



UMMEN

The magazine of United Methodist Men



What
happened
in Tampa?

A letter from the General Secretary

After Tampa . . .

When I began my work at GCUMM on February 1, 2010 there were several dates that I looked forward to with excitement and some fear. May 5, 2012 was the most important — the day after General Conference.

Over the last two years people have guessed what the commission would look like at the close of General Conference; opinions ranged from elimination, to unfunded, to untouched. During this time many positive statements were made, particularly about our new initiatives to make disciples.

In a nutshell, plans to restructure the general agencies of the church either failed to get out of committee or were ruled unconstitutional by the Judicial Council.

Prior to the General Conference, agencies, including GCUMM, recommended a reduced number of board members, and prepared for a 6.5 percent reduction in World Service funding.

Due to increased funding for theological education in central conferences and funding to attract young people to the ordained ministry in the U.S., World Service funds for agencies, including GCUMM, were reduced by 10 percent. In the past we have raised 75 percent of our budget, and we will have to raise more to continue initiatives that serve local churches.

We continue to be a general commission of the church. Our board was reduced from 25 to 20 members; they include the president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men; the five U.S. jurisdictional presidents; president of the UM Foundation; Bishop Swanson; a to-be-elected bishop in the Northeast Jurisdiction; a to-be-elected Bishop in Nigeria; Tarmo Lilleoja- a lay person from Estonia; Manny Immanuel, a layman from the Philippines; and

eight members at large. Some of the at-large members need to be from the previous board for continuity and at least one will be a young adult. Our board will look like the UMC — males and females of varying ages and ethnicities and lay and clergy members from various geographic locations.

Here is how I see our role going forward. The goal of the UMC is to make disciples. That is not accomplished at the agency level, but at the local church and district level. Our vision is to be the best source for small-group resources, retreat models and training for principled Christian leaders in order to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In a culture where youth — particularly young men — seek and find mentors and “family” that lead them away from Christ, we want to provide a life-saving alternative. In a society that focuses on punishment and isolation of criminals, we want to provide hope and healing for all. In churches that appear to the men in the community to be “all talk and no action,” we want to provide a variety of ways to meet the missional needs of communities and in doing so transform the lives of givers and receivers.

We will continue to offer churches a vibrant sustained ministry to the men in your local church and men in your community who do not yet know Christ. I am glad you are on this journey with us; please stay in touch.

Gil Hanke, general secretary
General Commission on UM Men





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contents

UM Men

Summer 2012

FEATURES

- 6** General Conference roundup
- 11** King preaches message of inclusion
- 13** UM Men celebrate anniversary of Girl Scouts, award youth
- 15** Scouts prepared conference director
- 16** Summary of General Conference actions
- 18** Photos from General Conference
- 19** Funding the General Commission on UM Men
- 22** Giants' defensive tackle puts God first
- 24** The mighty hand of God in North Carolina
- 26** Misunderstanding Men's Ministry
- 28** Across the Nation

- 33** **DAD'S ZONE**
- 36** **MENS NEWS**
- 47** **SCOUTING NEWS**

Cover Photo: *The cross used in the May 3 evening worship at the 2012 General Conference. A UMNS photo by Kathleen Berry.*

Editor's note: *This magazine includes articles from individuals who hold diverse opinions. We hope all articles are thought provoking; they are not necessarily the opinions of the General Commission on UM Men.*



Life after Tampa

The cover of this issue asks the question, “What happened in Tampa?”

The answer – Everything and nothing.

Prior to leaving for Tampa, we learned it was the most stressful city in the United States and it was the site of the most lightning strikes in the fifty states.

The city lived up to both traditions.

It was a stressful two weeks and lightning hit when the Judicial Council struck down a “we-have-do-something-before-adjourment” structure that had been painfully adopted by the assembly.

While there were disclaimers, most delegates seemed to act as if the decreases in U.S. church membership and attendance were the result of inaction by general agencies. Somehow insightful recommendations from the multi-year Call to Action study had morphed from recommendations for local churches into a need to restructure general agencies.

On too many occasions, I heard accusations that general agencies operate in competitive and uncooperative silos that do not help local churches.

If people say that often enough it sounds true, even if it’s not close to reality.

In truth our agencies have worked closely together to help local churches—primarily around the four areas of focus.

For example, the General Commission on UM Men intensified efforts to serve local churches through the appointment of deployed staff members, the training of men’s ministry specialists, and the recruitment of scouting ministry specialists. Conference and district

presidents helped local churches expand their ministries to youth through scouting and other youth serving agencies. And the officers provided new tools to enrich the spiritual growth of men in churches and suggested ways to reach men outside the churches.

As a matter of confession, I served as the contract staff person who wrote the legislation for the structure plan that evolved from the Call to Action study. My task was to write — not to create.

During that process I drafted legislation that would carefully define the roles of each of the proposed five offices that would carry on the work of nine general agencies.

I was later asked to delete that copy since the committee wanted to leave all ministry decisions in the hands of a 15-member Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

I felt that was waaaay too much power to invest in 15 people and I expressed concern about action that I thought could increase the liability of the denomination.

Several others raised constitutional issues.

While changes made in the first ten days in Tampa improved the plan, I was overjoyed when Judicial Council ruled that the proposed new structure was unconstitutional. I did not feel the proposed structure did anything to increase the vitality of local congregations.

The end result? —We would not have to purchase a 2012 Discipline; we could just place a sticker over 2008 edition.

As the result of General Conference action, The General Commission on UM Men will begin 2013 with a smaller budget, but we will also start the new quadrennium with a continued commitment to declare the centrality of Christ in every man’s life.

Rich Peck

In her article on restorative justice, the Rev. Janet Wolf cites the recent trial of “a clergy person”—obviously the lesbian cleric in a lesbian relationship—as a good example of her topic. “While a church law had been broken,” she wrote, “no one was harmed by the violation,” nor, she tells us, by the meaningless tiny tap on her wrist the violator incurred. Wrong.

Actually a great deal of harm was done by the cleric and by the jury. The pew members of the UMC suffered grievous harm. The cleric thumbed her nose at—and continues to thumb her nose at—our church’s law. By its puny action, the jury told us that they did not care about the law nor the thinking behind it. Our connection, which we so often laud and spend so much time promoting, is badly frayed. Our members’ confidence that our clerics and judicial

process will reflect the will of the General Conference is badly damaged. Our hope that the forces of unbridled homosexual rights will heed the decisions of the General Conference is all but destroyed. And our underlying assumption that the General Conference, on matters of this magnitude, acts in accord with the Bible and the will of God, is given a big fat raspberry that undermines the church’s foundations. The principal message to the world is clear: In our view, the beliefs of the homosexual-rights minority are bigger than the church’s governing principles and its members’ right to have the law fulfilled in meaningful measure—in a word—nullification.

Enormous harm, enormous foul—as the parade of members to the exits continues unabated.

*R. Michael Childs
Charlotte, N.C.*

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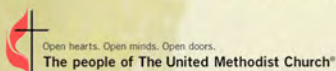


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General Conference Roundup

By Rich Peck

TAMPA, Fla. (UMNS) --

United Methodists from five continents addressed a wide range of challenging issues, including church structure and human sexuality, and engaged in an Act of Repentance toward indigenous people during their 10-day legislative gathering.

Meeting in the Tampa Convention Center, steps away from the waters of Tampa Bay, the 988 delegates recalled through worship, song and sermon the healing and transforming ministry of Jesus beside the Sea of Galilee.

As storms on the Sea of Galilee alarmed the disciples, so too, conflicting stands on structure and social justice issues troubled the delegates and some 4,000 visitors and staff. Perhaps the most surprising lightning strike occurred at 4:30 p.m. on May 4, the final day of the assembly, when the delegates received word from the church's supreme court that a major piece of legislation regarding restructuring violated the denomination's Constitution.

Afterward, Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster of the Charlotte (N.C.) Area, outgoing Council of Bishops president, sought to comfort a frustrated assembly at the start of the evening session. "God always provides a way," he said.

In addition to restructuring and the Act of Repentance, General Conference addressed a wide range of topics during its April 24-May 4 gathering. The delegates:

- Retained the church's position regarding homosexuality, deciding not to adopt language that would have said United Methodists are not of one mind on this issue;
- Did away with "guaranteed appointments" for clergy;
- Rejected a proposal for setting aside a bishop to serve as full-time president of the Council of Bishops;
- Entered into full communion with a number of historically black pan-Methodist denominations;
- Approved making the United Methodist Women an autonomous organization rather than operating it



The Rev. George Tinker preaches during an "Act of Repentance toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous Peoples" on April 27. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

- under the church's missions agency;
- Created a national ministry plan for Pacific Islanders;
- Adopted a \$603.1 million budget for the 2013-2016 period; and
- Decided not to divest from three companies whose products are used by the Israeli military in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The delegates, from more than 60 nations, processed some 1,200 petitions during the assembly. General Conference meets every four years and is the only body that speaks for the 13 million-member denomination.

Structure ruled unconstitutional

Church restructuring received more attention from delegates than any other issue. Plans for a new structure that had been evolving over the last year and finally hammered out after a weeklong struggle took a major hit when The Rev. L. Fitzgerald "Gere" Reist, secretary of the conference, announced that the Judicial Council had ruled the newly established structure unconstitutional.

Delegates and visitors reacted in stunned silence and scattered applause. After a 10-minute recess, delegates returned to their chairs.

"We need time to consider what just happened," said Bishop Jeremiah L. Park of the New York Area, who was presiding over the session. The body adjourned until 7:30 p.m.

The Judicial Council found several problems with the new structure. The nine-member "Supreme Court" of the denomination said that the plan called for the creation of a 45-member General Council on Strategy and Oversight that would have "authority for consolidation of administrative services to the extent practicable. ..."

"The Constitution authorizes Council of Bishops to bear the responsibility for general oversight," the

court said.

Judicial Council members said they did not review the "tortured process" by which the plan had been approved "outside established legislative processes." They did review the plan itself.

"We have reviewed the plan to determine whether any part, portion, or all of Plan UMC can be saved and conclude that it cannot. The broad delegation of legislative authority and the commingling of the role of oversight so inextricably permeate the plan as to render it constitutionally unsalvageable."

Reshuffled agenda

During the dinner hour, delegates and agencies huddled to consider next steps. Members of the General Council on Finance and Administration, which had earlier agreed to withdraw \$3 million from the Episcopal Fund and give it to the World Service Fund, reconsidered their action. Instead, they agreed to give general agencies \$1.5 million to help compensate them for losses when \$12 million was removed from their budgets to create a line item for theological education outside the United States and the recruitment and training of young clergy in the United States.

The rest of the evening was spent trying to make certain the United Methodist Women becomes a separate agency, the budget remains intact and proposed agency reductions are carried out. The agencies proposed to reduce their boards by 266 directors, or about half. Those reductions will move forward because they were not part of the restructuring plan.

Human sexuality

One of the most troubling actions occurred May 3 when some 100 people entered the plenary area following the

defeat of an effort to add a statement to the Social Principles that urged unity and co-existence in spite of opposing views on homosexuality.

The assembly retained the current stance saying the denomination considers all persons are "individuals of sacred worth [however, the church] does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."

Indiana Bishop Michael Coyner, presiding officer, adjourned the May 3 morning session after only 20 minutes as the singing of protesters made it difficult to conduct business.

When the assembly gathered after a longer-than-planned lunch break, Kansas Bishop Scott Jones, was the presiding officer for the afternoon session.

Some 100 people seeking changes in denominational policies related to homosexuals gathered around a communion table at the center of the assembly hall.

"I feel your pain," said Germany Area Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, president of the Council of Bishops, in an opening prayer. The Rev. Frank Wulf, a supporter of changing the policies and clergy person from the California-Pacific Annual (regional) Conference, offered a second prayer, asking God for a way for the "broken community [to find] a voice that promotes healing and hope." After the prayers, the demonstrators left peacefully.

Since only the morning session had been set aside to discuss issues related to human sexuality, the conference did not address petitions calling for changes in the present policy of denying clergy the right to conduct services of union for persons of the same gender or policies prohibiting the ordination and appointment of self-professed practicing homosexuals.

An earlier "holy conversation" on issues related to human sexuality also was cut short because of an extended

discussion on the rules.

Difficulties with homosexuality did not originate in Tampa, and the journey through these difficult waters will not end here. Advocates for change proclaimed they will not leave the church; they will live out their calling within the denomination.

Finance

The Judicial Council decision does not significantly affect budgets approved by the assembly.

General Conference approved a quadrennial budget of \$603.1 million for seven general church funds during 2013 to 2016; that total is 6.03 percent less than the amount apportioned in the 2009 to 2012 quadrennium.

That sounds like a whopping amount, but local churches should not count on huge savings, since only 2 cents out of every dollar in a collection plate goes to support general church ministries.

Delegates approved two new line items in the World Service Fund. They created a \$5 million fund for theological education in central conferences – church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines -- and \$7 million to recruit and train young clergy in the United States.

Those grants, combined with earlier recommendations to reduce agency budgets by 6 percent, means general agencies will receive nearly 10 percent less money in 2013-16 than they received in 2009-2012. That action will be softened by a grant of \$1.5 million from the General Council on Finance and Administration to the World Service Fund. That grant is partly the result of the finance agency decision to reduce the Episcopal Fund by \$3 million. Agency members also granted \$1 million to help offset deficits experienced by the Commission on General Conference and returned \$500,000 to the General Administration Fund.

While agencies may experience some



Christine Dodson of North Carolina proposes referring the “Plan UMC” for church restructuring to the Council of Bishops after the United Methodist Judicial Council ruled that the plan was unconstitutional. After an hour of confused amendments and debate, the General Conference voted to table the referral, killing the plan. She is accompanied by the Rev. Greg Stover, pastor of Armstrong Chapel UMC in Cincinnati, Ohio.

savings in a reduced number of agency board members, those savings will be less than the 10 percent reduction in funds and the rate of inflation over the next four years.

Since all local churches do not pay the full apportionments, the amount received by all funds is less than the amount budgeted.

Act of Repentance

On Friday, April 27 before legislation reached the plenary floor, delegates participated in “An Act of Repentance toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous Peoples,” recognizing and repenting of actions taken against Native peoples of all nations. In a

moving ceremony in the plenary hall, they confessed that the church has “participated in the violation, the exploitation, and even the killing of indigenous people.”

At the close of the service of repentance, delegates picked up symbolic stones from the “river of life” scattered in the worship area. They were asked to take them back to their communities “as a covenant to continue to listen and to walk the journey of healing with one another.”

End to guaranteed appointments

Many delegates were surprised when the conference placed a proposal that would effectively end guaranteed

appointment for clergy on the consent calendar, a device used to expedite legislation when there are fewer than 10 members of a legislative committee opposed to a proposal.


After a few delegates discovered what they had passed, an attempt to reconsider the issue was rejected by a margin of 564 to 373. On May 4, the final day of the meeting, the conference agreed to ask the Judicial Council for a ruling on whether the measure violates the Constitution. That ruling will come at a later meeting of the Judicial Council.

Delegates were far more cautious on other issues. Less than the required two-thirds of the delegates voted to seek a constitutional amendment that would allow for a bishop to serve as president of the Council of Bishops without responsibility for overseeing a geographic area. They also didn't approve a proposed amendment to allow budgets to be adjusted between sessions of General Conference.

Somewhat like the advance billing for a high wire act that turns out to be a foot off the ground, so too, this General Conference was billed as the assembly that would make the most sweeping changes since the 1968 formation of the denomination.

By the time exhausted delegates shuffled their way out of the assembly hall shortly before 11 p.m., the denomination looked very much like it had before the delegates arrived.

Bishop Rosemarie Wenner of Germany, the new president of the Council of Bishops, sent the delegates forth on an encouraging note during the conference's closing worship.

"At the end of all our business unfinished though (it is), as we are ready to go, let us pause for a moment," she said. "Let us listen as the risen Christ says to us, 'Fear not! I am with you. And, therefore, follow me.'" 

humor

Praying at the wall

A journalist heard about a very old man who had been going to the Western Wall in the midst of the old city of Jerusalem to pray, twice a day, every day, for a long, long time.

So she went to check it out. She went to the Western Wall and there he was, walking slowly up to the holy site.

She watched him pray and after about 30 minutes, when he turned to leave, using a cane and moving very slowly, she approached him for an interview.

"Pardon me, sir, I'm a journalist from Nashville. What's your name?"

"Morris," he replied.

"Sir, how long have you been coming to the Western Wall and praying?"

"For about 60 years."

"60 years! That's amazing! What do you pray for?"

"I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews, and the Muslims."

"I pray for all the wars and all the hatred to stop."

"I pray for all our children to grow up safely as responsible adults and to love people who aren't like them."

"I pray that politicians tell us the truth and put the interests of the people ahead of their own interests."

"How do you feel after doing this for 60 years?"

"Like I'm talking to a wall."



James King (left) and the Revs. Motoe Yamada (center) and Kim Reisman sing during evening worship on April 25 at the 2012 United Methodist General Conference in Tampa, Fla. King is episcopal leader of the South Georgia Annual (regional) Conference. Reisman is a delegate from the Indiana Conference, while Yamada is a reserve delegate from the California-Nevada Conference. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

King preaches message of inclusion

By Kara Witherow

Bishop James King, president of the General Commission on UM Men, delivered the sermon on the first full day of General Conference.

After readings from Isaiah 55:1-5 and Mark 2:13-17, Bishop King, episcopal leader of the South Georgia Annual Conference, greeted the General Conference session with his trademark, "Hello, beautiful people!"

Bringing energy and enthusiasm to the crowd, King preached a message of inclusion, invitation and love.

Come one, come all

"The doors to the Kingdom of God are wide open," he began. "Once we're in, it's our job to invite others in."

Too many United Methodist churches sit almost empty, he said. There are many reasons for the lack of vitality and growth, but the answer is simple.

"There is no shortage of people in the world, but there is a shortage of love."

As people of faith, he preached, the potential is great and the possibilities are limitless because God's harvest is plentiful.

King challenged believers of every nationality, every race and every language to heed Jesus' call to "make disciples of all nations."

"Invite in sign language, invite in English, invite in French, invite in German, invite in Korean, invite in Portuguese, invite in Russian, invite in Spanish, invite in Swahili," King admonished while



Bishop Peter Weaver of the Boston Area gives the Episcopal Address during an April 25 session of the 2012 United Methodist General Conference in Tampa, Fla. Weaver developed and presented the address on behalf of the United Methodist Council of Bishops. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

naming the languages into which the General Conference sessions are being simultaneously translated.

“Come one, come all!”

All means all

Recounting Levi’s calling into ministry as told in Mark 2, King said that Jesus saw Levi — a tax collector — and said to him, “Follow me.”

“Hear this message,” he said. “All means all.”

As United Methodists, he asked, how many times have Christians heard the saying, “Christ invites all, all to his table?”

“We invite the Levis of the world because we understand that all means all,” he said.

The paralytic who was lowered into the house from the roof by his friends, Levi the tax collector, David the shepherd boy — all were outsiders who were brought in by the love of Christ, King continued.

“Jesus claimed the blind, the prostitute, the poor, a thief on a cross,” he said. “Outside, but brought in. Why? Because all means all. All means all!”

Apply the Golden Rule

Loving others changes the world. Centering on Jesus’ commandment to love others, King urged his United Methodist congregants to focus on their mission to love.

“If we forget the mission, it’s easy to forget the people,” he said to applause. “Like the Pharisees, we can replace people with rules and laws. If we do, our *Discipline* will get thicker while our membership declines.”

The key to remembering the mission, he said, is to write it down, make it plain, teach it, practice it and make it a holy habit.


“We will destroy what we do not understand.”

The action point of the message is to apply the Golden Rule with every person.

“It’s simple but it works,” Bishop King said. “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. If you apply this rule, it will change your behavior. It will change the local church. It will change the annual conference. It will change The United Methodist Church ... and yes, it will transform the world.

“Beautiful people — love works!”

Reminding attendees and thousands of online viewers that Jesus said to “go and make disciples of all nations,” King asked if they were going to follow Jesus’ commandment.

“If your answer is yes, let us go to all the corners of the world, inviting everyone into a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. So, beautiful people, invite! Come one, come all!” 

Witherow is editor of the South Georgia Advocate,

UM Men celebrate anniversary of Girl Scouts, award youth



May 1st, 2012 - Boy Scouts Justin Jackson (left) and Ryan Wilson receive the United Methodist Church's Good Samaritan Award from Larry Coppock during the 2012 United Methodist General Conference in Tampa, Fla. Coppock is director of Scouting Ministries at the General Commission on United Methodist Men. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

TAMPA(UMNS) —

Among a series of celebrations, the 2012 General Conference marked the 100th birthday of the Girl Scouts, one of the youth-serving organizations coordinated by the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

It was appropriate to hold the birthday celebration in Tampa as one of the first troops was organized in this city. In 1913, Jessamine Flowers Link started a troop at Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Tampa.

Since those early days, more than 50 million girls have been part of a Girl Scout troop and there are troops in more than 92 countries.

The denomination is the largest sponsor of Girl Scouts with over

127,000 girls meeting in 27,000 troops at United Methodist churches.

The denomination is also the second largest charter organization of Boy Scouts with over 370,000 scouts meeting in United Methodist churches.

"Let me assure you, United Methodist Men is very committed to resourcing local congregations, districts and annual conferences in multiple ways to expand both men's ministries and scouting ministries," said Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. "Across the connection more than 200 people are serving as scouting ministry specialists and more are added each month."



Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, speaks to an April 29 session of General Conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts.

Good Samaritan Awards

The commission frequently honors youth who demonstrate the attributes of the Good Samaritan, and Hanke and Larry Coppock, commission staff executive for scouting, presented two awards.

When Justin Jackson was 17, he was driving his mother home from church when a van ran a stop sign and slammed into their vehicle. Although Justin wasn't hurt, his mother injured her wrist. As Justin went to help her, he noticed flames rising from under the hood of the van. Justin ran to the van, dragged the woman driver out just before flames engulfed the vehicle.


Hanke presented a Good Samaritan Award to Jackson, an Eagle Scout and a member of a troop chartered to First United Methodist Church of Seffner, Fla.

Ryan Wilson is also an Eagle Scout, a rank achieved by only 5 percent of Scouts.

Ryan, 29, has Downs syndrome. Due to a serious heart condition, doctors told his parents he would not live past age 10 and would probably never be able to speak. They were wrong.

To become an Eagle Scout, a candidate must earn 21 merit badges; Ryan earned 28. He fired an arrow to pop a balloon 100 feet away for his archery badge and he hooked an 8-foot hammerhead shark while earning his fishing badge.

For his Eagle project, he built outdoor bleachers for Faith United Methodist Church in Hudson, Fla.

Coppock presented Ryan with a Good Samaritan Award. 

humor

Letters to the pastor

*Dear Pastor,
I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister.
Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8, Nashville.*

*Dear Pastor,
My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something.
Robert, Age 11, Anderson.*

Scouts prepared conference director

by Jackie Campbell

General Conference business manager, the Rev. Alan Morrison, says his event-management training came from Boy Scouts. Overseeing the arrangements and organization of General Conference seems a monumental task, but Morrison says it's not that different from what he did when he planned a patrol camping trip at age 11.

"Whether it is an event for eight or thousands, the basics are the same," he explained. "You have to understand how to plan for how you are going to feed people, how to get the equipment you need, where you're going to stay, and so on."



The Rev. Alan Morrison

After that first patrol camping trip, Morrison,

like his father and his son, attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He still is involved in camping and, over the years, has organized progressively larger scouting events, such as jamborees.

Morrison's undergraduate and graduate education also provided some of the knowledge he uses to pull together an event as large as General Conference. He holds an associate degree in digital electronics, a bachelor's degree in business management, a master of divinity degree and a master's in biblical literature.

"I have a Renaissance education, and, in this job, that is exactly what's

needed," he said. "I not an expert, but I have an understanding of a lot of things. Every piece of my formal education and every employment experience has helped in deploying all the resources needed for the General Conference."

Significant financial resources go into staging the quadrennial assembly. Morrison estimates the cost of the 2012 General Conference at \$8.5 million, most from apportioned funds. To ease the burden, Morrison recruited sponsors beyond in-kind donors for the first time this year.

"I think it was very successful for a first-time effort," he said, noting that about \$300,000 was raised. "It's a beginning to provide an income stream, so (the cost) doesn't all have to be paid from apportionment dollars."

Campbell is news and information specialist for Western Pennsylvania Conference



Beatrice Gbanga of Sierra Leone holds an insecticide-treated mosquito net during a celebration of the work of the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign during the 2012 United Methodist General Conference.

A summary of General Conference actions

The assembly:


1. Retained the General Commission on United Methodist Men and reduced membership on the governing board from 25 to 20. As with all other general agencies, the amount of money to be given to the commission from the World Service Fund was reduced by nearly 10 percent. The numbers of board members on the other 13 general agencies were also reduced by a total of 266 persons;
2. Adopted a \$603.1 million budget for the 2013-2016 period, down 6 percent from the preceding quadrennium and created two new line items in that budget (\$5 million for theological education in central conferences and \$7 million to recruit and train young clergy in the United States);
3. Adopted legislation that would give bishops and cabinets the ability to appoint ordained elders to less-than-full-time positions. With the approval of conference boards of ordained ministry and clergy members of the conference, bishops may put elders on unpaid transitional leave for up to 24 months;
4. Retained both defined benefit and defined contribution components of the clergy pension program while controlling future costs;
5. Rejected a proposal to amend the Constitution to create a post for a bishop without residential responsibility to serve as president of the Council of Bishops and defeated an effort to amend the Constitution to limit the terms of bishops to eight years with the possibility of one re-election;
6. Changed the long-standing provision for individuals to petition General Conference. In the future a larger United Methodist unit, such as a local church council, must submit the proposed legislation;
7. Agreed to remove United Methodist Women as a division of the General Board of Global Ministries and make it an independent agency;
8. Decided not to divest from three companies whose products are used by the Israeli military in the occupied Palestinian territories;
9. Retained the church's position regarding homosexuality, and opposed an effort to adopt language that would have said United Methodists are not of one mind on this issue. Other sexuality issues were not discussed because of the need for time to cope with structural issues following the Judicial Council ruling;
10. Took the first step in adopting a new constitutional amendment that calls United Methodists to join other



The Rev. Fred Allen highlights the ministry of Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century during the April 29 celebration of ministry at General Conference. UMNS photo by Mike DuBose



Members of the Virginia delegation huddle to discuss possible next steps after the United Methodist Judicial Council ruled the proposed "Plan UMC" for church restructuring to be unconstitutional on May 4.

- Christians to pray, seek and work for unity with other Methodist churches and united churches related to the Methodist church;
11. Engaged in an act of repentance for sins against indigenous people and called for the recognition of the Northern Cheyenne tribe of Montana, the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma and the Northern Arapaho tribe of Wyoming as federally recognized tribes as stated in an 1865 treaty;
 12. Increased the number of youth, young adults and persons from central conferences on the 25-member Commission on General Conference;
 13. Agreed to call for translation of Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate into Kiswahili, French and Portuguese;
 14. Approved a revised judicial trial process for clergy that removes the Committee on Investigation step. Delegates also called for open trials unless the presiding officer decides the trial should be closed. The trial itself is unchanged;
 15. Reaffirmed a resolution calling for the phasing out of nuclear weapons production and the closing down of five weapons-producing reactors and the Rocky Flats Plutonium Processing Plant;
 16. Changed the name of Lay Speaking Ministries to Lay Servant Ministries;
 17. Learned that a decision to have each of the five U.S. jurisdictions separately bear the cost of the bishops in their jurisdictions was declared unconstitutional;
 18. Created a \$544,000 plan to support ministries for U.S. churches ministering to people from the Pacific Islands;
 19. Elected four new members each to the Judicial Council and the University Senate;
 20. Spent every day in worship and heard an episcopal address, a laity address and a young people's address. Delegates also celebrated the achievements of the four areas of focus and other life-changing ministries. 



Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men and Renee Smith Edmonson, a staff member of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, help bag cucumbers for the Society of St. Andrews during General Conference. Delegates and visitors helped bag 40,000 pounds of cucumbers for distribution by local feeding agencies across Central Florida. UM Men partner with the Society of St. Andrew in ministry to the hungry that coordinates more than 30,000 volunteers, and distributes more than 25 million pounds of fresh produce that would otherwise be wasted.



Delegates walk past LGBT demonstrators "playing dead" to attract notice that some positions of the church have potentially deadly consequences. For example, gay teens are four times more likely than all teen-agers to attempt suicide.



Lawrence Wilson delivers box lunches to participants in a May 1 celebration of Ministry With the Poor at a park near the site of the 2012 United Methodist General Conference in Tampa, Fla. The meal was provided by Inside the Box Catering, a project of Metropolitan Ministries' Social Entrepreneurship Initiative. A UMNS photo by Paul Jeffrey.



(From right) David Valera, Patrick Scriven, Greg Nelson, the Rev. Karen Nelson and Linda Rhodes work in the newsroom at the 2012 United Methodist General Conference in Tampa, Fla. A UMNS photo by Kathleen Barry.



The Rev. We Hyun Chang, a pastor in Belmont, Mass., and a delegate from the New England Annual (regional) Conference, argues to reconsider retaining guaranteed appointments for clergy, during a debate at the 2012 United Methodist General Conference in Tampa, Fla. The guarantee of an annual appointment for elders was eliminated by the conference on May 1. A UMNS photo by Paul Jeffrey.



Pan-Methodist church leaders join together on May 1 at the 2012 United Methodist General Conference in Tampa, Fla. From left are: Bishops Alfred Norris and Sharon Zimmerman Rader, The United Methodist Church; Bishop Thomas Hoyt Jr., Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; the Rev. W. Robert Johnson III, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; Bishop John F. White, African Methodist Episcopal Church; Byrd Bonner, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson and the Rev. Stephen Sidorak Jr., The United Methodist Church. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

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Giants Defensive tackle puts God first

A UMNS Feature by Barbara Dunlap-Berg

It's hard to understand what success is if you've never seen it," said New York Giants defensive tackle (No. 99) Chris Canty. "It's hard to understand what accountability is if you've never seen it. It's hard to understand what responsibility is if you've never seen it."

His mom, the Rev. Shirley L. Canty, a United Methodist pastor in North Carolina, has more reason to be proud of her son than his big win.

Chris Canty grew up United Methodist. His mother remembers leaving for a clergy convocation when her son was about

6. Chris was thrilled the bishop would be there. "Could you ask the bishop if I could be your junior pastor?" he asked. That commitment to the church stuck.

While a professional football career means he cannot make it to church every Sunday, he shares his love for Jesus Christ in other ways.

Four years ago, he created a football camp for youth at his alma mater, Charlotte Latin School in North Carolina. That venture — which has involved 1,000 youth since its inception — was the seed that blossomed into the Chris Canty Foundation.

Mentors are an essential facet of the foundation as they model success, accountability and responsibility.

"We try to put people in their lives who can demonstrate those attributes and then, in turn, get kids to implement those

characteristics in their own lives, where they take up the mantle and (become) responsible, accountable, productive citizens," he said. "That's something I definitely want to pass down to the next generation of youth."



Family is important to New York Giants defensive tackle Chris Canty (left), shown here with his mother, the Rev. Shirley Canty, and brothers Joseph and Sekou Canty. Photo courtesy of Joseph Canty.

Reaching out is high on Canty's agenda.

"God has blessed me with a tremendous platform to be able to influence young minds," he said. "I have a passion for working with kids. I just try to utilize the platform of athletics positively to influence their lives in any way I can."

Steering youth in a positive direction

"We've been able to broaden our network and stretch into some other programs, both in the Charlotte area as well as New York and New Jersey metropolitan areas," Canty said. The foundation works with city police and fire departments as well as an after-school enrichment program related to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

"We stretch our arms in a lot of different directions," Canty noted. "But our focus is influencing kids and steering them in a positive direction." He forged a partnership with a Charlotte university and area schools to recruit children and youth for a community-cleanup project. "It's very exciting to be a part of that initiative," he said.

Canty didn't participate in sports until his junior year in high school. But those teen years on the basketball court and the football field helped him lead his team to a state championship in 1999. After a successful gridiron experience at the University of Virginia, where he majored in African-American studies, he was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in 2005. Four years later, he joined the Giants roster.

His faith has sustained him every step of the way, Canty said.

"It's sustained me throughout the ebbs and flows, the ups and downs of not only my professional career, but (also) my personal life. That's the one constant that has allowed me to continue to press forward throughout all the adversity I've faced and all the challenges life has thrown my way."

He strives to give back to the church that has nurtured him. "I'm excited about the football camp I'm going to host as a part of a youth retreat for The United Methodist Church this summer," he said.

A supportive family — his parents and two older brothers — is a blessing as well.

"My dad never misses a game," Canty said. "I'm thankful to have him there. On Saturday evenings, we always do dinner. It's a time for us to spend some father-son time and catch up on the week's events." His father, Joseph Canty, owns a construction business. Both parents have been involved in community ministries throughout their careers.

Canty also is grateful for his mother's support. "I always tell her (that) her job is much more important than my job," he said. "So I don't mind her not being able to come to football games because she's doing something more important. She's saving souls." And when her schedule permits her to go to a game, he said, "It's always special to have her in the stands."

An 'awesome' Super Bowl

Shirley and Joseph Canty, who met at United Methodist-related Claflin University in Orangeburg, S.C., were their son's loudest cheerleaders at the Super Bowl.

The game "was awesome from beginning to end," an enthusiastic Shirley said. "The team just came together — and I got to see that!"

Defensive tackle No. 99 is still euphoric about the Giants' victory.

"I'm just enjoying every moment of it, embracing it," Canty said. "I'm just trying to enjoy it and soak it all in."


Not surprisingly, he said the most exciting part of the game was the opportunity to stop Patriot quarterback Tom Brady.

"We got the ball back with a minute left. They were down by 4, and it was up to the defense to stop him from getting his team down to the end zone and scoring."

How does Canty envision life after football?

"Obviously football is always going to remain a special part of my life," he said, "even though I might not be able to continue to play. I plan to stay close to the game, whether it (is) coaching younger kids, commentating or being an analyst.

"But my passion is to work with kids, so I think I will continue to do that and be more involved in philanthropic efforts of that nature."

That wouldn't surprise his mother. "Chris has always had a love for people ... for encouraging people," she said. "He is very compassionate. And he has a heart for children ... for helping children to dream." 

Dunlap-Berg is internal content editor for United Methodist Communications, Nashville, Tenn.

The mighty hand of God in North Carolina

By Tom Starnes

All UM Men groups are forced to raise funds for a vision they feel led to pursue; they do so with varying degrees of success.

How many groups, however, would pursue a vision far beyond anything one could reasonably imagine?

How many UM Men groups would purchase 22 acres of land upon which they would erect a 50,000 square-foot warehouse with offices, a kitchen, a chapel and a conference room? Not only will the warehouse be filled with tools, bins, vehicles, and equipment, but let's throw in equipment to maintain the surrounding area as well. Oh, and for good measure, let's include some modular units on the side to house up to 60 individuals who wish to use the facility for an extended stay.

How many millions of dollars did you say they would have to raise? No! This is way beyond the capacity of any men's group to accomplish.

Not a fantasy

The illustration above is not a fantasy; it is a description of Marian Edwards Recovery Center Imitative (MERC I) facility located in Goldsboro, N.C., near the center of the North Carolina Conference.

Established by the conference in 2001 as a disaster-recovery ministry after Hurricane Floyd devastated eastern North Carolina, MERC I has an exemplary history of humanitarian relief. However, the self-supported ministry experienced funding and management difficulties.

In June, 2011, the North Carolina Conference voted to close the facility and splinter its mission to other conference units.

The decision temporarily dealt a devastating blow to conference men.



UM Men place new 3MC sign on former MERC I center.

The MERC I facility was central to their conference-wide mission.

Following the decision to close the facility, a core group of conference UM Men devised a plan to operate and manage the facility. They planned to implement programs that would reach every man, woman, and child in the conference and other faith-based organizations.

Raleigh Area Bishop Alfred W. Gwinn and the North Carolina Conference Cabinet supported the ambitious plan.

Facility renamed

Our first act was to rename the facility the Methodist Men's Ministry Center or "3MC" with "3" also symbolizing the Trinity.

Next we formed UMM Ventures,



Men cleaning and repairing the 3MC facilities take a break

Inc., and are seeking 501(C)3 certification.

We have a board of directors made up of 60 percent UM Men and 40 percent conference staff.

We have conducted many town hall meetings to inform conference personnel of the vast potential of the facility and to solicit their financial and mission support.

We are developing a recording studio where youth groups and praise bands can make recordings and cut CDs for \$1 each. We will also manufacture free infant caskets to provide to hospitals throughout the state to accommodate women who desire a dignified means of removing fetuses from the hospital. We are also extending outreach opportunities to other partners of faith such as Emmaus, Man in the Mirror, Scouts, Nomads, and UM Women.

In February, 30 workers came to the center to paint, clean, power wash and to hang a new 3MC sign on the front of the building. In April the men hosted a "rewired" training session for the conference. The facility is now receiving nation-wide UMM attention with plans to host a Train-the-Trainer event in July.

On March 12th, the conference made the decision to transfer all disaster-

relief efforts to the Methodist Men. The 3MC facility will continue to serve as one of six UMCOR Depots across the U.S.

North Carolina Conference UM Men have been given an unparalleled mission opportunity which is as humbling as it is exciting. The decision by the North Carolina Conference to transfer the facility to the UMM, followed by the assignment of disaster-relief responsibility, is attributable to across-the-board confidence in UMM leadership developed through their aggressive and exemplary leadership program.

There is no end to the potential that this opportunity offers. We are relying on the mighty hand of God for the guidance and direction necessary to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Keep North Carolina UM Men in your prayers.



Tom Starnes is president of North Carolina Conference UM Men

Misunderstanding Men's Ministry

By Greg Arnold

Many leaders of UM Men organizations express disappointment when too few men attend their functions. And those who advocate change are too quick to accept a “it’s-always-been-done-this-way” response.

What used to be strong, thriving ministries with men now struggle to breathe.

Rather than wonder what is wrong with our men, we need to look at how our culture has changed.

What worked 40 years ago when the church was the center of social life simply doesn’t work today —no matter how many ways we contort, twist, and force it to fit.

It’s time for a shift in our thinking. It’s time we stop evaluating ministry based on its appearance or long-held traditions.

Four understandings are central to the success of men’s ministry today:

Time Pressure: Men are expected to be an active part of child development, partner in the marriage and be present for all family gatherings and functions.

Retiring to the billiard room to smoke cigars, while the ladies clean up the meal and tend to the children, fell out of fashion 100 years ago.

While we should be helping men become better dads, husbands, and friends, a few ministry partners chastise inactive men for not putting “God first.”

Gauging your ministry success over the presence or lack of presence of men

in a meeting is doomed to fail. Time is valuable, be certain that you are offering something worthy for the exchange of it.

Career Pressure: The idea of a life-long career has disappeared and men worry about their future in ways their fathers did not.

Working 30 years at a company and opting for the retirement plan is quickly fading away. This rapid departure of being a “company man” can make it difficult for the retired generation to relate to worries of the younger men.

Men in their prime earning years grind out a living while keeping one eye on what might be looming on the horizon. There is rarely much room left for ministry programs that heap on burdens of commitment with no payoffs.

Rather than adding tasks for men to complete in your men’s ministry work areas, you could teach men how to be ministers where they work, live, and play.

Relevance: Men’s ministry cannot survive if the point of the effort is to create more programs with catchy titles. If the basic needs of men aren’t met at the flash point of life and faith we are failing to minister.

It was easy to accomplish men’s ministry 40 years ago when there was no ESPN and year-round athletic leagues for youth. Communities once shut-down on Sunday and travel was limited. Men’s ministry fit with society like a glove.

Now? — Not so much.

If the point of your men's ministry is to provide fellowship and a few work projects, you aren't reaching into relevant places of younger men. Society is much more connected than it used to be. Your men's ministry must confront life on a deeper, more meaningful level, and do so quickly.

Value: Basic marketing tells us that a good transaction occurs when the value of an object or service exceeds its cost by one penny. If men are not engaged in your men's ministry, then it's likely that there is no perceived value. In other words, they have determined that it will cost more to participate than what they feel it is worth.

The question we must ask is, "Are we offering an opportunity that is valuable?"

Men's ministry is easy to misunderstand when we use yesterday's

cultural definitions to shape where we go today, much less where we are heading tomorrow.

Want to know a secret? There's a legion of men ready to engage in ministering to men... but they aren't being offered a relevant product that exceeds the cost of committing by one penny.



Greg Arnold is a deployed staff member of the General Commission on UM Men and publisher and founder of Live Bold Magazine (www.livebold.org) as well as author of DIRT:

Uncovering Authentic Faith, and the devotional series – The 2 Minute Drill.



All I need to know I learned from Noah

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Try to remember that we're all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark, you know.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something REALLY big.
5. Don't listen to critics, just get on with what has to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Two heads are better than one.
9. Speed isn't always an advantage; after all, the snails were on board with the cheetahs.
10. When you're stressed, try floating awhile.
11. Remember that the ark was built by amateurs; it was the Titanic that was built by professionals.
12. Remember that woodpeckers inside are a larger threat than storms outside.
13. No matter what the difficulty, trust in the Almighty: There'll be a rainbow at the end of the storm.

humor



Across the Nation

WESTMINSTER, Colo.—

Food pantry serves 24,000 people

Each year, a food bank sponsored by Westminster UMC serves 54,000 meals to 14,000 adults and 10,000 children.

The men also sponsor a Boy Scout troop and a Cub Scout pack, and last October church members spent six days working at the McCurdy School in Española, N.M.

The men also support Heifer International, a Haiti hot lunch program, Kenya Methodist University, a clean water project in Angola and a local prison ministry.

Bob Phillips, president of the Metropolitan District of Stout Hearted Men's Ministry, named the congregation the "teaching church for 2011." He gave credit to the Rev. Kay Palmer March, pastor, and Jim Turner, president of Westminster Stout Hearted Men's Ministry.

SUMMIT STATION, Ohio —

Three scouting units receive Bishop's Award of Excellence

Pack, Troop, and Crew 26, chartered by Summit Station UMC, received the Bishop's Award of Excellence on Scout Sunday, February 5, 2012.

Scout units participated in a Scouting for Food drive for a local food pantry and collected blankets, towels, and bed linens for Faith Mission in Columbus, Ohio.



West Ohio Conference scouting representatives John Hargrave and George Pomeroy (right) present the Bishop's Award of Excellence to Pastor Robert Turner (left) during Scout Sunday festivities.

Ten scouts completed God and Country awards through St. Louis-based Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY) in 2011. Another seven Scouts are in the process of earning an award.

WINFIELD, Kan.—

Church holds BBBS Sunday

First UMC held a Big Brothers Big Sisters day last February. Debi Clark, Cowley County BBBS executive director, and Jason Spears, board president told about the mission of the agency and they recognized persons serving as big brothers and big sisters.

ANDALUSIA, Ala. —

Number 73 and Number 1

When UM Men at First UMC in Andalusia needed to build a wheelchair ramp for a friend with handicapping conditions, they turned to the First UMC of Brewton, whose UM Men group specializes in wheelchair ramps. The ramp that the two UM Men units built together was number 73 for Brewton and number 1 for Andalusia



Kneeling on the new ramp is Durwood Mantel, Brewton ramp supervisor. Standing, from left: Harold Burnham, Andalusia; Jessie Jenkins, proud owner of the ramp; Terrence Breckenridge, Brewton; Mike Edwards, Brewton; and Guy Wyche, Andalusia.

PORTSMOUTH, Va.—

Hanke speaks to district meeting

Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men, was the featured speaker for an Elizabeth River District UM



Gil Hanke addresses some 115 people attending the Elizabeth River District inauguration banquet.

Men banquet. The evening at Centenary UMC included the

installation of district officers.

Andrew Kissell, a member of Community UMC in Virginia Beach, was installed as the new district leader. The meal was provided by the men of Centenary.

The district provides nurturing opportunities through Wesleyan Building Brothers, Understanding Men's Ministries, and Letters from Dad. The men also engage in mission activities on behalf of Heart Havens, Boy Scouts, a food pantry, and disaster relief.

KIMESVILLE, N.C.—

Men raise \$9,000 for injured church member

Men of Mt. Pleasant UMC raised \$9,000 at Saturday morning buffet breakfasts during January and February for an injured church member.

Jeff Folwell, a fire chief in Julian, was seriously injured in December when he stopped during a rainstorm to assist passengers in a wrecked car. While doing so, another car lost control and headed toward him, forcing him to jump over the highway guardrail. He fell 25 feet onto rocks. He was



in the hospital 46 days and will be confined to a wheel chair for at least three months.

BIG SPRING, Texas—

UMM specialist seeks support for Amachi and Stop Hunger Now

James Bell, a men’s ministry specialist, is publishing a newsletter seeking support from members of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference for Amachi and Stop Hunger Now.

“The newsletter is designed to provide education to the pastor and his leadership team,” said Bell. “I divided the first chapter of *Pastoring Men* by Patrick Morley into eight sessions.

I will also have the 10- and 30-minute videos explaining the No Man Left Behind program, and I will provide links to GCUMM website.”

Bell serves on a committee to help BBBS of Midland establish a \$125,000 satellite office in his hometown of Big Spring. He hopes the office will make 150 matches in the first two years. “I am watching God opening doors and hearts and am humbled by the opportunities,” he said.



James Bell

FAIRFAX, Mo.—

Farmer plants 10 acres of corn to fund global agricultural program

Bob Sefrit, president of the Pony Express District of Missouri UM Men, annually sets aside 10 acres of his farm to grow a special corn crop.



Profits from the plot are given to the Food Resource Bank, an interdenominational effort to fund agricultural programs around the world.

Four year ago a strong wind blew down thousands of acres of corn in the area, but the 10 acres for the Food Resource Bank were still standing. “There wasn’t a stalk down,” said Sefrit. “This is a project that God is in.”

Other UM farmers added 50 additional acres of corn and beans to be sold for the Food Resource Bank.

NEOSHO, Mo.—

Twenty-seven years of feeding the hungry

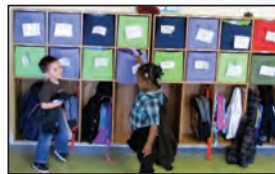
For 27 years, UM Men of Neosho have held an annual potato-soup meal with profits funding UM Men, the Society of St. Andrew, and a food basket ministry. In 2012, the men peeled 500 pounds of potatoes for the benefit effort.

Roy Shaver is president of the organization.

COLONIAL HEIGHTS, Va.—

President of UM Men builds ‘cubbies’ for children

Rich Pingel, president of UM Men at Wesley UMC, took up woodworking after he retired from the Navy in 1988.



Children in the pre-school program of The Stand UMC now have a place to put their belongings thanks to the woodworking skills and dedication of Rich Pingel.

He progressed from small woodcraft, to refinishing furniture to major pieces of furniture.



Rich Pingel, president of UM Men of Wesley UMC in Colonial Heights, Va., completes work on cubbies at the church's children's center.

That's when nearby The Stand UMC told Pingel about their need for five daycare 48" x48" x12" cubbies, each unit would hold the belongings of eight pre-school children. Pingel later built two more cubbies for The Stand UMC and seven larger cubbies and four smaller cubbies for the Wesley Children's Center.

Pingel only charged the cost of the units, saving the churches over \$5,000.

WOODSTOCK, Ga.— UM Men have a full calendar of events

Men of Hillside UMC have a full calendar of events that includes a monthly breakfast, the presentation of Bibles to confirmands, an annual retreat, a summer barbecue, 20 small groups, Christmas presents for prisoners at Hays State Prison, participation in Kairos Prison Ministry, and support for Turnaround Ministries, an organization that provides housing for 26 children of parents recovering from addictions.

In addition, men provide scholarships for young people to attend retreats and summer camps, and they host an outdoor family-film festival where they sell hamburgers and hotdogs.

In October, the men provide food for more than 300 volunteers during an annual Great Day of Service. In November, men host a wild game dinner and they close the year by watching children while young mothers do their Christmas shopping.

Most of the activities are funded by an annual golf tournament.

FULLERTON, Calif.— Father of *Strength for Service* becomes father of Reagan

Evan Hunsberger, the Boy Scout that began the effort to republish *Strength for Service to God and Country* as a way to honor his grandfather, became a father.



Proud grandfather Don, holds Reagan, while Uncle Alec (left) and father, Evan admire the newest addition to the Hunsberger clan.

Six pound one ounce Reagan was welcomed March 10 by Evan and wife Briana.

INDIANOLA, Miss.— Men from other denominations participate in UM Men organization

The 26-year-old Rasberry UM Men's Club has more active members from other churches than from the host church. Men participate in bi-monthly meetings and fund raising events including a pancake breakfast and a golf tournament. Funds provide scholarships for selected graduates of nearby Gentry High School, and they support cancer research, the church, and other mission efforts.

The organization also sponsors a men's program each October and a Black-history program each February. The organization also sponsors a men's program each October.

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz.— Sea Scouts join the parade

Sierra Vista UMC sponsors a Boy Scout troop a Cub Scout pack, a Venturing crew and a Sea Scouting team. The congregation received a Shepherd Church Charter Recognition for its active scouting program.

Sea Scouting and Venturing are structured in a similar manner. They are youth led with

adult advisers and an adult committee to provide support. Five of the young people received God and Country awards during the year.

KANSAS CITY, MS —

Men attend 6 a.m. service on New Year's Day

Everyone knows that men sleep in on New Year's Day after welcoming in the New Year on New Year's Eve.

Why men of St. James UMC would want to gather at 6 a.m. on New Year's Day is a mystery.

"We thought it would be good to bring in the new year in church, in worship and in prayer," said UMM President Doug Ngomsi.

The Rev. Emmanuel Cleaver III wasn't so sure that anyone would come that early after a late New Year's Eve, but he said he would give it a try.

"We had about 175 people there," Cleaver



UM Men of St. James UMC sponsor a father-daughter dance

said. "It was a great service of praise and prayer, that reached well beyond the UM Men's group to other men in the church."

UM Men also serve as "Minute Men," a group that helps church members shovel the driveway, do yard work, fix wiring and make technical repairs. They also sponsor a father-daughter dance each March.

SHENANDOAH, Iowa—

Men receive trailer to deliver food

Men of Shenandoah UMC received a grant from the Community Foundation of Southwest Iowa to purchase a trailer.

"We use the trailer to pick up approximately 2,600 pounds of grocery items each month that we give out to around 90 families the last Sunday of each month at our church," said Alan Armstrong, treasurer of First UMC men's group. "We started this program in 2005 and it continues to be a very positive way for our church and the Methodist Men's group to help serve our community."



Members of the Community Foundation and the men's group of First UMC in Shenandoah, Iowa, and one of the patrons that receives groceries each month stand beside the new trailer.

CAZENOVIA, N.Y.—

Boy Scouts take 10 Commandment hike

Boy Scouts of Cazenovia's UMC hiked 2 miles throughout Cazenovia as part of the "Duty to God" program.

They stopped at various churches and the American Legion hall to listen to speakers who provided insight into the meaning of each of the Ten Commandments and

how the commandments are relevant to the choices they make each day.



MIDDLETOWN, Del. —

Cub Scouts learn to fish

Fifty Cub Scouts and their supporters participated in a fishing derby and barbecue in a Middletown park. The April event was sponsored by men of Immanuel UMC in Townsend, Del..

Staff of the Aquatic Resources Education Center in Smyrna told the boys about the biology of fish along with safe catch-and-release practices.

The Delaware Bass Federation demonstrated fishing techniques with a fully equipped competition fishing boat and tackle.

Prizes were awarded to lucky anglers



UM Men members Chuck Benedict and Frank Lorusso show a Cub Scout how to bait a hook

GENESEO, Ill.—

4-H leaders open city council meeting



Maple Leafs 4-H Club officers Katherine Pustejovsky, with flag, and Morgan Sarber present the colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the May 8 Geneseo City Council meeting. Photo courtesy of the Geneseo Republic

HARRISONBURG, Va.—

Bishop awards troop

Bishop Charlene Kammerer presented the Bishop’s Award of Excellence to Troop 40, a unit chartered by Asbury UMC.

Troop 40 has been a part of the Boy Scouts of America for over 80 years and is proud to be the home troop of over 150 Eagle Scouts.



MONETA, Va.—

Men’s nut house raises \$157,000

UM Men of Bethlehem UMC have processed 25 tons of peanuts since they began selling peanuts in 1999. So far, the project has raised \$157,000. Funds have been used to purchase a Volunteers-in-Mission trailer, aid victims of natural disasters, and repairs to the homes of elderly and low-income families.

Men met in the “Nut House,” a kitchen behind the church, to cook jumbo Virginia peanuts in boiling peanut oil, dredge them in various seasonings, seal in glass jars and present them for sale.

“Anyone can get a 12-jar case of peanuts with your choice of labels,” said Charlie Walker, a member of the men’s ministry. “We just did 90 containers of nuts two weeks ago for a wedding. The bride’s family had a special label designed and gave the peanuts as gifts.”



Five tips to help your children deal with loss and grief

1. **Be honest.** Share the truth about what happened to your loved one in a straight forward but age-appropriate manner. Don't try to soften the news with euphemisms ("Grandma went away"). Make sure your children know they can always ask you any questions anytime. Some questions you won't be able to answer, and that's OK - just be honest with your kids that there are some things that happen in life that are hard for you to understand, too.



2. **Let them see you grieve.** Let your children know that it is OK to experience emotional pain by being willing to let them see you cry. Yes, your kids need you to be strong for them and help them adjust to the new normal, but they need to know that their emotions are valid by seeing you express how you are feeling as well.
3. **Let them express their grief in their own way.** Each child will respond to the loss differently. Anger, confusion, denial, fear, and sadness are all legitimate emotions.

Some children will want to talk a lot about the loss; some children will prefer to have more time alone. As long as their expression of grief does not hurt themselves or others, give them permission to be angry, sad, or frustrated in a healthy way. Also, know that the grieving process may take longer for some children than for others.

4. **Don't assume they're OK even if they're acting fine.** Your children may seem to recover quickly and resume their normal life. However, they may feel pressure to get over the loss or might be bottling up their emotions. Ask what they are thinking and feeling about the adjustment. Your kids may not be able to put feelings into words—they might be able to express themselves by writing a letter or drawing.
5. **Remember your loved one.** There comes a time in the grieving process to accept and adjust to the new reality. But that doesn't mean you need to pretend that your loved one is not still an important part of your life story. Talk with your children about your favorite memories with your loved one, look at pictures together, and find ways to honor that person in your new family traditions and rituals. Giving the lost loved one a place in your new life is a helpful way for your family to grieve.

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Seven ideas to make family road trips fun for all

- **Be active at rest stops:** On long road trips, stop every hour or two at a rest stop and get everyone out of the car. Tossing a Frisbee, baseball, or football or playing a game of tag will let your kids expend their energy outside the car instead of inside.
- **Play car games:** Play the Alphabet Game. Each team tries to find the letters of the alphabet, in the correct order, on signs on their side of the road. Multiple letters may be used from one sign as long as they are seen in the correct order. Try the license plate game where children try to find all the letters in the alphabet on car licenses in order. "I packed my bag" is a good game to teach memory skills. One person says "I packed my bag and in it I put..." followed by any object they like. The next person then says "I packed my bag and in it I put..." followed by the original suggestion, and adding their own. A player is disqualified if they forget one of the previously occurring items. The game continues until all but the winner has been disqualified. Or start a competition to see who can spot cars of different colors or models.
- **Listen to audio books:** Even on a short drive across town, listening to an audio book is a great way to pass time. Audible.com has thousands of audio books. Focus on the Family's Radio Theater has dramatized classics such as Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol and produces a weekly audio show called Adventures in Odyssey with faith-based character-building lessons.
- **Create a photo scrapbook:** Give your kids a disposable camera and encourage them to document the trip by taking pictures and collecting them in a special notebook that they can decorate. Add postcards and brochures from places you visit or a colorful autumn leaf or pressed flower picked up along the way.
- **Have a sing-a-long:** Pop in your kid's favorite CD or the iPod, crank the volume up, and get everyone singing along. Whether it's the Wiggles, classic Disney songs, or your pre-teen's beloved Justin Beiber album, your kids will love sharing their favorite music with you.
- **Exercise your imagination:** Make up a story as a family. Start it off with "Once upon a time there was a..." and have each family member take turns adding the next sentence of the story. Or, pretend that your family vehicle is a pirate ship or a space shuttle. Let each family member pick a role and act out a story as your journey progresses, making rest stops and drive-through scenes for your drama.
- **Give each child a box of road trip treats and toys:** Go to the dollar store before a long road trip and pick out a few new toys and treats for each child. Include things like coloring books, stickers, figurines, books, some healthy snacks, and a couple pieces of candy and pack them in a small plastic box or canvas bag.

*This article is based the National
Fatherhood Initiative Dad email 2/15/12
www.fatherhood.org*

United Methodist Men increase efforts to reduce hunger

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

Working through the Society of Saint Andrew, United Methodist Men led 2,067 volunteers to farms where they gleaned 2.55 million servings of free surplus food for the hungry. In 2010, conference, local church and district teams of UMM also provided another 8.4 million servings of fresh produce through the society's Potato Project.

Wade Mays, an executive with the Big Island, Va.-based society, attended the March 1-4 meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UMM where he honored Detroit Conference for providing \$22,476 for hunger-relief efforts, the highest in the denomination. He also presented Indiana Conference with a "Bud-the-Spud Award" for showing the highest percentage increase in giving. UMM in Indiana increased their giving level from \$10,000 in 2010 to nearly \$20,000 in 2012.

Larry Dozier, UMM coordinator of Stop Hunger Now, reported that men gave \$3,900 for a packaging event at the World Methodist Conference in Durban, South Africa. Participants in that conference of Wesleyan denominations prepared 101,000 packets of dry ingredients and delivered them to a local school.

Scouting

The National Association of UMM Scouters announced that, with the help of the UMM Foundation, the association will distribute free back-packing New Testaments to:

- 5,000 Boy Scouts trekking Sangre de Cristo mountains from Philmont Scout Ranch,
- 500 Boy Scouts taking canoe trips from the

Northern Tier Canoe Base in Minnesota and Canada, and

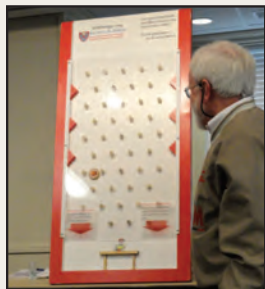
- 500 Boy Scouts at the Florida Sea Base.

In addition, the association prepared 1,000 copies of a special edition for 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts that will be given to girls hiking a portion of the Appalachian Trail.

Larry Coppock, national scouting executive, reported that 371,491 Boy Scouts meet in 11,078 units chartered by 6,700 UMM congregations, and 6,781 God and Country awards were earned through a partnership with Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY). After raising \$17,500 for Nothing but Nets at the 2009 BSA Jamboree, Coppock said, he has submitted a proposal to the 2013 Jamboree to highlight Stop Hunger Now, an effort to package dehydrated food for emergency situations around the world.

Strength for Service

In 1942, the Methodist Publishing House published one million copies of *Strength for Service to God and Country*, a book of daily devotions with 365 meditations prepared by civic and religious leaders for World War II troops. Through the early efforts of a California Boy Scout and support by the General Commission on United Methodist Men, the pocket-sized book was republished with an additional 50 devotions by contemporary authors. The commission has now printed 500,000 copies with 450,352 distributed to deployed military troops. Some 5,600 donors, including 2,500 UMM men's groups have contributed to the publishing effort over the past ten years. A Strength for Service committee is presently exploring the publication of a book of daily devotions for fire fighters, police officers,



Ross Brightwell, president of Eastern Pennsylvania UM Men, inserts a token with a picture of a tomato on it, into a game that illustrates how most food is wasted and never reaches a table of hungry Americans. The game was designed by the Society of St. Andrew to show that forty to fifty percent of all food ready for harvest in the United States never gets eaten.

ambulance personnel, and other first responders.

Upper Room Prayer Line

Conference prayer advocates brought \$18,000 from their annual conferences to support the 24-hour, 365-day Upper Room Prayer Line.

Migdiel Pérez, manager of the Nashville-based prayer center, honored Gary Spivey, prayer advocate of Nebraska Conference and Don Hylar, prayer advocate for Western North Carolina Conference, for raising the highest amount of money for the center. Each conference raised \$1,800.

In other business, conference presidents and prayer advocates:

- Rejoiced in a newly

established sidewalk at the entrance of the Nashville office of the General Commission on UM Men with pavers presented by men to honor loved ones and to support men's ministry,

- Participated in a workshop on financial planning,
- Participated in workshops on technology, branding and ways of connecting with men, and
- Heard David Murrow, author of *Why Men Hate Going to Church*, explain that minor changes in worship services can make major changes in the way congregations welcome men (www.churchformen.com).

UM Men elect new officers

Dan Ramsey, Houston, Texas, president of the South Central Jurisdiction, was elected president of the National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP) for the 2012-2016 quadrennium. He succeeds John Dowell, Tampa, Fla.

L.W. Smith, Columbia, S.C., president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction UM Men, was elected first vice president. Wayne Custer, Bethlehem, W.Va., president of the Northeastern Jurisdiction, was elected second vice president; Stephen Liehr, Baurbonnais, Ill., treasurer of the North Central Jurisdiction, was elected treasurer; and Lee Donley, Oxford, Mich., president of the North Central Jurisdiction, was elected secretary.

Ed Enstine, Ithaca, N.Y., first vice president of the NACP, was elected president of the Northeastern Jurisdiction UM Men; Lee Donley, Oxford, Mich., president of the

North Central Jurisdiction was reelected to that post; Larry Price, Albany, Ga., first vice president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction was named president of that jurisdiction; Ken Tielke, Richmond, Texas, president of the Texas Conference UM Men, was elected president of the South Central Jurisdiction; and Larry Dozier, Gardena, Calif., vice president of the Western Jurisdiction, was elected president of the jurisdiction.



Shortly after their election (from left) Dan Ramsey joins with jurisdictional presidents, Ed Enstine, Ken Tielke, Larry Price, Larry Dozier and Lee Donley

Mentoring program initiated in 18 cities

NORCROSS, Ga. —

The North Georgia Annual Conference initiated an effort to match adults in the Atlanta area with children of incarcerated parents. Atlanta became the 18th area in which the mentoring program has been established by United Methodist Men.

The two-year effort to introduce the Big Brothers Big Sisters program to United Methodist churches is led by Larry Coppock, a staff executive of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Travel expenses for meeting with conference leaders were covered by receipts from Human Relations Day offerings, managed by the General Board of Church and Society.

The mentoring program, called “Amachi,” was begun in 2000 by John DiIulio, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and W. Wilson Goode, former mayor of Philadelphia.

“Amachi” is a Nigerian Ibo word that means “Who knows but what God has brought us through this child.”

Founders of the mentoring effort report that America’s most isolated and at-risk children are the estimated 7.3 million children who have one or both parents under some form of state or federal supervision. Without effective intervention, 70 percent of these children will likely follow their parent’s path into jail or prison. The Amachi mentoring program was developed to provide them with a different path—by establishing



Atlanta area men involved in the effort to recruit and train adults to mentor children of incarcerated parents include (back row from left): Norman Johnson, Khalid Battle, Robert Rowe, the Rev. Max Vincent, Jasper Russell, and Larry Coppock. Terence Johnson (left) and Scott MacKenzie kneel in front.

the consistent presence of loving, caring people of faith.

United Methodists in the Atlanta area—as well as 17 other cities—have agreed to recruit and train Amachi volunteers.

Cities with Amachi volunteers include Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Memphis, Tenn.; Dallas, Houston, Lubbock and San Antonio, Texas; New Orleans, La.; Detroit, Mich.; Baltimore, Md.; Los Angeles and San Diego, Calif.; Louisville, Ky.; Denver, Colo.; Phoenix, Ariz.; and Oklahoma City, Okla.

During a March 27 meeting in Norcross, Ga., the Rev Max Vincent, pastor of Allen Memorial UMC in Oxford, Ga., and Robert Rowe, president of UMM of Central UMC, Atlanta, agreed to take the lead in recruiting Amachi volunteers. They will work closely with Scott MacKenzie, a staff member of Big Brothers Big Sisters in Atlanta.

Some of the Amachi volunteers will be matched with children in the United Methodist Children’s Home. Terence Johnson and Khalid Battle, staff executives of the Decatur home were also present at the March 27 Amachi launch.

The effort is support by Norman Johnson, president of North Georgia United Methodist Men, and Jasper Russell, conference prayer advocate.

UM Men celebrate growth, agree to purchase bus for Vietnam church



Leaders of annual conferences with an increase in the number of chartered organizations of United Methodist Men gather at a March meeting in Nashville.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

The National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men (NACP) celebrated an increased number of chartered organizations and agreed to purchase a 16-seat passenger bus for the Vietnam UMC.

Conference presidents met March 1-4 with conference prayer advocates who brought \$18,000 from their annual conferences to support the 24-hour, 365-day Upper Room Prayer Line.

Increased number of chartered groups

While membership in United Methodist Church continues to decline, the number of annual conferences chartering units of United Methodist Men continues to increase .

Thirty annual conferences reported increases in the number of chartered group in 2011 over the previous year. In 2010, 29 conferences reported increases over the number reported in 2009.

Gil Hanke, top staff executive of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, presented expressions of appreciation to the 30 presidents with an increased number of chartering churches.

“Most of this growth comes from your hard work as leaders of this ministry,” said Hanke.

Bus for Vietnam

Noting the rapid growth of congregations

in Vietnam, including 14 new congregations in the Hanoi area in the past few months, the men agreed to raise \$35,000 to purchase a 16-passenger bus for the Vietnamese church.

Joseph Bishman, coordinator of Vietnam ministries for the West Ohio Conference, noted that the church is seeking recognition from the national government, and the bus “could help tip the Kingdom work at this critical time.”

Twelve thousand Vietnamese church members are providing orphanages, engaging in ministries to persons with handicapping conditions, and making new disciples across the once divided nation.

“The Vietnam church is taking bold initiatives in growing generous givers within the local churches, and at the same time striving to be faithful by sharing part of their meager resources with one of our other mission partners, Laos,” said Bishman. He notes that the Vietnam War (referred by Vietnamese as the “American War”) is just a page out of a history book since well over 70 percent of the current population was not alive during the conflict.

If the men raise more than the goal amount of \$35,000, extra funds will purchase motorcycles that will enable pastors to start churches in remote villages. “One area started with three such apostolic leaders, and now has 41 house churches with 1,000 worshippers in the Central Highlands,” said Bishman.

Conference president certified as men's ministry specialist

ROCKFORD, Ill. —

Steve Nailor, president of Northern Illinois Conference UMM Men, has been certified by the General Commission on UMM Men and the Turner Center for Church Development at Vanderbilt Divinity School as a men's ministry specialist.

He was commissioned at a service during the March meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UMM Men in Nashville.

Nailor will continue to provide leadership to UMM Men organizations across the conference. He will also help area churches without a men's ministry program discover ways to provide spiritual enrichment opportunities for men in their congregations. He will suggest ways for congregations to reach unchurched men in their neighborhoods.

Nailor became active in the UMC following a 1978 lay witness mission at Pecatonica UMC in the Rockford District. He has since served as lay leader for Grace UMC and for the district. He teaches a weekly adult Sunday school class, and has been a member of every committee in the church. In 1980, Nailor became a certified lay speaker and later served as director of lay speaking for the Northern Illinois Conference.

He is a member of Northern Illinois Annual Conference and a four-time delegate to General Conference and the North Central Jurisdictional Conference. He chaired the Conference Committee on the Episcopacy and served one quadrennium as a member of the Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy.

Nailor served as president of the Rockford District UMM Men for 14 years while the group sponsored semi-annual communion services attended by as many as 213 men.

Prior to his election as UMM conference president, he served as conference treasurer and conference vice-president.

He has been conference president for nearly six years and was recently re-elected to a second four-year term (2012-2015).

Nailor spent three years and traveled 26,000 miles raising funds for Banco stoves and wells for villages in Niger. The effort on behalf

of UMCOR followed a visit to villages in that African nation.

While supporting ministries of mercy and social justice, he is also a strong supporter of spiritual formation opportunities. Following daily readings from the Upper Room Disciplines, Nailor leads worship experiences with and beyond Grace UMC, and he has been director of the Northern Illinois Men's Spiritual Congress for the past 12 years. Prior to that, he was a member of the planning committee for eight years. "I believe these experiences have strengthened my personal walk with God," he said. "There is not a day that goes by that He doesn't teach me something new."

After 35 years at Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) and the last 11 years as director of public affairs in Dixon, Freeport and Rockford. Nailor retired in 2001 to begin a consulting firm that works with Chamber of Commerce committees and economic development agencies.

He also has served as interim president



and chief executive officer of the 1,600-member Rockford Chamber of Commerce, and he chaired a \$5.2 million capital campaign for Wesley Willows Town center. He also has served as president of Freeport Area Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Freeport Area Economic Development Association.

A recipient of many awards, Nailor is a member of the John Wesley Society and received the Rotary “Above Self Award” for outstanding community service by the Rockford chapter of Rotary International. He also served received a ComEd Presidential Award. The city of Freeport proclaimed Jan. 19, 2002, “Steve Nailor Day” to honor his contributions to the city.

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Men’s ministry specialists commissioned



Men’s ministry specialists gather after their commissioning service. From left: Joe Warne, Steve Nailor, Kenneth Hudgins, Charles Gilliland, and Mark Dehority.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

Churches across the nation will have new allies in their effort to increase the number of members in their congregations and the depth of their commitment to Christ as 12 additional men’s ministry specialists were commissioned during a March meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men.

Twelve men completed a course in “Understanding Men’s Ministry,” a course in UM polity and history, safe sanctuary training, and hands-on experience in men’s ministry. After establishing 12-month plans for their ministry and their personal spiritual

formation, they joined 21 other previously certified specialists to aid local churches.

Men in attendance during the spring meeting were; Mark Dehority, Moweaqua, Ill.; Charles Gilliland, Memphis, Tenn.; Kenneth Hudgins, Valparaiso, Ind.; Steve Nailor, Rockford, Ill., and Joe Warne, Peck, Kans.

Men certified, but unable to be present at the Nashville meeting, are: James Bell, Big Spring, Texas; Ron Cramer, Jefferson, Ohio; Johnnie Draughon, Virginia Beach, Va.; Rickey Haynes, Senatobia, Miss.; William Sears, Sugar Hill, Ga.; and Paul Wilson Wilmington, N.C.

Kansas church leader named men's ministry specialist

PECK, Kans.—

Joe Warne, 62, was baptized in the Indian Ocean near the equator and spent a winter in Antarctica.

Now he will continue his colorful biography as a men's ministry specialist helping churches in the Wichita East District expand their ministries to men and employ tools designed to promote their spiritual growth.

Following completion of three lay speaker courses and an Understanding Men's Ministry course in Blackstone, Va., Warne was commissioned as a men's ministry specialist during a March meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents in Nashville.

In writing about his spiritual pilgrimage, Warne says he was raised in Mount Olive Methodist Church in Wichita (1949-1960) and attended Haysville Methodist Church (1960-1972) prior to his 1972 enlistment in the U.S. Navy as an engineering aid for the Seabees.

He traces his spiritual rebirth to a 1973 experience on the Island of Diego Garcia, part of the British Indian Ocean Territories, when he was baptized in the Indian Ocean.

Following that transforming event, he became active in the Navy Chapel program for the next nine years of his active duty. "I was the Protestant lay leader during the 1980 winter in Antarctica," says Warne. During

that time, he helped host a morning Christian radio program with the unlikely title "Streams in the Desert."

Following his service in the Navy, Warne attended Wichita State University and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering. He then worked for the Veterans Administration for six years, the McConnell Air Force Base for 15 years, and the U.S. Army Reserves for seven years.

As he was debating what he might do with his life following retirement, he accepted the position of president of Wichita East District UM Men and subsequently learned about Wesley Building Brothers and the men's ministry specialist training.

"After taking a trip to Nashville in March 2011, and seeing the big picture of UM Men, I was convinced that men's ministry is where God wants me to spend my time," said Warne. One year later he was commissioned a men's ministry specialist at the same annual meeting of conference presidents.

His next goal is to initiate a Wesleyan Building Brothers group at his home church of Mulvane, and then expand the program to other churches in the Wichita East District.



UM Men leaders of conferences that paid 100 percent of their World Service apportionments were honored during a Nashville meeting of the National Association of Conference Presidents and prayer advocates.

Elevator speeches

Conference presidents of UM Men were asked how they would respond if someone on a 30-second elevator ride asked them about the General Commission on UM Men. Here are a few of their edited responses:

1. The commission supports and provides resources for local church UM Men ministries in order to make disciples.
2. The commission is the glue that connects all UM Men units at local, conference, national, and international levels.
3. The commission provides connections, training and professional materials for the missions and programs that will allow us to build disciples and transform the world.
4. The commission is very supportive of UM Men in the United States and the world.
5. The commission provides key information to the conference.
6. The commission provides vision, guidance, direction, and motivation.
7. The commission enables us to feel we are a part of something much bigger than any one of us alone. It makes one know that he is a part of a large family of believers. It brings unity to our diverseness.
8. The commission encourages each conference level UM Men to reach men.
9. The commission provides resources to evangelize men and bring their families to church.
10. The commission is the catalyst for the connectivity UM Men.
11. The commission provides leadership to men of the church.
12. The commission is at the core of what we do and we would not exist without it. A limited staff does a great job all the time. They are there to help us when we call, to be that central source of information we need, have a great web site and always go out of their way to accomplish God's work.
13. The commission helps churches provide spiritual homes for men.
14. The commission serves in partnership with conference and district leaders to help churches maintain active ministries to men.
15. The commission is the heart of our organization and our representative to the general church.
16. The commission provides effective training, resources, partnerships and assistance to aid the local church to effectively disciple men in the Wesleyan tradition.
17. The commission helps churches reach out to men and unchurched families.



Conference presidents of UM Men and their prayer advocates meet in front of the Upper Room building during their March meeting in Nashville.

Texas layman serves two volunteer roles

HURST, Texas—

Joseph Silvas, 46, a member of St. Paul UMC in Hurst, is one of only three people in the U.S. to serve as both a scouting ministry specialist and a men's ministry specialist.

The two positions were instituted by the Nashville-based General Commission on UM Men to help local churches expand their ministries to youth and men.

There are 155 registered scouting ministry specialists and 32 active men's ministry specialists, but only three people have been trained and certified to serve in both volunteer positions.

Silvas completed the basic lay speaking ministries course, and a "No Man Left Behind" course at Richardson, Texas, and he is currently enrolled in a certified lay minister program at Kansas Wesleyan University. "I have found real growth through the program," said Silvas.

He also completed a course in the history and polity of the UMC, and established a two-year plan to help area churches develop men's ministry.

As a part of his accreditation as a men's ministry specialists, he had interviews with the Rev. J. Thomas Laney, assistant director of the Turner Training Center for Church Leadership and Congregational Development at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and Gil Hanke, top staff executive

of the UM Men commission.

"Not only has he had remarkable success in his local unit of UM Men, he is now the district president," said Hanke. "He has a good network of both lay and clergy leaders in his district, and he is helping several churches restart their men's ministry programs."

Silvas can also help churches with their scouting ministry as he serves as scoutmaster for Troop 333 at St. Paul UMC.



With a bachelor of arts in history and a master of art in criminology and criminal justice, Silvas has served as a supervisor for a juvenile center, a senior drill instructor for Harris County Juvenile Boot Camp, an adult

probation officer and a prison guard.

He currently serves as a real estate broker with his own company.

Silvas achieved the rank of captain in the U.S Army Reserves and served as a commander of a Drill Sergeant Unit.

He and his wife, Tammy, co-chair a St. Paul UMC committee planning children and family activities and they participate in marriage-enrichment conferences, Sunday school classes and Disciple Bible Study classes.

They are parents of five children ages 4, 8, 9, 11 and 12.

Denver men honor Nashville staffer

DENVER, Colo. —

Generally local groups of UM Men honor one of their own members, but a group of men in Denver requested a life membership for a staff member in Nashville they had never personally met.

Robert (Bob) Phillips Jr., president of Metropolitan District Stout Hearted Men's Ministry in Denver, sent a long-distance life membership to Ann Waller, a staff executive of the General Commission on UM Men in Nashville.

Phillips says that after he was named president in 2008, he called Ann for help. "I remember calling her and asking a ton of questions and requesting that she send me some talking materials to take with me as I visited the 45 churches in my district," says Phillips. "I also remember sending her a thank-you note for her quick response at that time, but I am not sure I ever expressed my appreciation for the way she took her valuable time to encourage me to lay down a sound foundation to renew our activities and grow a healthy and solid working district men's ministry."

Jim Turner, a district vice president, says he has been working with UM Men since he was age 19, and Ann Waller has always been there to help him. He especially remembers her when he served as president of UM Men in Mobile, Ala.

Turner is helping organize a district retreat with Dan Schaffer, director of Wesleyan Building Brothers leadership training program, to lead a retreat for the district, and he is organizing a chartered bus trip to the 2013 National Gathering of UM Men in Nashville.

Stout Hearted Men support a Denver agency that provides food, transportation, health care and housing for hungry and homeless families. They also support an



Gil Hanke, general secretary of the General Commission on UM Men, presents a life membership certificate to Ann Waller.

inner city ministry that operates food banks and a program that helps young fathers live up to their responsibilities.

"Ann can take credit for all these things and more," says Phillips. "If I had not been assisted at the beginning of my tour as president and throughout the past two years, none of these achievements would have happened. Ann's name is known throughout our district by men whom she helped in other stations of their life.

"We love Ann," concluded Phillips. "We highly recommend her to become the anchor life member of the Metropolitan District Stout Hearted Men's Ministry of the Rocky Mountain Conference with full voting rights and privileges of the district executive board.

Waller has taken time off from time to time, but she has worked with UM Men for a total of nearly 14 years. She leaves the staff about the first of August to attend school with her daughter in Copenhagen, Denmark. The staff and UM groups across the nation will miss her greatly and hope she will return to the staff sometime in the future.

UM Men Awards

Gene Turnipseed

Works in food pantry and leads Disciple Bible study

PENSACOLA, Fla.—

UM men of Cokesbury UMC gave Gene Turnipseed a life membership for working in a local food pantry and supporting a Pensacola ecumenical ministry that provides counseling and financial assistance to families in crisis. Turnipseed also leads a Disciple Bible class, a Sunday school class, and a men's study group.



Mack Richardson (right), president of Cokesbury UM Men, presents Gene Turnipseed with a life membership certificate.

Jayne Baugh

Men honor assistant to the bishop

DENVER, Colo.—

Men of the Metropolitan District presented Jayne Baugh, former executive assistant in the Denver Area Episcopal Office, with a life membership in UM Men. Metropolitan District UM Men President Bob Phillips credited Baugh with helping him understand the workings of the conference and the ways in which Stout Hearted Men's Ministry could relate. "One specific idea centered on the acceptance of Boy Scouts into the Rocky Mountain Conference through the Stout Hearted Men's Ministry," said Phillips.

Baugh retired from the post last November after 11 years of service.

Edward McGuire

Roman Catholics honor United Methodist man

TAMPA, Fla.—

Ed McGuire, a member of Hyde Park UMC, received a Bronze Pelican Award from the St. Petersburg Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church.



Edward McGuire

The Bronze Pelican award is a diocesan recognition given to adults who have made a significant



Bronze Pelican

contribution to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in the Boy Scouts of America. It is unusual, but not unprecedented, for a non-Catholic to receive the award.

McGuire has served as den leader, pack secretary and he served on the staff of many pack events.

He is also active in UM Metropolitan Ministries and tutors students in the Hillsborough County School District.

Skip Manauh

Long hours in a Christmas tree lot

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—

Every evening and weekend before Christmas, you can find Skip Manauh working in a Christmas tree lot sponsored by Foundry UMC.

Manauh said he doesn't mind the sometimes long process of helping people select a tree. "It's a joy to watch them pick out that special tree," he said.

A former president of UM Men, Manauh served in a number of leadership positions in UM Men and the church. The 20-year Navy veteran chairs Foundry UMC

Council on Ministries, and he is active in Emmaus and Chrysalis ministries.

Larry Christensen
President is chief apple picker

ROCKFORD, Ill.—

Men of Grace UMC presented Larry Christensen with a life membership for serving as president for the last five years. “Larry has been a strong advocate of the men’s work and bringing men to Christ,” said Steve Nailor, president of Northern Illinois Conference UM Men.

Christensen established an annual planning session for the men’s program and led several fall trips to glean 6,000 pounds of apples for local food pantries.

Woodcarving is his hobby and joy. He carves figures based on the seasons and donates them to the various fundraisers.

He is a legacy builder and encouraged other men to make similar pledges.

Larry and his wife, Jane, have two children and three grandchildren.



From left: Roger Ellis, a life member; Garry Crull, vice president of Grace UM Men; Larry Christensen, life member; Dick Businga, life member and UM Men treasurer, and Steve Nailor, president of UM Men of Northern Illinois Conference, a John Wesley fellow and life member.

Bill Kusey
Forty-five years of service

MIO, Mich. —

Men of Mio UMC honored Bill Kusey, long-time president of UM Men with a lifetime membership. The award was



Bill Kusey and wife, Marietta, are surrounded by friends following the presentation of a life membership award.

presented on the 45th anniversary of Bill’s joining the church.

A retired staff member of the Michigan State Park System Department of Natural Resources, Bill has served the church in many capacities.

The Rev. Dwight D. Prowell
Men induct pastor into John Wesley Society

JACKSON, Miss.—

Men of Mississippi Conference honored the Rev. Dwight D. Prowell, pastor of Aldersgate UMC, as a fellow of the John Wesley Society. An ardent supporter of the men’s ministry, he was selected to be the speaker for the 2002-2004 Mississippi Annual Conference Retreat of UM Men.



The Rev. Dwight D. Prowell

He also received the Outstanding Campus Minister Award (2002); the Tobias Gibson Award (2003); the Faith-Based Initiative Award (2004); Operation Iraqi Freedom Award (2005); Man of the Year Award (2008); United Methodist of Mississippi Credit Union Award (2011); and the Exceptional Service Award (2011).

Commission certifies 150th scouting ministry specialist

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—

There are now 150 persons helping UM churches expand their ministries to youth through scouting and other youth-serving agencies.

Robert Charlton, Detroit Annual Conference, became the 150th person to be certified as a scouting ministry specialist by the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

Charlton achieved the rank of Eagle in 1983 while a member of Troop 192 in Davisburg, Mich. “I started in scouting at age 7,” he says. “With an exception of about ten years during college and shortly thereafter, I have been involved with scouting in some capacity.”

Until recently Charlton served as a merit badge counselor, and he now serves as den leader for Pack 366 in Oxford, Mich. His son is a member of that den, which will soon become a Webelos II den. “I hope my 5-year old daughter will follow into Daisies soon,” says Charlton.

Asked about his plans as a scouting ministry specialist, Charlton said he and the UM Men will assist two Girl Scout units that meet at the Lake Orion UMC. “I’d also like to inform them about PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) programs,” said Charlton. “I have either taught or helped teach three of those classes.”

The St. Louis-based PRAY program offers four studies and awards: God and Me (grades 1-3), God and Family (grades 4-5), God and Church (grades 6-8), and God and Life (grades 9-12).



Rob Charlton and his Cub Scout den.

Scouting ministry specialists help churches initiate these God and Country studies, and they provide information about various scouting awards such as the Good Samaritan Award, the Cross and Flame Award, the Torch Award, the Bishop’s Award of Excellence, and Shepherd Church Charter Recognition.

These volunteers in 44 annual conferences also help churches charter Boy Scout troops, Cub Scout packs, and Venturing crews, and they encourage congregations to sponsor Girl Scout troops, 4-H clubs, Camp Fire USA clubs and Big Brothers Big Sisters partners.

Churches are invited to sponsor one or more of these organizations as a way to minister to their communities. Since about half of the young people in these organizations come from unchurched homes, this is also a way to invite their families to become church members.

The 12th woman specialist

Twelve of the 150 volunteers are women.

Caroline Rudisill, Texas Annual Conference, became the most recent woman to volunteer.

Rudisill says her scouting career began when her oldest son, David, joined Cub Scouts in a pack chartered by St. Peter’s UMC in Katy, Texas. Her younger son, Sean, plans to join his brother in Troop 209 next year. Both boys plan to be Eagle Scouts.

Last year Rudisill led the four BSA units

chartered by St. Peter's UMC in an effort to provide clothing, toiletries, snacks and household goods for families displaced from their homes because of the Texas wildfires.

Items were donated by members of the congregation, local Girl Scouts, and the neighborhoods surrounding St. Peter's UMC, all benefitting the families affected by and the firefighters battling the blazes across the state.

Her service within Scouts includes pack committee chair, district day camp staff, merit badge counselor, membership chair, Fun With Son chair and CIRCLE chair.

She credits a Boy Scout leader with saving her youngest son when he drowned and was clinically dead for 6 minutes. "A trained paramedic and Troop 209 leader was poolside with his family and revived Sean. Without the training his rescuer had on his road to Eagle and which ultimately led to his choice of occupation, Sean would not be with us now." Sean, who suffers no ill-effects of his drowning, proudly stood with his rescuer, Nick Bourdouis, as he was the only person in BSA history to receive the Heroism Award for a second time.

Rudisill says her Wood Badge ticket centers on transitioning Cub Scouts into Boy Scouts and helping facilitate family involvement. Both she and her husband are Wood Badge trained.

"I look forward to working with our United Methodist churches, especially those that are starting Scout units," said Rudisill. "I am honored to serve as a scouting ministry specialist."

Virginia Conference scouting ministry gets boost from ten specialists

RICHMOND, Va. —

Virginia Conference churches are discovering scouting as a way to reach young people in their communities.

That discovery is being led by 10 persons who have been certified as scouting ministry specialists by the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

Bill Chaffin, coordinator of scouting ministry in the Richmond District and assistant district commission for the Huguenot Trail District, was certified as the first specialist in the conference in May 2009.

For the past two years, Chaffin has led a national effort to provide back-packing New Testaments to Scouts on treks across the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in New Mexico and paddling streams in Minnesota and Ontario. In an average year, the GCUMM and the National Association of UM Scouters (NAUMS) provide 6,000 copies of New Testament, Proverbs and Psalms to Scouts attending the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and Scouts participating in Northern Tier canoe trips.

For the past six years, Chaffin has also given copies of the back-packing New Testaments with special covers to many Eagle Scouts in troops chartered by UM congregations and UM Scouts in troops chartered by other organizations.

After serving as chairman of a Cub Scout Committee, Chaffin organized a Boy Scout troop with 13 Scouts, including his oldest son. The former life scout, patrol leader and member of the Order of the Arrow, then completed requirements for the Wood Badge Award, scouting's premier training program. He is enrolled as a participant in the new 21st Century Wood badge Leadership Program.

Nine years ago he was recruited to serve as scouting coordinator for the Richmond District while he was attending a Virginia Conference UM Men weekend that annually includes a camporee attended by some 1,000 Scouts from throughout Virginia. A recipient of a Cross & Flame Award and the District Award of Merit, Chaffin now encourages other churches to present similar awards to Scout leaders. He also helped organize a Bishop's Dinner for Scouting to encourage churches to charter Boy Scout troops or host other youth-serving groups. The event was attended by

representatives from 80 churches.

Chaffin has traveled to Philmont Scout Ranch on three occasions — once for training in religious emblems and twice to attend the UMC scouters' workshop. He also served on the UMC staff at the 2010 National Jamboree Camp at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia.

A life member of the NAUMS, Chaffin has served as recording secretary of the board of directors, and he is serving his second year as manager of the Bible project.

Chaffin also serves on the newly created Council Religious Emblems committee that supports God and Country study programs sponsored by the St. Louis-based Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY). The group is developing programs to provide summer camp chaplains as well as training for chaplain aides. The committee is now considering plans for a number of other faith-based efforts such as a Ten Commandment Hike.

Chaffin was selected to serve as an at-large member of the Virginia Annual Conference, and he has submitted a proposal for scouting funds to Conference Common Table.

A political science graduate of the University of Richmond with a master's degree in information systems management from Virginia Commonwealth University, Chaffin has two sons, a graduate of

James Madison University, and his second is entering the University of Virginia.

When asked about the scouting ministry specialist program Chaffin offered an analogy from Information Technology saying that scouting information is now a "push release" instead of a "pull release." He explained that before becoming a scouting ministry specialist, he had to search out information about scouting. Now, as a specialist, information is sent to him electronically or by snail mail before the public knows about it. He said webinars also supply valuable information that he might not have received if it were not for this program.

Someone from each congregation should sign up as a scouting ministry specialist even if your church does not have a youth program.



Bill Chaffin, a scouting ministry specialist from Virginia Annual Conference, attends the 2010 National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia.

NASA certificate for Eagle Scouts

Boy Scouts who have earned the rank of Eagle may receive a certificate of recognition from The National Aeronautics and Space Administration. To receive the certificate, send the name of the Scout to: Public Communications Office, Suite 5K39, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546-0001



Scouting Awards

The Rev. Paul Helmick *Pastor leads mission efforts*

REEDSVILLE, W.Va.—

Men of Reedsville UMC presented the Rev. Paul Helmick with a Silver Torch Award on Scout Sunday.

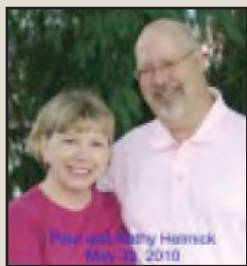
An Eagle Scout, Helmick is a 43-year veteran of scouting and has served as assistant scoutmaster, cubmaster, Webelos leader, troop committee chairman, district chairman, Scout Roundtable commissioner, Venturing adviser and Venturing Roundtable commissioner in five different Scout council.

The Silver Torch Award is given to people who have served scouting beyond the annual conference. Helmick served on the National Jamboree staff in 1973 and 1977. In 1981, he was assistant scoutmaster for the jamboree contingent from the Chief Cornstalk Council.

A mission-minded pastor, Helmick led a group of young people to rebuild homes in Gulfport, Miss., after Hurricane Katrina. While in Clarksburg, he raised funds for Nothing but Nets and the Global AIDS fund.

Since his arrival in Reedsville, the church has welcomed Girl Scout troops, a Venturing crew and a 4-H club. Last year, 18 young people received religious awards through the Program of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY) awards program.

A graduate of Wheeling Jesuit University, Helmick owned and operated an insurance agency in Elkins, W.Va., prior to graduating from United Theological Seminary. He was appointed to Reedsville in 2010 after serving churches in Clarksburg, Jane Lew, and Elkins, W.Va.



The Rev. Paul Helmick and his wife, Kathy, have four children and seven grandchildren.

Justin Jackson

Boy Scout pulls woman from burning car SEFFNER, Fla.—

Justin Jackson, an Eagle Scout and a high school football player, rescued a 42-year-old mother of five from a burning car.

“I don’t call myself a hero. I’m just happy I did the right thing,” says Justin.

Justin and his mother were driving on a county road when the owner of a Honda crashed into the side of the car.



Justin Jackson

“First thing, I made sure my mom is all right,” recalls Justin. His mother, Gloria Jackson, injured her right wrist and arm. The teen remembers his door being jammed and climbing out

the passenger side and that’s when he looked at the Honda driver.

“I see the lady; she’s in her car crying. I went to see if she was OK. Next thing you know, her car is in flames,” says Justin. “It was an inferno; the fire was getting way too big.”

Justin says he had to shake the driver’s door loose to open it and a knee injury kept the driver from walking out on her own. Justin says, “She fell on the ground; I told her I’m going to have to drag you to get you away from the car.”

“Words can’t express the gratitude in my heart,” says the driver Ameena Shabazz. “God bless him I thank him very much.”

Boy Scouts presented Justin with a Crossed Palms medal.

Paul Wierzbicki *Feeds the Hungry*

WORCESTER, Mass.—

Paul Wierzbicki, a Life Scout, received a Good Samaritan Award for his work with Carty Cupboard, a local food pantry at Wesley UMC.



Paul Wierzbicki

A member of Epworth UMC, Paul first became involved with the pantry with his confirmation class in 2010.

Confirmands decided to spend a day in “jail” until they were “bailed out” with food items donated by church members, friends and family. The food was donated to Carty Cupboard. The class brought food to the pantry and helped distribute the items. Paul enjoyed the experience so much that he spent some of his school vacation time handing out food at Carty Cupboard.

Two years later, Paul still volunteers at the food pantry. He and his family move donations from Epworth UMC to Carty Cupboard on a regular basis and Paul helps with the distribution at the pantry.

Paul’s Eagle project will refurbish a room at Epworth UMC to be used as an office for a medical service program.

Gavin MacNeal

Active church member

WORCESTER, Mass.—

Gavin MacNeal received a Good Samaritan Award from Epworth UMC for completing two God and Country Award programs and supporting the church in many ways.

Gavin serves in the Sunday school, sings in the chancel choir, plays in the bell choir, and operates the popcorn machine when the church opens its doors to a city-wide

New Year’s Eve celebration.

He is an active participant in “The Church Has Left the Building” mission day, and paints murals at a local community center. He also spent a week with the UM Army – Northeast.



Gavin MacNeal

Matthew Smith

Athlete and mission leader receives Good Samaritan Award

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. –

Matthew Smith served as vice president of his junior class and was a member of the high school baseball and tennis teams.

The Eagle Scout served as assistant senior patrol leader at the 2010 Centennial Jamboree, and he is a two-time Philmont trailblazer. An active member of Red Bank UMC, he has been on mission trips to Window Rock, Ariz., and to a North Carolina beach.

Texas church presents eight Good Samaritan Awards

Church honors Scouts on Scout Sunday

MIDLAND, Texas—

Eight members of Boy Scout Troop 160, chartered by St. Luke’s UMC, received Good Samaritan Awards on Scout Sunday. All of them completed an Eagle project that benefited their church or community.

Micah Peterson did landscaping around the Girl Scout office. John James raised over \$1,800 and provided landscaping around a health center that cared for persons coping with Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s disease. Matthew Hood raised \$1,000 to provide landscaping and to protect a sculpture outside the Museum of the Southwest, and Aaron Macleod raised \$4,000 to repair solar shades for the “Dino-Dig” area of the children’s section at the Southwest Museum.

Jackson Reed raised \$1,000 to replace deteriorated benches at the outdoor center for a child development program at St. Luke’s UMC. Christopher Geib built and landscaped a pond for the Sibley Learning Center. Will Scott built storage shelves for the Goddard Junior High music program. Sterling Beadle raised \$1,000 and provided address numbers for 130 homes in a neighborhood served by a Meals-on-Wheels program.

Frank Patterson

Taking a job no one wanted

GUYTON, Ga.—

“I can’t be a Boy Scout because the scoutmaster quit,” cried the son of Frank Patterson.

“I’ll get you a new scoutmaster,” said Patterson whose career as an iron worker had ended with a debilitating 41-foot fall.

Patterson issued several invitations, but no one stepped up, so he agreed to take the job. That was 17 years ago, and Patterson is still the scoutmaster of Troop 295, now affiliated with Springfield UMC.



Frank Patterson has led an annual Father/Son Freeze-out camp for the past nine years. The most recent event had 638 attendees. Photo by Mike Riddle, Coastal Courier

Since that time, three of his boys have attained the rank of Eagle and he set a record in 2010 when 12 members of his troop attained the same rank. The troop logged over 1,500 hours of community service in 2011. During that time, he also helped reestablish a Cub Scout pack at the Springfield church.

South Georgia Annual Conference presented Patterson with a Torch Award.

“Frank Patterson is an amazing example of what a Scout leader must be if we are to be effective in this age of instant gratification and self-centered motivation,” said Ty LaValley, acting scouting coordinator for South Georgia Conference.

Adam Rain

Scout restores youth house

TAMPA, Fla.—

For his Eagle project, Adam Rain, a member of Lake Magdalene UMC, raised \$800



Adam Rain

and recruited people to provide 400 volunteer hours to restore the exterior of the church’s youth house. Volunteers removed debris, pressure washed the house and concrete, painted the house, replaced volleyball poles, repaired gutters, and replaced lighting fixtures.

To raise the funds, he sponsored a spaghetti dinner and a family movie.

“Our ministry is blessed to have Adam in it and I am confident our future is in good hands because there are fine young men like Adam Rain leading the way,” said Bob Blagg, youth pastor.



Youth house of Lake Magdalene UMC

Doug Baker

Cubmaster receives Cross and Flame Award

MADISON, Wisc.—

Men of Bethany UMC honored Cubmaster Doug Baker with a Cross and Flame Award. He is the fourth member of the church to receive the award. Bob Kirkpatrick, Roland Krogstad and Clarence Olson were previous recipients.



Cubs and former Cubs join Doug Baker after receiving a Cross and Flame Award.

Ryan Kraemer

Builds wheel-chair ramps

SMITHFIELD, N.J.—

The Absecon UMC presented Ryan Kraemer with a Good Samaritan Award after he helped build wheel chair ramps. An active member of the Absecon youth group, he is building an observation area at a local wildlife refuge for his Eagle Scout project.

In Memoriam

Karen Heim-Baugh

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—

Karen Heim-Baugh, 62, a long-time leader of United Methodist Scouting, died March 7. She had been moved to a Indiana University Hospital in Indianapolis to await a liver transplant but was too weak for the procedure.

“Karen was a dedicated scouter, mother, grandmother, and servant leader,” said Larry Coppock, director of scouting ministry for the denomination. “She was also a member of our Scouting Ministry Committee. We had conducted several workshops together at Philmont and the inaugural one at Sea Base in 2010.”

Karen also led a scouting workshop at the 2009 National Gathering of UM Men in Nashville, and she served as a contributing editor for Scouting Guidelines, part of a 2008 series of books helping church leaders understand their responsibilities in several areas of ministry. She was a recipient of many Scout awards, including the Silver Beaver Award, Silver Torch Award, Silver Cross Award, Cross and Flame Award, and God and Service Recognition.

Karen loved to teach classes at the Philmont Scout Ranch. Reporting of her fourth trip to the New Mexico ranch with her son Robb, she wrote, “Philmont was as gorgeous and as fun as I had remembered. The training session was filled with talented, enthusiastic adults who brought and shared many wonderful ideas. Campfires, cracker barrels, a western dance/ barbecue, crafts, a day off for hiking, touring and shopping and goofing off with new friends made the week memorable as well as educational.”

A graduate of Murray State University (BS, 1971 and M.S., 1974), Karen received a Doctor of Education degree from the



University of Kentucky in 2003. She was a speech and hearing pathologist, retiring from Owensboro City Schools in February 2012.

Surviving are her son, Robb Baugh; a grandson, James Baugh, both of Evansville; and a sister, Janice (Louie) Pulliam, of Owensboro.

Robert E. Carns

CICERO, N.Y.—

Robert E. Carns Jr., 64, former president of UM Men of North Central New York Annual Conference, died April 12.

Carns was a life member of UM Men, an EMS member and a strong supporter of the national effort to provide Strength for Service to God and County books to members of the military.

A native of Newport, Pa., he graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Penn State University. He retired in 2003 from the NY State Department of Transportation after 33 years as a civil engineer.

An active member of Cicero UMC, he was fondly called ‘Mr. Bob’ by children in his pre-K Sunday school class.

He was a certified lay speaker, was past administrative board chair and a member of the Upper New York Annual Conference.

He and Jeff Morey established a kiosk for the United Methodist Church at the Carousel Mall in Syracuse.

Surviving are his wife of 37 years, Pastor Barbara James Carns; his siblings, Barbara (Jim) Brennan of Philadelphia, Pa., Elizabeth (Allen) Butler of Shermansdale, Pa., Mary Ann Carns of Newport, Pa., Debra (Ron) Kuhn of Carlisle, Pa., Edward Carns of Newport, Pa., Richard (Kendra VanHorn) Carns of Saugus, Calif., and David (Gladys) Carns of Newport, Pa.



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