



**Frequently Asked Questions  
of  
United Methodist Men**

The General Commission on United Methodist Men staff receives numerous questions whose answers may be of interest to 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 (UMM)?**

The *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church refers to several paragraphs concerning UMM at the local, district, conference, jurisdictional and general church level. Paragraphs pertaining to the local church organization of UMM include ¶226, 253, 256, and 257. Jurisdictional UMM are covered under ¶537. Annual Conference UMM is covered under ¶631. District organizations are covered under ¶671. The GCUMM is covered under ¶705, 2301, 2302, and 2303.

## **2. What is the purpose of UMM?**

The purpose of UMM 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 eight program agencies of the United Methodist Church. There are 20 elected commission members who represent the Council of Bishops, the central conferences, the jurisdictional conferences, The National Association of Conference

Presidents of UMM, and the United Methodist Men Foundation. GCUMM is responsible for providing resources about men's ministry throughout The United Methodist Church.

## **4. How does GCUMM classify its ministry partner organizations?**

The GCUMM has three different classifications of ministry partners based upon their special relationship to GCUMM and its purpose. This relationship can be terminated at any time by either organization with written notice. The three classifications are Affiliate Partner, Affiliate, and Endorsed Organization.

An Affiliate Partner is an organization where GCUMM has a place on their board of directors, and where GCUMM assists in fund raising that goes directly to the Affiliate Partner.

An Affiliate is an organization where there interaction on a committee-to-committee basis, and there is a close interactive relationship.

An Endorsed Organization is a group that has a good relationship with GCUMM or with some UMM conference organizations. They have a history of providing a meaningful ministry and engaging in good business practices.

## 5. Who are the affiliate partners of the GCUMM?



- The National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP)
- The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA)
- Strength for Service, Inc. (SFS)
- The United Methodist Men Foundation

## 6. Who are the affiliates of the GCUMM?



- Boy Scouts of America (BSA)
- Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries (DBOM)
- Girl Scouts of the USA (GCUSA)
- Mobility Worldwide
- Programs of Religious Activities with Your (P.R.A.Y.)
- The Upper Room Living Prayer Center
- WesleyMen - World Fellowship of Methodist/Uniting Church Men

## **7. Who are the endorsed organizations of the GCUMM?**



- Camp Fire
- Denominational Men's Ministry Leaders (DMML)
- The Hope of Hearing
- Lead Like Jesus
- Love Packages
- Man in the Mirror
- National Coalition of Ministries to Men (NCMM)
- Stop Hunger Now (SHN)
- The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries
- Wesleyan Building Brothers (WBB)

## **8. Is a UMM organization required in every local United Methodist Church?**

Yes. ¶256 of the *Book of Discipline* states that “Each church or charge shall have an organized unit of United Methodist Men...”

## **9. Is chartering and annual recertification a requirement of every UMM group?**

Yes. ¶256 of the *Book of Discipline* states that each unit of UMM must be chartered and annually recertified through the GCUMM.

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

In addition to the disciplinary requirement, chartering enables the national organization of UMM to resource the local church, provide training for UMM 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, 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 and to provide a national staff of specialists in men's and scouting ministries.

## ***11. 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, Disciple Bible Study, prison ministries, covenant discipleship groups and a host of other ministries that group same gender persons. These ministries 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, the national office provides chartered groups with materials, training, information, and support in carrying out effective ministry to all men in the local church.

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

The local church president and treasurer receive periodic materials from the GCUMM. These materials include the *UMMen* quarterly magazine, brochures and information about the various ministries and mission projects of UMM, 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 the president and treasurer in the worldwide network of UMM.

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

1. Enlist the support of the pastor. The clergy are a vital link to successful men's ministry in the local church.
2. Find a few men with enthusiasm who understand the importance of men's ministry and being connected to the global church.

3. Start with what you have. Don't wait for every man in the church to get on board.
4. Call GCUMM if you need help or additional materials.
5. Prayerfully develop a plan for your UMM ministry.
6. Get as many men as possible to attend a men's event (i.e., national gathering or a district or conference UMM event).
7. Offer a variety of program options to which men can connect in the ministry of your church.
8. If possible break into small groups that meet at different times (and perhaps in different locations).
9. Embrace all the men's activities and ministries already in existence in your church. Claim them as part of the ministry of UMM of your church. Invite them to all your meetings, events and fellowships. Let them know you consider them UMM.

#### ***14. 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.

#### ***15. 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. ¶256.6(h) of the *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.

#### ***16. What kind of resources are there for my local organization?***

Charter units regularly get resource information, including job descriptions and program materials, from the national office. The *UMMen* magazine and website ([www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org)), offer resources for

local church men's ministry. In addition, the online store, <http://umm.logoshop.com/> offers pins, hats, shirts, and other UMM and scouting apparel.

## **17. What is EMS?**



EMS is a second mile personal investment made by individuals who are committed to the mission of UMM. 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 UMM. Membership cost is \$45 annually.

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

EMS members receive *UMMen* quarterly magazine, a devotional resource (changes each year), and valuable discounts on UMMen events.

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

\$7.00 of each membership fee goes to your annual conference UMM. This money can be 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 for distributing 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 UMM sponsored mission opportunities such as Society of St. Andrew's Hunger Relief Advocate Program and The Hope of Hearing.

\$ .75 goes 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 GCUMM to provide programmatic resourcing of EMS and other ministries.



## **20. If I am a Life Member of UMM, do I still have to pay for my EMS membership?**

Yes. Life membership is an honor 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 UMM and its ministries.

## **21. What is a Legacy Builder?**



A Legacy Builder is someone who makes a significant financial contribution to promote the work of UMM to reach a new generation of men for Christ. The first \$45 of a Legacy Builder pledge pays for an EMS membership and monies received above \$120 go to the UMM Foundation to fund new initiatives in men's ministry. Legacy Builder pledges can be paid by automatic withdrawal from a credit card or a bank draft.

## **22. Why does GCUMM have responsibility for Scouting/Civic Youth-Serving Agencies?**

Several years ago the UMM Foundation stepped in to provide funding for the Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting when it was about to be discontinued. At that time the decision was made to place the responsibilities of this ministry in the portfolio of UMM. The UMM Foundation continues to support 38% of the expenses of this office. In addition, many men are involved in boy scouts, girl scouts, Camp Fire, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.



## 23. 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 in which they could be directly involved.



## 24. Who serves on the staff of the GCUMM and what are their roles?



**Gilbert Hanke** is the general secretary of the agency. He is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the ministry of UMM and Scouting.



**Larry Coppock** is the national director of the office of scouting/civic youth-serving agencies. He is responsible for overseeing the scouting ministries of The United Methodist Church. He is also acting executive director for *Strength for Service, Inc.*



**Martha Davis** is the chief operating officer. She assists the general secretary, oversees network support, as well as supervises and manages the GCUMM office.



**Rick Vance** is the director of men's ministry. He is responsible for oversight and resourcing of men's ministry, including the Understanding Men's Ministry and Men's Ministry Specialist programs.



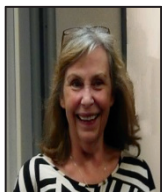
**Rich Peck** serves as editor. He edits and produces the magazine and handles communication pieces.



**Marc Stowe** is the scouting/civic youth-serving agencies assistant. He supports the work of the Scouting Ministries Office as well as the UMM Foundation and Strength for Service, Inc.



**Joe Strausbaugh** records charter and EMS payments and provides resources to local churches and UMM leaders. He also supports the MMS program.



**Ann Waller** is the staff accountant. She processes all payments and handles the agency's bookkeeping.

In addition, GCUMM has four deployed staff: Greg Arnold, Jim Boesch, Mark Dehority, and Mark Lubbock. These men facilitate training sessions throughout the United States and offer expertise on UMM programming.

## ***25. How can I request staff leaders for an event?***

Because of the small national staff (only Gil Hanke, Larry Coppock and Rick Vance 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 should be contacted at least six months before the proposed event, retreat, or speaking engagement. The commission also has three deployed staff who are available to assist with retreats and other events.

## ***26. Is there any cost involved in receiving help from national staff?***

Because of the limited budget of the GCUMM, 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.

## ***27. To what kinds of events do the national staff accept invitations?***

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

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

The GCUMM receives approximately 25 percent of its budgeted income from World Service apportionment giving. 75 percent of its income is derived from charters, EMS, grants and gifts. The GCUMM percentage of income from World Service is the **lowest** of any program agency.

## ***29. 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.

### **30. What are the advocate ministries of UMM?**

UMM have two advocate ministries.

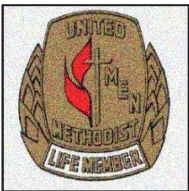
*The hunger relief advocate* is a local, district and conference United Methodist whose responsibility is to be an advocate for hungry people in the community, state, nation and across the globe. This person's responsibilities include educating, informing, and participating in hunger relief activities 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 UMM 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) "UMCOR Sunday."

*The UMM 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.

### **31. What are the recognition awards given out through UMM?**



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



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



The *Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence* is a recognition of women for distinguished servant leadership. This award is given through the GCUMM.



The *Good Samaritan Award* is given to recognize youth that demonstrate the attributes of the Good Samaritan by reaching out to others through significant personal outreach, humanitarian assistance, or advocacy. The GCUMM administers this award.



The *Torch Award* is a recognition given to adult leaders in the annual conference or districts who have given service (minimum four years) in the use and promotion of the scouting and civic youth-serving agencies at any level of the church.



The *Silver Torch Award* is a recognition given to adult leaders for exemplary service to scouting and/or youth ministry beyond the annual conference.



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



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.



The *Shepherd Church Charter Recognition* is an acknowledgment of churches that provide outstanding scouting/youth mentoring ministry to their communities through sponsorship of one or more civic youth-serving agencies. This award is annually recertified by the local church.

*Brochures for all awards are available from the GCUMM office and at [www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org).*

### ***32. When is the fiscal year for UMM and how are officers of units elected and when do their terms 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 and Leadership Development 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 assume 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 name to put in the journal...when officers were elected in the spring, the journal was incorrect for a year.

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

Yes. Checks for charters, EMS, resources, and awards can be made payable to GCUMM (to keep it short). You can make your charter and other payments three ways:

\*Online: [www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org). (click on the Support tab)

\*Mail: GCUMM, PO Box 440515, Nashville, TN 37244-0515

\*Phone: 866-297-4312 or 615-340-7145



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Revised April 2017

UMM1017