

From your partners in men's ministry

*A bi-monthly e-mail letter from agency officers and staff
to leaders of United Methodist Men*

February 15, 2009

Correction time

Hello Men of God!

It is difficult to imagine that there is anyone on this planet who has not been affected by the economic storm that has turned the market place into shambles.

Recession...depression... call it what you will, the fact remains—millions of people are affected in very personal ways.

Some economists suggest that the stock market always corrects itself when things go to one extreme or the other. It appears that correction is a part of a divine design.

The need for correction is not new to Christians. The Bible exposes us to this reality from the very beginning.

Whenever human beings become so selfish and greedy that thoughtlessness, lack of discipline and restraint are abandoned, bad things begin to happen.

If we spend what we do not have, it will eventually show. If we try to take short cuts to success without truly earning our way, they will come back to haunt us.

If we want to be the church without teaching and practicing the values of our faith, this practice will become evident in the lives of men and women who have lost their way.

Too many boys become men without receiving love or guidance, and so we find men within and outside the church who have no sense of direction.

Grace is how God provides us with new opportunities to correct ourselves and grow closer to God.

Men of God, there are too many men who have moved away from our biblical and Wesleyan teachings. We have come to the inevitable—a season of correction.

It is correction time. Do not fight what is happening for it is a good thing. We are returning to God.

Remember, God's will for us is good. We must do the rest.

James King, president

General Commission on United Methodist Men

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Questions

Are you plugged in or disconnected?

Are you engaging in ministry or sitting around doing nothing? Do you care about what is going on in the church, or are you apathetic? Are you supportive of leaders, or are you a negative person that causes friction? Do you have a fire for ministry, or are you burned up and washed out?

Are you using your gifts and talents, or do you expect others to carry your load? Do you build relationships with others, or are you a lone ranger?

Are you creative and energized or dull and lethargic? Do you want to grow in your faith, or are you happy where you are? Are you a participant in worship, or do you just fill a pew? Do you listen to God, or do you only tell Him what you want?

Do you support your pastor, or are you a pastor killer? Do you share your faith, or are you faithless? Are you a giver or a receiver? Do you swim out to the boat, or do you wait for your ship to come in? Are you a fresh wind for people, or do you stink up the place?

Do you help find solutions, or are you part of the problem? Are you an example and witness for others, or are you self-centered and useless to God? Do you spend time in the Spirit or spend time for yourself? Are you a leader that follows Jesus or a follower that leads others away from Christ?

Are you a doer of the Word or just a hearer only? Do you pray for others, or do you pray only for yourself? Are you blessed by God, or do you think you are just lucky?

Do you want Jesus as your savior, or do you provide for your own salvation?

Are you a leader worth following?

The Rev. David Adams, general secretary

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The winds of change

This past year, change has been a point of conversation throughout our country. Certainly both political parties preached change to their constituents. It seems the party that convinced the voters it represented the greater change was victorious. Change is also underway in nearly every aspect of UM Men.

New members of the General Commission on UM Men took office in 2008, and South Georgia Area Bishop James King was elected president. Carl Young was elected president of the UM Foundation, and I was elected president of the National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP). In addition, four of the five jurisdictional presidents are new.

The first men's ministry specialists will be certified at the March NACP meeting in Nashville. This year, the National Scouting Ministry Committee will also introduce the scouting ministry specialist.

Probably, the most obvious change is the moving of the quadrennial National Gathering from Purdue University at West Lafayette, Ind., to Belmont University in Nashville.

Every four years for the past 36 years, the battle cry among UM men has been "Let's go to Purdue!" We experienced great preaching and inspiring worship during the preceding nine gatherings. Nationally known musicians were there. Many educational workshops were available along with a comprehensive ministry fair. Men of all ethnic groups from all across the U.S. gathered for a time of fellowship and making new friends. What happened at Purdue made a lasting impression on all who came.

Moving the gathering to Nashville is a change, but everything we experienced at Purdue will be at Belmont University. Some things will be better. Travel is easier. Nashville has a great airport, and is readily accessible via three interstate highways. Our national headquarters is also located

there. Belmont has a beautiful campus and they have rolled out the red carpet for us. Purdue was great; Nashville will be better!

Bring your wife and family. Nashville has much to offer. You might want to spend a few extra days enjoying “Music City USA” and the historic sights.

The dates are July 10-12, 2009. Come for an inspirational weekend that will be remembered.

John Dowell, president

National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men

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A change of heart

What would Jesus do today to renew the church? He knows how to get to the heart of the matter, so he would change a few men’s hearts. He’s done that before. Renewal can happen because heart change in a few men matters greatly in families, congregations, workplaces and communities. Heart change in men blesses many; it becomes contagious and bountiful—bearing much fruit.

In 1996, the UMC created an agency devoted to helping congregations reach men and grow men spiritually. In 2009, the Commission on UM Men is poised to serve congregations in new and effective ways to reach men in and beyond the pews, and help men grow spiritually so their faith can pass into the lives and hearts of others.

Reaching and growing men spiritually is often hard and frustrating work. It is often given lesser priority and support than youth, women and mission work—at great opportunity cost. Ministry to men is the highest pay-off investment that a congregation can make! When a man’s heart gets right with God, families heal and grow—and congregations spring forth with new life.

Congregations are living organisms that exist to reach and bless others with the love of Christ. The Commission on UM Men is here to help lay and clergy leaders expand their capacity to reach and minister to men. Our goal is many more men with warmed hearts like John Wesley, living and loving like Jesus.

UM Men desire to have a vital connection with every UM congregation. We are committed to help congregations grow strong and healthy, through the ministry of generative, life-giving men. As your partners in men’s ministry, we will help you build a team of lay and clergy leaders.

Men's work can expand beyond a group, club or event to become an all-inclusive, outwardly focused ministry of the entire congregation that helps men grow spiritually and blesses every aspect of congregational life.

United Methodist Men: Men growing in Christ, so others may know Christ.

Larry Malone, director

UM Men Ministries

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Sponsorships Equal Scholarships to the 10th National Gathering

For the third consecutive gathering, we are seeking sponsors to provide financial or in-kind resources for persons who cannot afford to attend. Sponsors will ensure the participation of low-income or disadvantaged groups of men and youth.

We are seeking companies, individuals and/or groups that desire to make a spiritual investment in this life-changing event for men. The 10th National Gathering of United Methodist Men will be held on the campus of Belmont University, Nashville, July 10-12, 2009.

Three scholarships will be provided for each annual conference: (1) an ethnic person, (2) a young adult under 30; and (3) someone of the annual conference's choosing. Each scholarship is equal to approximately \$330 (registration and travel-related expenses).

Sponsorships equal scholarships that produce God-size dividends: spiritual growth in mission, ministry, commitment of purpose and most importantly, making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Current sponsors include: the National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men and Northern Illinois Conference, co-sponsors of God-to-Man plenary; Boy Scouts of America, co-sponsor of Man-to-Boy plenary; Carpenter Bus Sales, transportation sponsor; United Methodist Foundation of the Texas Annual Conference, co-sponsor of the John Wesley Fellow Dinner; Enterprise, the official rental-car sponsor; and Courtyard by Marriott, the official hotel sponsor. Participating hotel sponsors include: Embassy Suites Vanderbilt, Embassy Suites, Century Blvd., Hutton, Super 8, Country Inn & Suites, Hampton Inn Vanderbilt, Hampton Inn & Suites, Elliston Place, and Holiday Inn Select Opryland-Airport.

Please contact me for further information if you would like to provide a scholarship or sponsor a workshop, plenary or another event or activity at the gathering .Your investment will build up spiritual capital for ministry use in God's kingdom.

Make a difference today. Be a sponsor. Change a life.

Larry Coppock, national director

Scouting Ministries

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EMS Costs

EMS contributions are not dues, but voluntary support to help carry out men's ministry. We are grateful for any support and value our relationship, but the cost of having this program was in excess of the original \$30 amount. Of the \$30 received, we were paying out \$37 or operating at a negative \$7. Being in the negative is not good stewardship.

The GCUMM board of directors voted in August, 2008, to increase the EMS membership because there had been no increase to keep up with inflation. By increasing EMS to \$45 we will break even by the end of the quadrennium in 2012.

2008 EMS Cost Breakdown

Jurisdictional Conferences	.75
Conferences UM Men	3.50
District UM Men	3.50
Materials	15.00
Missions	.75
NACP	.75
Scouting	1.50

Upper Room Prayer Line	.75
Administration	<u>10.50</u>

Total Cost \$ 37.00

**You may now register for the National Gathering by visiting the GCUMM.org website.
Click on the “Event Registration” box**

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