

All About United Methodist Men

OUR HISTORY

The seeds for a men's Christian organization were planted nearly 300 years ago in 1729, the early days of the *Holy Clubs* founded by **Charles Wesley** (right) at Oxford University, England. Let's revisit what unfolded between 1729 and now, as men's involvement in the church grew ...



In the late 19th century, there were groups of men organized under various names including the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and Philip, the Brotherhood of St. Paul and the Mizpah Brotherhood, changed later to the Wesley Brotherhood.

As the years passed, in March 1908, to be exact, The Brotherhood of St. Paul and the Wesley Brotherhood — the largest of the men's groups — met in Buffalo, NY. By the end of the meeting, delegates formed the Methodist Brotherhood designed to include men's ministry groups in some 1,500 churches across the denomination. Later that same year, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church officially authorized the newly formed Methodist Brotherhood.

Then in 1968, you know what happened! The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church unified into the United Methodist Church resulting in an organization to become known as **United Methodist Men**, and were organized into chartered units that numbered about 4,900 at that time. The United Methodist Men's place in history of the church, then, had been firmly established.



Just like our forebears of the Methodist Brotherhood, the United Methodist Men (UMMen) of today abide by the tenets of the Methodist Brotherhood's 1908 Constitution that declared, among other things, the organization's aim to "promote the spirit and practice of Christian brotherhood; increase fraternal interest among men; and, build up the church by leading men into its communion and fellowship." These fundamental objectives of the Methodist Brotherhood, and more, are embodied in *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.

OUR PURPOSE

Our primary purpose is to declare the centrality of Christ in the lives of men and in all their relationships. Click on this link to download a copy of the official [UMMen Purpose](#) in PDF format. It is in full color and suitable for framing for display in your church.

UNIT CHARTERS

The Charter has been the tie that binds United Methodist Men (UMMen) Units since 1968. The concept of UMMen to be united through a *national office* was a grass-roots idea in the early beginning of men's work. Men gladly join and support many diverse, civic and service clubs financially, as well as with countless hours of volunteer service directed toward doing good for their communities, while at the same time enjoying the friendship of like-minded men.

Typically, support for all such organizations is through a dues or an annual fee structure of chartered members, groups, or chapters. UMMen units or local church fellowships are chartered for all the same reasons, and to become a vital part of the *connectional* system of the united

Methodist Church. Click on this link to download a copy of a [Charter Application Form](#) in PDF format.

To find out more on chartering, send an e-mail message to [Jeff Hall](#), UMMen Vice President, Membership Development.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the General Commission on UMMen?

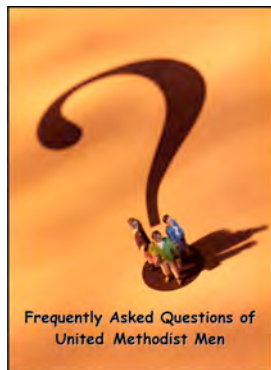
The GCUMM is one of the eight program agencies of the United Methodist Church and is responsible for providing a course of action and assistance to men's ministries throughout our denomination.

Where does the General Commission on UMMen receive its funds?

Unlike most UMC agencies, the GCUMM has limited funding from the General Council on Finance and Administration, but is required to rely heavily on the support of local church chartered units.

Is an UMMen organization required in every local United Methodist Church?

Yes. The *Book of Discipline* states that "Each church or charge shall (emphasis added) have an organized unit of United Methodist Men ..." and that each unit must be chartered and annually recertified through the GCUMM.



We just applied for our charter in July. Will we recertify our charter next July?

No. As first-time charter applicant, you paid a *pro rata* charter fee. In the case of your group, only one-half the annual fee was paid, thereby adjusting the UMMen unit to a calendar year renewal cycle. In January next year, the full annual charter fee, currently set at \$85, will be due. See [Charter Application Form](#).

Our church is part of a two-point charge with each church having a very small congregation with not enough men to support separate chartered units. Is there a solution to our dilemma?

Your charge, that is both churches, **can be covered under a single charter** so long as both meet at the same time and location. Alternating the meeting site every other month, for example, is permitted. Click here to download more [FAQs about UMMen](#).

In addition, the GCUMM recognizes the difficulty that small church congregations, especially in rural areas, have in gathering enough men together to have a meaningful and productive meeting, and will authorize a multiple of small churches to receive a unit charter provided they meet at the same time and location. Alternating the meeting site every other month, for example, is permitted.