

Indiana United Methodist Men

Purpose:

Helping men grow in Christ so others can know Christ.

The first item to present is the upcoming International Gathering taking place at the Belmont University in Nashville, TN on July 9 to 12, 2009. "God to Man, Man to Man, Man to Boy" is the theme, which focuses on mentoring. Please visit www.gcumm.org for information, promotional video and the registration forms (wives are welcome). If you have any questions, call 1-866-297-4313. It is rapidly approaching but there is still time to register! Please check it out.

Earlier this year the "No Man Left Behind" training opportunity took place in Michigan. McGrawsville UMC represented our conference with their leadership team and came away blessed and with additional ideas for Men's Ministry. We would like to host this training event in the Indianapolis area. It will be coming soon to our lay schools as an accredited Lay Speaking Course, and is being finalized now. This was taught for a second time at the Northwest District Lay School by Ken Hudgins and Willie Green. It was a great event.

Another training opportunity is with the Men's Ministry Network. It is called "Men's Fraternity". This is a 3 year program. Year 1 covers "The Quest for Authentic Manhood"; Year 2 is "Authentic Manhood-Winning at Home and Work"; and Year 3 is "The Great Adventure". This meets during the school year, September through May, once a week with a recess for 4 weeks during the Thanksgiving/Christmas season. Darryl Sheggrud is the Regional Representative and his e-mail is djsheffrud@gmail.com. His work phone is 260-348-7637. The program is \$300 per year for all the materials. The Rev. Greg Parris of Muncie Union Chapel UMC is leading a Men's group at his church of 150 using these materials.

Our Civic Youth Ministries suffered a great loss with the passing of our Conference leader, Jack Hawley. Jack was a faithful leader and was really committed to BSA. We miss him greatly. Please keep his family in prayer. In this light, we are looking for new leadership in this area. If you know of someone, please let me or Dave Martin know. Civic Youth Ministry continues to happen here in Indiana. There are Boy Scouts receiving the rank of Eagle, as well as Webelos moving up their ranks. Civic youth ministries comprises BSA, GSA, Campfire, 4-H, and BB/BS. I want to encourage every district to have a Bishop's Dinner here in Indiana. Our Bishop is really busy and we understand he cannot lead all of them, but these dinners can be led by our Superintendents. Let's do this and grow Civic Youth Ministry across the state.

SOSA or Society of St. Andrew has had another great year here in Indiana with the leadership of David McCleary. At the 2008 General Conference of the UMC, the 992 member body of elected clergy and laity voted to formally recognize the Society of St. Andrew as an official partner in the alleviation of hunger in the United States. The advanced special mission project number for Indiana is 982225. For the 5th straight year, we were in the top 10 conferences for Meals for Millions donations. We were in 6th place for 2008 with \$8,554.04 in money raised, 77,657 pounds of food gleaned, representing 24 events, 24 farmers, 422 volunteers and being distributed to 186 food agencies. Thanks to everyone for your hard work and contributions. Please give SOSA

your support. Just think what would happen if our 210,000 UM members in Indiana would give just \$1.00 each! Send your checks to "Meals for Millions", c/o The Society of St. Andrew, 3383 Sweet Hollow Road, Big Island, VA. 24526-3054. With SOSA's low overhead and mostly volunteers, a serving of food costs just 2 cents. Please give generously as the need now more than ever is great. Please know the reality of what we can do here in Indiana is so much greater than what we are doing and if your church donates food to food agencies in your area, please let David know. His e-mail is davemccleary@yahoo.com and his telephone is 574-269-1143 or, 574-267-4454. PLEASE NOTE: David McCleary accepted the position of Jurisdictional Hunger Relief Advocate. He is doing both jobs, and doing them exceptionally. We are blessed for his leadership.

The Upper Room is struggling as many are in these hard times. The workers have been let go for lack of funds. All that is left is Migdiel Perez, the manager for The Upper Room Living Prayer Center. I, like countless others, have received the electronic version of the Upper Room daily which just stopped. I called and was told 10 people were laid off. These prayer lines serve a world in need of prayer. It is a blessing for both those in need of prayer as well as the volunteers. Many of our volunteers have been lost due to illness or death in 2008. The Prayer Center is in need of both funds and new volunteers to support the prayer lines. It cost \$24,500 in 2008 for the toll free prayer line. The number of calls was 398,456. Please consider these needs. There are training sheets to be filled out when you receive the telephone calls as well as sheets covering Bible references for the various prayer requests.

Another thing we want to embrace this year is building some P.E.T. vehicles. This is a wooden 3 wheeled vehicle that can be used by a paralyzed person or someone missing their limbs as all you need is your arms. There is a storage compartment in the back to carry things. Stop by our booth and see one on display.

We voted to become a State Conference last October, with 10 districts utilizing the cluster concept. We as UMMen have come together as a State Organization and have many of the Districts filled, but some are vacant and we are in search of Men's Ministry leadership. We will strive to put all out leadership in place, to do the training needed and assist where needed. For structure, we would like to have a Conference Committee with the officers and a Civic Youth Ministries Chairperson, a SOSA Hunger Relief Advocate, a Conference Prayer Advocate and a Missions Chairperson. We would like that to be modeled at the District level, the cluster level and also at the Local level to reach all our local churches.

There is also a need for a Men's Ministry Specialist. Currently we have 2 men who are almost there. Ken Hudgins and Gary Hostetler. For those of you who want to embrace Men's Ministry as that, Ministry, please check out the link to www.gcumm.org and click on the Men's Ministry Specialist tab.

Blessings, **Ken Hudgins and David Martin**