason to list them.
3. Current lists of endorsed organizations and affiliate organizations will be added to the GCUMM website which can be revised by addition or deletion at any time.

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Suggested Title: Promote all youth-serving agencies
Discipline Paragraph 2302.5b
General Church Budget Implications: None.
Global Implications: No.

The General Commission on United Methodist Men petitions the 2016 General Conference to amend Paragraph 2302.5 b) of *The Book of Discipline* as follows:

~~¶2302.5b) to provide advocacy, cooperation, and relationship in partnership with the National (USA) Association of United Methodist Scouters, the General Board of Discipleship, the Council of Bishops, and the civic youth serving agencies (Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire USA, 4 H, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and other appropriate organizations within the central conferences for the promotion of~~
promote and counsel with youth-serving organizations **selected at the discretion of the**
commission. ~~/scouting ministries within The United Methodist Church;~~

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Rationale for changing Paragraph 256.4:

1. There are many other organizations to which we relate, that are not listed anywhere in the *Discipline*
2. Each of these organizations as well as the GCUMM can end this relationship with a letter
3. Current lists of endorsed organizations and affiliate organizations will be added to the GCUMM website which can be revised by addition or deletion at any time.

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Suggested Title: Delete names of organizations
Discipline Paragraph 256.4
General Church Budget Implications: None.
Global Implications: No.

The General Commission on United Methodist Men petitions the 2016 General Conference to amend Paragraph 256.4 of *The Book of Discipline* as follows:

¶256.4) **Scouting ministry through civic youth-serving agencies** ~~Civic youth-serving agencies and scouting ministries~~ offer another setting for ministry to children, youth, their leaders, and their families. ~~These opportunities would include the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire USA, 4-H, or other appropriate organizations in the central conferences.~~ The Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) award program ~~may be~~ **is** available to all appropriate age-level participants of the local church education program including the church school, youth ministry and scouting ~~ministries~~ ministry.

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Rationale for retaining Resolution 4093:


Without action by the 2016 General Conference a resolution supporting Society of St. Andrew will be deleted from the 2016 Book of Resolutions.

There are 2.1 billion reasons to continue the resolution as that is the number of food servings provided by the organization founded by United Methodist clergy.

Located in Big Island, Virginia, the organization mobilizes more than 30,000 volunteers each year across the US to glean in farmers' fields, picking, digging, or gathering nourishing fruits and vegetables remaining after harvest.

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Suggested Title: Retain Resolution supporting Society of St. Andrew
Book of Resolutions: 4093
General Church Budget Implications: None.
Global Implications: No.

Retain Resolution 4093. Society of St. Andrew

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