

Men's Ministry Sunday

The Great Harvest

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:37 NRSV

Reaching
the Hearts
of Men



Men's Ministry Sunday Worship Resources

Prepared by
The General Commission on United Methodist Men

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WHY A MEN'S MINISTRY SUNDAY?

Historic Beginning

At the 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church passed legislation authorizing the celebration of a Men's Ministry Sunday. This event may be observed annually on a Sunday designated by the local congregation. The day is to celebrate the men's ministry within and beyond the local church.

Purpose

The dual intent of this special Sunday is to:

- **Create** a sacred time and space in which to celebrate the unique ministries FOR, WITH and THROUGH men in the local church and community;
- **AND**
- **Highlight** the many opportunities for men's ministry available to your local church and community.

This celebration should focus on all the ministries related to men. This includes: organized (chartered or unchartered) units of United Methodist Men; male Emmaus reunion communities; work teams; prayer groups; Bible studies; study and enrichment groups; and other places and organizations where men of The United Methodist Church join together for fellowship, nurture, spiritual development, witness, and outreach.

Significance

Through an annual Men's Ministry Sunday local churches can:

1. **Highlight** the vital ministries in which men participate.
2. **Encourage** men to explore other ministry opportunities in The United Methodist Church offered through the General Commission on United Methodist Men.
3. **Promote** the importance of engaging men in mentoring through assisting with Scouting, youth ministry, children's ministry, etc.



PLANNING FOR MEN'S MINISTRY SUNDAY

Celebrating Men's Ministry Sunday promotes an opportunity for your local church to make a significant impact on the lives of men, their families and friends. Reaching the hearts of men for Christ is tremendously important.

When a man comes to Christ, his family follows him 93% of the time.

Stats from Focus on the Family

As Jesus pointed out, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37 NRSV) Celebrating Men's Ministry Sunday is your opportunity to share the ways in which your church is reaching, "the Harvest," the community

Keys to a Successful Men's Ministry Sunday

NOTE: GCUMM strongly recommends that this day/event be called "Men's Ministry Sunday"--not United Methodist Men Sunday. We want to reach all the men of The United Methodist Church, so this day needs to be about ALL men, not just men who identify themselves as "United Methodist Men."

To accomplish this celebration, you will need the support and involvement church's pastoral team, key church leaders and the men's ministry leadership team. Three basic ingredients are vital to the success of any Men's Ministry Sunday: **Prayer, Passion and a Plan.**

Prayer Team

Invite people to be part of a prayer team who will pray for every aspect of the preparation and implementation of Men's Ministry Sunday.

Possible prayer topics:

1. Pray for the congregation to express its enthusiasm for the positive contributions of men as: role models, mentors, fathers, husbands, Christian witnesses, etc.
2. Pray for the congregation to support this special Sunday by inviting people in their sphere of influence to be part of the celebration.
3. Pray for the congregation to exhibit a generous spirit of hospitality in a way that engages men.
4. Pray for men to become engaged in some aspect of this ministry as a result of this celebration.
5. Create your own list of prayer topics. (Use the next page to record them)

Design Team

Note: Begin planning at least two months prior to the celebration.

1. If an UMMen unit is present, leaders from the UMMen unit may talk about scheduling and planning a Men's Ministry Sunday with the pastor and other appropriate worship team leaders.
2. Select at least two men to be Men's Ministry Sunday coordinators. Diversity is important so that the team designs a worship service that speaks to men of all ages within the congregation and to men who may be visiting your church for the first time. Try to offer worship that includes men of all ages.
3. The coordinators should recruit a design **team of men of all ages**. Input from young men is vital. These men are an essential part of the church.
4. Work with publicity people who will:
 - a. Prepare and submit announcements for the church bulletin and newsletter, local radio and TV stations, community bulletin boards and local newspapers. This is a wonderful opportunity to involve youth and boys in making posters and electronic ads featuring photos of men's ministry conducted at your local church during the past year.
 - b. Order UMMen and other resources from the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Leaders and participants may want to wear UMM shirts to promote men's ministry. Shirts and other apparel may be ordered through <http://umm.logoshop.com/>
 - c. Prepare a display of men's ministries including those of United Methodist Men. Include photos of activities in which your men, youth and boys have been involved in your local church and community.
5. Discuss the possibility of designating all or a portion of the offering to a special men's ministry project. Possible projects include:
 - a. Sponsor individuals in your church or community to the 2021 National Gathering of United Methodist Men. Sponsor individuals to regional or conference men's ministry events.
 - b. Men's Ministry Specialists. Sponsor individuals to become trained as Men's Ministry Specialists—men who learn how to develop effective men's ministries within the local church. For more information call the General Commission on United Methodist Men (615) 620-7277 or email rvance@gcumm.org.
 - c. Meals for Millions! (The Society of St. Andrew an affiliate of the General Commission on United Methodist Men) - Help feed America's hungry:
 - i. Become a Challenge Disciple, individuals who contribute \$25 twice a year (\$25 yields 1,250 servings of food).
 - ii. A local church Men's Ministry group is asked to contribute \$200/church (\$200 yields 10,000 servings of food.) through the Society of Saint Andrew.



- iii. Donate through the United Methodist Church Advance Special #801600. Contact Society of St. Andrew (800) 333-4597 or (804) 299-5956, 3383 Sweet Hollow Road, Big Island, VA 24526, info@endhunger.org.
- iv. Organize a gleaning project.
- v. Organize a potato drop.

6. Follow Up

- a. Have the pastor and design team evaluate the effectiveness of the event. Consider factors such as:
 - i. Extent of publicity, both impersonal (posters, flyers, brochures, newspaper ads, etc.) and personal (invitations to friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors);
 - ii. Church-wide participation;
 - iii. Attendance (members, visitors);
 - iv. Enthusiasm generated;
 - v. Funds raised for ministry.
- b. Discuss how to improve the Men's Ministry Sunday next year.
- c. Stay in touch with men's ministry resources, training opportunities and news. Subscribe to UMMen magazine.
- d. Sign up for free subscriptions to *REFLECTIONS FROM THE COMMISSION STAFF AND OFFICERS*, e-mail resource produced bi-monthly which offers helpful hints for people interested in building and sustaining a life-changing men's ministry. To subscribe, e-mail us at gcumm@gcumm.org or sign up at gcumm.org. Put *REFLECTIONS FROM THE COMMISSION STAFF AND OFFICERS* in the subject line.
- e. Select at least two men who will be coordinators of Men's Ministry Sunday next year. Remember to include younger men. Early planning is vital to overall success of next year's celebration.



CHECKLIST FOR MEN'S MINISTRY SUNDAY



- ___ Secure the support of the pastor and key worship leaders (**immediately**).
- ___ Select the Men's Ministry Sunday coordinators (**immediately**).
- ___ Subscribe to UMMen magazine and "Reflections" enewsletter (**immediately**).
- ___ Visit suggested websites for ideas (**immediately** and again three weeks in advance of the celebration).
- ___ Review Men's Ministry Sunday planning packet (order any resources 9 weeks in advance).
- ___ Gather special Men's Ministry prayer team to pray for Men's Ministry Sunday (ongoing).
- ___ Gather men and boys to pray for the event (in addition to the prayer team).
- ___ Confirm Men's Ministry Sunday leaders (Readers, special music, ushers, speaker, etc.) (eight weeks in advance).
- ___ Organize and begin publicity (announcements, bulletin boards, etc). (6 weeks in advance).
- ___ Double-check the physical arrangements (banners, VCR, display booth, etc). (two days before)
- ___ Do the post-service evaluation and select next year's coordinators (within three weeks following the service).

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR OBSERVING MEN'S MINISTRY SUNDAY

- Make a strong effort to have ALL the men and boys of your church **personally** invited to participate in Men's Ministry Sunday.
- If you have a Scout troop, invite them to participate in Men's Ministry Sunday.
- Try unusual methods to advance publicity like humorous skits or songs on Sundays.
- Create electronic ads that could be used to invite men and boys of the church and others.
- Plan a United Methodist Men's event such as a father/son breakfast or dinner or a work project for a local Habitat for Humanity chapter. Make special efforts to reach out to those without fathers or sons. This is an excellent opportunity to nurture boys and teens that need father figures in their lives.
- Invite someone to testify to how they came to faith in Jesus Christ and the difference that Jesus makes in their daily life.
- Have a special month-long Sunday school series focused on men's issues leading up to Men's Ministry Sunday that are, "For Men Only." Possible men's issues to focus on include:
 1. Tough men's issues such as anger, loneliness, guilt, sadness, shame.
 2. Fathers (being one, having one).
 3. Health and Sexuality
 4. Abuse (experienced, discovered)
 5. Relationships
 6. Love
 7. Betrayal
 8. Society (roles, problems)
 9. Spiritual Integrity
- Select a "Man of the Year", Teenage Young Man of the Year and Boy of the Year. Present each with a certificate and take them out for lunch.
- Honor a person as a John Wesley Fellow—the highest honor awarded in the United Methodist Church. For more information on John Wesley Fellows go to www.gcumm.org.
- Prepare a booklet of daily devotions for the week preceding Men's Ministry Sunday, written by men and boys of the church.
- Prepare a Bible study based on men in the Scriptures who practiced missions, evangelism, and/or mentoring. Present the Bible study at the next UMMen gathering or in Sunday school.

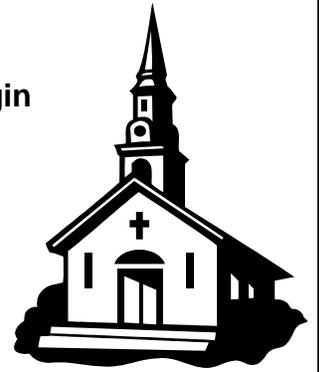


- Recruit a communicator who can provide stories for your local church newsletter and secular news outlets. Send stories of outstanding men's ministry efforts to the editor of UMMen magazine/newsletter. Send articles and photos to rpeck@gcumm.org.
- Consider a time when the men and boys of the church can gather to pray for your church, the pastor, and the ministries in which men and boys are engaged.
- *Provide copies of Strength for Service to God and Community.* This devotional was first published in 1942, shortly after Pearl Harbor. The pocket-sized volume contain a meditation for each day of the year. Eugene Hunsberger of southern California was a veteran who cherished the volume and continued to find inspiration from the meditations written by leading theologians and preachers from the 1940s. Eugene's grandson, Evan Hunsberger, decided to republish the book for his Eagle project. He made editorial changes and solicited additional contributions from many of today's religious leaders. Strength for Service's goal is to give a copy of the *Strength for Service* to every active member of the U.S. Armed Forces. Your church can help underwrite this project. www.strengthforservice.org.
- Give a Good Samaritan award to a youth who demonstrates the attributes of the Good Samaritan described in Luke 10:25-37. This award recognizes ministry to others through outreach, humanitarian assistance or advocacy.
- Be creative! Whatever ideas have been most helpful to the men and boys of your church, please share them with the rest of the men across the United Methodist Church connection. Send a four-paragraph story with photos to: Editor UMMen Magazine, 1000 17th Ave. S, Nashville, TN 37212.
- Ask the pastor or a conference UMM representative to present the UMM charter to the president of UMM during this service.
- Present Life Membership Award to leaders of men's ministry.
- Present scouting awards to scouts and leaders at this service.

WORSHIP HELPS

Note to coordinators: Please read the following suggestions *before* you begin working on the worship service.

Do not feel bound by the illustrations we have included. They are suggestions offered to help you get started.



Suggestions for Speakers

1. Make an outline of your message and learn it well enough to share conversationally without reading word for word. Maintaining eye contact is very important.
2. Keep the pace of your message brisk, brief and to the point. Plan a rehearsal of your message a week before you speak in church. Have a friend listen and offer suggestions. Ask your friend to share the main message that you intended to communicate.
3. People learn better and pay more attention when they use more than one of their senses. Consider using visual illustrations with your presentation. Some people like to take notes. Consider providing the congregation an outline of your message or a set of fill-in-the-blank questions as a bulletin insert.
4. Do not feel intimidated or overwhelmed because you feel as though you “lack credentials.” God uses people with willing hearts who make themselves available to the Holy Spirit through prayer, study and meditation. Pray for God’s wisdom and guidance as you prepare your message.
5. Jesus was a storyteller—why not follow his example? If you choose to use personal stories, avoid promoting yourself as the “hero” all the time. Consider using personal blunders as teaching moments or as opportunities to demonstrate God’s grace at work. Consider sharing your personal testimony of how you came to faith in Christ and describe what difference it has made in your life.
6. The key focus of your message is Christ. Men’s Ministry Sunday is an opportunity to highlight the many ways in which Christ is at work in and through men in your local church and community.

Remember, 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.”*

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE

The following is a suggested design for a men's day worship service. Adjust the service for your specific needs. This worship service is designed to honor men and be led by men.

Music

May be led by a male choir or male soloist, young men's choir, intergenerational choir or senior men's choir.

Themes

- ◆ Men Becoming Disciples
- ◆ Ministry to Men
- ◆ Celebrating the Christian Man
- ◆ A Man's Worship and Witness
- ◆ Becoming God's Man
- ◆ Man to Man
- ◆ Brother to Brother
- ◆ Men of Integrity
- ◆ Men at the Crossroads
- ◆ Men Standing for Christ
- ◆ Boys to Men
- ◆ Men Making a Difference
- ◆ Men Mentoring Men
- ◆ Men of Faith, Strength and Mission
- ◆ Old Men with Dreams, Young Men with Vision
- ◆ Christ's Men in the New Millennium
- ◆ Man in the Mirror



Suggested Hymns, Anthems and Songs

A Charge I Keep	(413 UMH)
A Place at the Table	(3149 Worship & Song)
All Hail The Power of Jesus Name	(154 UMH)
Amazing Grace	(378 UMH)
And Can It Be That I Should Gain	(363 UMH)
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing	(400 UMH)
Draw the Circle Wide	(3154 Worship & Song)
Eternal Father, Strong to Save	(2191 TFWS)
Faith of Our Fathers	(710 UMH)
Gather Us In	(2236 TFWS)
Grace Alone	(2162 TFWS)
He Touched Me	(367 UMH)
Here I Am Lord	(593 UMH)
I Love to Tell the Story	(156 UMH)
I Need Thee Every Hour	(397 UMH)
I Surrender All	(354 UMH)
It Is Well with my Soul	(377 UMH)
Jesu, Jesu	(432 UMH)
Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross	(301 UMH)
Lord You have Come to the Lakeshore	(344 UMH)
Lift Every Voice and Sing	(519 UMH)
Majesty, Worship His Majesty	(176 UMH)
My Hope is Built	(368 UMH)
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing	(57 UMH)
Pass Me Not O My Gentle Savior	(351 UMN)
Rise Up O Men of God	(576 UMH)
Shout to the North	(3042 Worship & Song)
Siyahamba	(2235 TFWS)
This Is My Fathers World	(144 UMH)
Tradin My Sorrows	(3108 Worship & Song)
Welcome	(3152 Worship & Song)

Order of Worship

GATHERING

GREETING

OPENING HYMN

OPENING PRAYER

Suggested prayer
The Lord be with you
And also with you

God of our Grandfathers, God of our Fathers, God of our Uncles, God of our Brothers, we praise you for the rich heritage we have as men and boys. We are grateful to be counted among the tradition of faithful men and boys you have used to do your bidding since the dawn of time. We count it a privilege to be included among such saints as Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, Joseph, Peter and Paul. We are humbled to be considered in the same company of men through the ages that you have used to proclaim your Kingdom truths. Men such as John and Charles Wesley, Philip Otterbein, Jacob Albright, Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke, Harry Hosier and _____
_____ (place one or two local UMMen saints here).

Eternal God, today we celebrate the ministry of men. We realize that it is the responsibility of every man to conform to the image of God as expressed in Jesus Christ. Our celebration today is in recognition of that goal for every man and boy of this congregation. We acknowledge that we may only obtain this goal to the degree we are willing to submit ourselves under your Lordship.

Strengthen our resolve, instill in us your confidence, and empower us to be the old men, young men and boys you created us to be through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

MUSIC

Choir Music

PROCLAMATION

MEN'S TESTIMONY

Faith witness of men and boys

SCRIPTURE

Suggested scriptures

Psalms 133:1
Psalms 37:23-24
Proverbs 20:29
Proverbs 27:17
James 5:16
Philippians 4:8
Micah 6:8

1 Timothy 2:8
Ephesians 5:25
Titus 2:6-8
Hebrews 3:12
1 Thessalonians 4:13-14
James 1:22

HYMN OR CHOIR

SERMON

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

CONFESSION, PEACE AND PARDON:

Let the men and boys of the church confess our sin against God and our neighbor

Most merciful God we yearn to have sin's crippling impact upon our male psyche reversed so that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ. Forgive us for the sins we have committed against you, our neighbors, our brothers, our fathers, sons, mothers and daughters. Create within us a new understanding of our role as men and boys, according to your original design in creation. Release in us the power of love, sensitivity and wisdom in the midst of every relationship we have. Let us become effective instruments of your redemption in our families, among our friends, within the business community, at school and wherever we go. Amen.

OFFERING

It is suggested that a special offering be taken on this day for the United Methodist Men's Hunger Relief or the *Strength for Service* devotional projects.

HYMN

(See suggested Hymns)

THE INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

GOING FORTH

Some groups may want to honor certain men with awards, plaques or some other form of recognition. This can be done during the time of the church's normal announcements or immediately following the conclusion of the worship service

HELPFUL INTERNET SITES

Music, liturgy and worship.....www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship

Evangelism and preaching help.....www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/evangelism

Men's ministry.....www.gcumm.org/ministry-to-men

Strength for Service, Inc.....www.strengthforservice.org

Gender Based Violence Prevention.....www.gcumm.org/gender-based-violence



MEN'S MINISTRY SPECIAL SUNDAY EVALUATION FORM

Church _____

Pastor _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip

Annual Conference _____

District _____

How many people participated in the worship service? _____

Of these, how many were:

United Methodist Men _____

Female _____

Clergy _____

People of Color _____

Boys 12 and under _____

Young men 13-18 _____

20-39 _____

40-59 _____

60+ _____

What follow up is planned for men's ministry in your church _____

What resources were most useful for planning Men's Ministry Sunday? _____

Please rate the resources in this planning packet:
1 to 10; 1 = Poor 10 = Excellent



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