

REPORT NUMBER 3

# *Clergy Think-Tank*

For Ministries of  
United Methodist Men

*One purpose of the  
G. ROSS FREEMAN  
LEADERSHIP AWARD,  
sponsored by the  
Southeastern Jurisdiction  
Conference Presidents  
of United Methodist Men,  
is to identify clergy with  
the imagination and  
interest  
to create effective  
expressions of ministry for  
United Methodist Men.*

Sponsored by  
The Southeastern Jurisdictional Awards Committee  
of United Methodist Men  
and The G. Ross Freeman Foundation Inc.

At The Hinton Rural Life Center  
January 26-28, 2005

THE REV. DR. GEORGE R. FREEMAN, JR.  
Educational Director  
and Editor

## *We Believe . . .*

Men are discovering that God wants to use and empower them in ministry. Many pastors are inspiring men with a passion and pointing ways for them to find personal fulfillment and strengthen the church.

*We believe that* all pastors will benefit from mentoring men as disciples of Jesus Christ and calling them into ministries of evangelism, missions and spiritual growth as an essential part of their responsibility.

*We believe that* unless the pastor finds ways to encourage men in the local church, their participation will be minimal and their commitment to God's mission will be undeveloped.

*We believe that* if the pastor supports the Fellowship of United Methodist Men, the organization will be an instrument to inspire and teach and enlarge the vision of men and thereby strengthen the total church.

*We believe that* pastors who guide and share in the ministries of men should be recognized; therefore:

*The Mission of the  
G. ROSS FREEMAN  
LEADERSHIP AWARD  
is to encourage ministries  
of United Methodist Men  
in evangelism, missions  
and spiritual growth by  
honoring pastors  
who inspire men in  
these areas.*

## **Clergy think-tank report # 3**

At the hinton rural life center

January 26-28, 2005

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# INTRODUCTION

## THE PURPOSE OF THE THIRD CLERGY THINK-TANK

**ROY LIFSEY, PRESIDENT,**  
*The G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc.*

**For the third time** the Southeastern Jurisdiction Clergy Think-Tank gathered at the Hinton Rural Life Center. “Wow!” What an experience.

Several Conference Presidents and Foundation directors met with the six Pastors who received the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award in 2004.

The Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men established the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award in 2002 to identify and honor Pastors for extraordinary influence with men in their churches.

The program was designed to present an Award each year in the Annual Conferences of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. During the first three years nineteen Pastors were named by the Conference Selection Committee for the Awards from those nominated by the United Methodist Men Fellowship of their Local Churches. They have represented ten Annual Conferences so far. We hope other conferences and local churches will get involved this year.

**These are the ones** invited to participate in the SEJ Clergy Think-Tank. The 2005 session met January 26-28. Three days seemed too short to collect all the stories and creative ideas that gushed from their excited minds and spirits.

This time the Pastors were asked to draw on the stories and insights of one another, to generate ideas for men who wanted to be in ministry, and to design a plan for communicating with busy men.

Five major things impressed me this year. First, we had “relational worship.” Each of the six Pastors accepted responsibility for leading experiences in the chapel with an emphasis on how God was involved right here in what we were doing. Second, each of the six made a formal presentation on a topic which was selected from information we received from the support documents presented as a part of the nomination process. Third, each was willing to submit to a television-type interview about their lives and ministry with men so that the entire group understood the background out of which they were coming. Fourth, there quickly developed a bond in which no individual tried to “outdo” or “outshine” the others. It was obvious that they understood that ministries are different in local churches, and that all valid ministry grows out of the context in the local situation. But the underlying theme was the same: how do we encourage men to be in ministry. Fifth, they

**WE WANT TO  
STRENGTHEN  
THE CHURCH**

***With Men who  
are committed  
to a strong emphasis  
on Evangelism,  
Missions, and  
Spiritual Growth!***

**LEADERS OF  
MEN FIND WAYS**

***To intentionally  
assimilate  
individuals into  
suitable groups.***

were all willing to join in a creative effort to produce something to benefit the larger denomination.

The unique closing service of Holy Communion led by Randy Sherrill and William Green tied each aspect of the experience into the eternal mystery of the Christian faith. We left in reverent awe and wonder.

**Also attending** this session of the Think-Tank was John Dowell, President of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men; Bill Smith, President of the South Carolina Conference United Methodist Men and a member of the Leadership Awards Committee; and all five members of the G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors: Donnie H. Morris, Vice President; Larry S. Bryant, Secretary; Walter L. Johnson, Treasurer; and George Freeman, Educational Director and Facilitator of the Clergy Think-Tank. G. Ross Freeman was also there to encourage and be encouraged by these stories of men's ministries.

We pray that this report will be used to inspire United Methodist Men and clergy to create ministries of evangelism, mission and spiritual growth.

We are also including in the report this year a Study Guide for Local Church UMM Fellowships in the earnest hope that they will be able to capture some of the excitement for the ministries of men shared at Hinton.

Please study this material and give God the glory for all that is happening among United Methodist Men.

## SETTING THE STAGE

### CLERGY THINK-TANKS HAVE INSPIRED ME

JOHN DOWELL

*President of the SEJ Conference Presidents  
Of United Methodist Men*

**MEN OFTEN  
BECOME DISCIPLES . . .**

*In Retreats...*

*In Accountability Groups...*

*In associating with*

*a “Spiritual Friend” who will  
mentor and guide them...*

*But they grow*

*to spiritual maturity*

*as they spend quality time  
with their Pastor!*

**V**ery soon after I became involved in my local Church as a leader, one thought became apparent. I had better like meetings. No, that was not really true – I had better love meetings!

This is part of being a leader in the United Methodist Church.

**As I progressed** up the ladder of leadership I became aware there were basically two types of meetings. The first is those meetings we all sit through – not much happens, but my position requires I be there. Many times I’d rather be somewhere else. We all have been there, I’m sure.

Then there are times we come together and the Holy Spirit visits that meeting. Not only does He visit; He takes charge. Things begin happening. Visions begin to come forth – things get done. Not only do these things happen within the group, but they spill out into environment wherever the meeting is located.

**For the next three days** we will have such a meeting. This is my third Clergy Think-Tank with the Pastors who have received the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award from their Annual Conferences. Already nineteen have gone through the experience from ten Conferences. As they have shared the secrets of their ministries with men, fresh ideas were born and new visions were formed for the ministries of men. I have come away from each one exhilarated with enthusiasm and feeling that this was as good as it could get.

All of this and more spilled out into United Methodist Men of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, and it has permeated through the denomination. The same will happen this time because what we do will be recorded and put into *The Clergy Think-Tank Report #3*. Some 4,000 copies of the booklet will be distributed throughout the Southeastern Jurisdiction and nation. The General Commission on United Methodist Men is listed them in their catalogue.

**SOME MEN  
ARE EAGER . . .**

***To be in the mainstream  
of the Church where  
decisions are made . . .***

***To be involved  
in ministries  
at the cutting edge  
of what God is doing. . .***

**Are You?**

**As I was driving** to Hinton today I listened to a tape of a sermon the Rev. Bill Hinson delivered at a United Methodist Men retreat at Leesburg, Florida in 1996. Dr. Hinson spoke about the General Conference which had just finished in Denver, Colorado. He did a great job. One statement caught my attention. He said, "A church that puts the Bible on the shelf will soon follow."

I believe that pertains to individuals equally. Trust me – the Bible will not be put on the shelf during the next three days. Our worship leaders will see to that. Each of you will be speaking out of your own ministry, but your comments will be related to what you are finding in the group.

**Those of you** who are clergy do not know each other now. You are from different conferences. But before you leave Friday, you will know each other well. A bonding will take place and friendships will form as you grow to appreciate the depths of insight in each other. I promise you won't forget. Some of the things you learn may enrich your ministry for a lifetime. One thing is certain – the Holy Spirit will control this time we are together.

Those of us who are observers will be taking notes, marveling at what transpires here, and watching with great expectations that will flow. Our anticipation will flower into inspiration!

That's the truth, and as the clothing guy says, "I guarantee it!"

**"IT CAN BE DONE . . . WE CAN  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE."**

**WILLIAM C. "BILL" SMITH**  
*President, South Carolina Conference,  
United Methodist Men*

**I recently spent a couple of days** at the Hinton Rural Life Center with the 2004 recipients the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award in the third Clergy Think-Tank.

I was blessed to be among that elite group of clergy who were so committed and active in men's ministry in their churches. They came from small, middle size and very large churches. One had been an associate pastor at one church for 16 years. What a story he had to tell! One was senior pastor of a growing 1500 member church in a planned community in south Florida. The other four were senior pastors, excited about how they were reaching men and what their men were doing.

The agenda provided for a free exchange of ideas of what is going on in those churches. They focused on ways in which every church could be more effective in reaching men.

**TURN TO THE  
STUDY GUIDE  
ON PAGE 44**

**Consider ways  
in which your UMM  
could benefit  
by having three Sessions  
to learn how  
to Empower Local Men  
for Ministry!**

The message: "It can be done...we can make a difference."

**We have a wonderful group of clergy in our Jurisdiction.** Most are extremely busy, as we all are. Many concerns of the church tug at them along with other demands in their personal lives. It is understandable if the UMM is not their primary focus.

But I have found that if we reach out to them, work with them, most clergy including the superintendents, will respond positively. Not that they will do our work for us, but they will offer support and help in ways they can.

I find it amazing so many of us think it is "up to the pastor" to organize and run the UMM. It isn't; it's our job. Most often pastoral support and involvement doesn't happen accidentally; you must take positive steps asking for their specific support. Let them know you feel that men's ministry is important.

The message: "It can be done ... we can make a difference."

**We are not clergy**, but we all, as lay persons, have many opportunities to make a difference. Local men have great ideas for ministry similar to those discussed by the Pastors in the Think-Tank. A lot is going on in our churches, in our communities, in our annual and district retreats. The Gathering of men at Purdue University provides wonderful times for worship and workshops and opportunity to meet with other men, with district presidents, with clergy from across the nation to discuss ideas and concerns for the ministries of men. In addition inspiring messages and moving music will set your spirit to singing.

We only need to be open to hear the word of the Lord in our lives and in our relationships with others. We really need to take advantage of these opportunities as much as possible. Let's listen with our hearts to be renewed.

Put these ideas to work in your life, and in your ministry to others. We only need to look as far as the outstanding results L. W. Smith, Dale Sherrin and others got with the *Strength for Service to God and Country* project – a project they took on because God spoke to them, and they listened.

The message is: "It can be done ... we can make a difference".

**Let's get started!**

– adapted from [www.bsmith@ummsc.org](http://www.bsmith@ummsc.org) February 7, 2005

# HOW TO NOMINATE YOUR PASTOR

## *for The G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award*

Could your pastor receive the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award for encouraging the ministries of men in evangelism, missions, and spiritual growth?

1. Download the nomination form and the criteria used by the Conference Selection Committee, or obtain them from your Conference President.
2. Have your local church fellowship of United Methodist Men, or a committee of it, fill out the Nomination form, discussing the criteria as they prepare supporting material to show why their pastor should receive the award.
3. Send the nomination and supporting data to your Conference President or mail them to:  
The G. Ross Freeman Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 949  
Tucker, GA 30085-0949  
Your nomination will be forwarded to your Conference President.
4. Include reasons why your pastor should receive the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award for your Conference.
5. Be sure to include reasons why your pastor should receive the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award for your Annual Conference.

## THE SIX PASTORS FOR 2004

### **PASTORAL INVOLVEMENT WITH MEN**

*Does not often  
happen accidentally.*

*United Methodist Men  
need to take  
positive steps  
requesting  
their support.*

**The plan approved** by the Leadership Development Committee of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men calls for the Nomination of the Pastor by the Local Fellowship of United Methodist Men. These are the men who know him/her best.

A Local President may obtain forms from the Conference President or download them from the [www.sejumm.org](http://www.sejumm.org) website. These need to be submitted by February 1.

A copy of the Criteria used by the Selection Committee in choosing the Conference Pastor to receive the Award is also available from the Conference President or website.

The Local Fellowship evaluates the relationship of the pastor to the men as they decide whether to submit the Nomination. The Nomination, along with supporting data, may be sent to the Conference President or it may be sent following the instructions on the website.

The plaque is awarded by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men in recognition of pastors who inspire men of the church.

Nineteen pastors have received the G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award from eleven Annual Conferences.

### **THE REV. DR. LARRY G. TEASLEY**

**Marion United Methodist Church  
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE**

**U**nited Methodist Men played such an important part in my decision to enter the ministry that I want to pour out my life into twelve to fifteen men in every church I serve throughout my ministry so that I can mentor them through friendship and influence," the Rev. Dr. Larry G. Teasley said in telling his story.

He sets identifying and enlisting them as a goal. "When I find them, I surround them with prayer until I am sure, and then I begin to walk quietly with them."

Teasley is a native of Milton, FL, a graduate of the Milton High School, a graduate of the University of West Florida in Pensacola with both Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees. He received Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. He was ordained an Elder in the Alabama-West Florida Conference in 1989 and

appointed to the Marion Church in January 2003. This is the fifth church he has served thus far.

His wife Shari is a native of Mobile, AL and a graduate of the University of South Alabama with a Bachelor of Arts degree. They celebrate their 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in July of 2005 as the proud parents of Joshua Caleb, a four year old precocious enough to be going on ten. At the moment she is devoting full time to being a mom and home schooling Joshua. All three of them enjoy the water and snorkeling. In addition Shari loves reading, writing, calligraphy and needlepoint in between. Teasley is addicted to golf and fishing and snorkeling and collecting power tools.

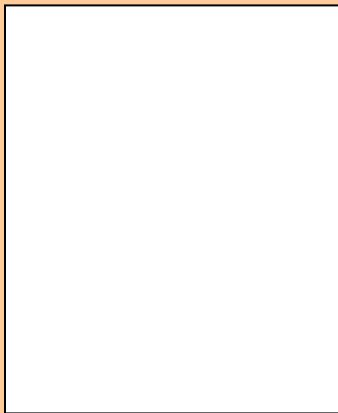
**Teasley was nominated** by the United Methodist Men of the Marion Church and chosen by the *Selection Committee* of the Alabama-West Florida Conference and honored by the UMM of the Southeastern Jurisdiction for his influence among men in ministries of evangelism, missions and spiritual growth.

Soon after he arrived as pastor of this congregation in the stable community of Marion, Teasley was invited to speak to the United Methodist Men. As a way of introducing himself, he told about the impact that United Methodist Men had made upon his conversion and call to preach. He quickly demonstrated that he had a heart for men and a willingness to be a part of what they were doing. He participated in the meetings, he suggested resources, he offered ideas, and he lifted up the ministries of men to the congregation. He made it his mission to involve men in every aspect of the church; for example, two of the three youth workers in the church are men. Several men have one or more youth whom they mentor and disciple. He insisted that they be “connected” to the movement of United Methodist Men in the denomination.

Teasley makes room in the church calendar for the ministries of men in evangelism, missions, and spiritual growth. He opens doors for them in each area, and leads by personal example. They raised \$400 for the Society of St. Andrew’s Hunger Advocacy program; several men have participated in mission trips to Tennessee and Kentucky; and supported one member of the group as part of two mission teams to Costa Rica.

As a way of promoting and honoring the men of the church, Teasley invited the United Methodist Men to provide leadership for a unique (for Marion) morning worship service. They did everything necessary to assist the pastor in the service, with the exception of playing the organ and piano, which was done by the music staff. They asked the pastor to share with the congregation the testimony he had given to the men at his first meeting. Many had not heard this before and were visibly moved.

**Because of his educational background** and inquisitive nature, Teasley sees himself as a pastor-teacher. He is a mentor committed to developing apprentices who will carry on the work after he is gone. “Every man with whom I have a



**ALABAMA- WEST FLORIDA**  
**The Rev. Dr. Larry Teasley**  
Marion United Methodist Church  
Marion, AL

**PREACHING IS  
IMPORTANT !**

***But no matter  
how effectively  
the Gospel is  
proclaimed from  
the Pulpit,  
it has to be  
proven in the pew  
before it becomes  
living Truth  
for the world to see.***

significant relationship, has special ability which the church needs and they have one thing in common – they have a story! They often do not connect *their story* with *The Story!* I want to find their ability, and get them connected!”

He keeps asking himself and others, “If what we are doing is not working, what will work...”

He often is invited to teach in nearby colleges. He is gifted and enthusiastic and lively leader in the classroom and organizes content material like a professor.

While he goes with the men, applauds their achievements in the district, and leads them to conference retreats and beyond, he is eager to communicate with them insights from theological and historical studies he has made.

When Teasley was invited to make a presentation on *Connecting Men to the Denomination*, leaders of the Clergy Think-Tank thought he would talk about the ways in which he guided men into becoming leaders at the district and conference level. Indeed he does that. But his mind went beyond that, and he shared the ways in which he connects the men of the church with the biblical and theological and historical basis of the United Methodist Church.

You will see when you study the *Major Points* from the formal presentations how much richer his concepts were. He traces the connection back through John Wesley to the Celtic understanding of the meaning of “adoption into the family of God.”

What a rich mind you have the opportunity of exploring.

**THE REV. ROGER G. WATTS**

**The First United Methodist Church of Coral Springs  
FLORIDA CONFERENCE**

**C**atch men on the periphery, and find them a place,” the Rev. Roger G. Watts explains his success in working with men. “We are part of a new, planned community in Broward County where the median age is 33.8, and the average age of our congregation of approximately 1,500 is younger than the average of the community. We are finding ways to enlist and involve these young, professional, higher income families in being serious disciples.”

The constant purpose of all the planning and activity of the pastor and staff and leaders of the church is, “Our goal is to disciple people who make disciples who are making disciples!”

Watts has been pastor of the Coral Springs congregation for seven years. He is a firm believer in the ministry of the laity. Working behind the scenes, he assisted the reorganization of United Methodist Men and helped them discover their mission. The local Fellowship now has a yearly plan for ministry projects. They take upwards of 150 men each year to the Leesburg Men’s Retreat to continue the inspiration begun locally. Watts is himself a popular speaker at these retreats and attends with the men even when he is not speaking. They



**FLORIDA**  
**The Rev. Roger G. Watts**  
First United Methodist Church  
Corals Springs, FL 33065

usually have the largest attendance at these retreats of any church in the Florida Conference.

**Roger Garfield Watts was born** in February of 1947 on a farm in northwest, Alabama, the eldest son of the eldest son of the eldest son. My parents were poor and uneducated but hard working Christian people. I don't remember when the code was first announced, but I always knew it was there: "Do the right thing." It meant, "Love Jesus. Get a good education. Work hard. Make a difference."

The family moved to Ft. Lauderdale within a few months after Watts was born. In many ways he was a model student making good grades, playing football, and earning honors. With the encouragement of his parents, he was active in church. In those years he felt the call of God to ministry. His dream was to be a mission doctor in South Africa.

Alas the stresses of city life wore his parents down, and they struggled through a divorce. At fourteen Roger was on his own, and with that independence his grades slipped. He dropped out of school, married Judy Lee Turner January 1, 1964, and gave up his aspirations of being a missionary. Their marriage has been blessed with two children and two grandchildren.

A part time job as a bag boy turned into a full-time position as a stock clerk and cashier in a chain grocery store. In the meantime, he completed high school and started evening classes at Broward Community College, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Atlanta University.

Watts was in the grocery business from 1963-1974. After working in retail, he became a salesman for food brokers Spradley, Riley and Slaughter. Then for five years he worked as a representative for the Kimberly Clark Co.

The code his parents taught him gave way to "make all the money and have all the fun you can." During three especially turbulent years, he turned against the teachings and values of his family and the church.

"During those painful days, I was willful, foolish, arrogant, greedy and immoral," he confessed. "I finally grew sick of that and of myself, and because of the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, reconsidered my life. Judy and I reconciled and began to work on our marriage again."

They turned to a United Methodist Church, and through the ministry of Rev. Paul Ragsdale and some patient, caring lay people reconciled to God and rediscovered the code. He was asked to teach Sunday School and work with a youth group. He discovered that working in the church was fulfilling. A United Methodist Men's Group and a Lay Witness Mission provided the extra push for him to rediscover his call. God spoke to his heart, and after a short struggle, he yielded to the call to be a pastor in the United Methodist Church.

With their strong support he enrolled in the Candler School of Theology and served as a student pastor in the North Georgia Conference.

Watts was admitted into the Florida Conference as a second career minister after graduating from the Candler School of Theology with a Master of Divinity

**WE NEED MEN**

**WHO WILL**

**EMPOWER PASTORS . . .**

**So it will**

**be impossible**

**for them**

**to fail.**

degree and working on the Doctor of Ministry program. Since he returned to Florida in 1977, he has served four appointments.

The conference has used him in many capacities, always to great benefit. He is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of South Florida.

In spite of being so busy, his hobbies of reading, piano, computers, hiking and snorkeling always get adequate time.

**Currently, there are 175 men** involved in activities of the local UMM Fellowship. The men sponsor two fund raisers a year: a steak dinner and a golf tournament. Funds generated go to provide scholarships for men and boys to attend the Leesburg Men's Retreats; to purchase Bibles to be given away; for "random acts of kindness" to people in the local community; and to support programs of United Methodist Men at the national level.

It is no wonder that Watts was nominated by the United Methodist Men of the Coral Springs church and chosen by the *Selection Committee* of the Florida Conference to receive the **G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award** from the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Men because of his strong influence among men in ministries of evangelism, missions and spiritual growth.

Watts protects a date on the calendar for United Methodist Men Sunday. On that day, United Methodist Men take over all three worship services that morning in which they share what they are doing in evangelism, missions, and spiritual growth. During the past seven years, several in the congregation have received the call into the ordained ministry. These receive his special attention as he guides them through the process.

June 2004 marked the thirtieth anniversary of his becoming a pastor under appointment in the United Methodist Church. He expects to continue serving in this capacity for another five or ten years. The changes that confront the church today demands greater responsibility and participation from the laity as leaders in churches of both large and small membership. I hope to become a more competent pastor, teacher and evangelist to help church develop and redevelop for more effective ministry in the communities where they are located. After I retire, I hope to teach. The emerging church is a fascination to me. I am amazed at the philosophical and theological flexibility of the post modern mind. Is there a place for Truth in the moral and intellectual climate of our culture? Will relativism rule the day? I am committed to truth, neither as a concept nor as a proposition, but as a person: Jesus Christ is Truth.

How that works out in a confused and confusing culture is as open question. I want to be a part of the answer.

## THE REV. DR. H. WILLIAM GREEN

First United Methodist Church of Cary, NC  
NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

**P**icture this. A hundred men meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Friday morning for breakfast and sharing in the six week study of the *Purpose Driven Life*. Breakfast is served swiftly and promptly at 7:00 am. A video clip of Rick Warren's teaching is shown from 7:45-7:35. Around every one of our twenty tables, five men are eagerly discussing the video from 7:35-7:50. Then from 7:50-8:00 the men pray for each other.

The Rev. Dr. H. William Green is beginning his seventeenth year as Associate Pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Cary, North Carolina. During this time United Methodist Men have made great strides. Attendance at the monthly Saturday breakfast has increased from 14 to an average of well over 100.

The first *G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award* of the North Carolina Conference was presented to Green at the Annual Conference in June of 2004. He was nominated by the United Methodist Men of the Cary church and chosen by the Selection Committee of the North Carolina Conference for his influence among men in ministries of evangelism, missions and spiritual growth. The plaque is awarded by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men in recognition of pastors who inspire men of the church.

NORTH CAROLINA  
The Rev. Dr. William Green  
First United Methodist Church  
Cary, NC 27511

**Harold William Green** was born March 12, 1952. He graduated from Catawba College in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and religion, from the Duke Divinity School in 1977 with a Master of Divinity, and from the Candler School of Theology in 1993 with a Doctor of Ministry degree. He was appointed Associate Pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Hamlet, NC (1977-1979); pastor of Rich Square United Methodist Church in Rich Square, NC (1979-1983); Central United Methodist Church in Lauringburg, NC (1983-1986); Campus Pastor Methodist College in Fayetteville, NC (1986-1989); and as Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Cary, NC (1989 to the present). He is beginning his 17<sup>th</sup> year in this appointment. During his time in Cary, the membership of the church has grown from 1,600 to over 4,000.

Of course he does not claim credit for this miraculous development, but he does acknowledge that "I start new ministries at the church and equip laity for these ministries." This list is long: he began teaching Disciple Bible Study in prison – a program that has become a state-wide United Methodist ministry; started a Young Reader's Club; member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers; inspired the 100 Men of Influence explosion in the church; leader of the "Leadership Lifter for Men" where a speaker is brought in once a month to address the topic of leadership to challenge "every man a leader, every man an influence;" envisioned and brought into reality the "Disciple 12" program, a men's ministry of mentoring where 12 men come together once a month to

**WHEN THE  
HOLY SPIRIT  
TAKES CHARGE . . .**

***Visions come forth...  
Things get done...  
The influence of  
Ministries to which  
United Methodist Men  
are committed  
spills over into  
the Community!***

***– John Dowell***

share the vision of our men's ministry, to support one another, to help mentor men according to their expressed need and to equip them to lead and mentor other men... at the end of the year, each man is sent forth to "Disciple 12!"; created and guides the men into Small Group ministry; and so the list mounts.

Among Green's special interests at the moment, in addition to his demanding responsibility as Associate Pastor: serving on the Board of Directors of Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of North Carolina which is now offered in over 50 prisons in North Carolina with over 800 inmates involved; extending his sixth year leading the Disciple Study in Prison at the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women in Raleigh (the only maximum security prison for women in the state; serving on the Board of Directors and Spiritual Director for the Heart of Carolina Emmaus Community;

**The great spurt forward** in the ministries of men happened when Green sent a challenge to men of the church: "God is looking for One Hundred Men of Influence Who Want to Make a Difference for Christ. Are you one of them?"

Because of this challenge, 85 men spent six weeks in small study groups to deepen their faith and grow in discipleship. That experience revitalized the men of the church. The "One Hundred Men of Influence" now have a website, provide opportunity for men to join a six week small group study at any time during the year, and continue to flourish under the oversight of this innovative pastor.

Their golf tournaments have given over \$2,000 to mission projects. In addition they have with the encouragement enabled:

- ◆ Strong supports of the Raleigh District UMM...
- ◆ Has led several worship services at the annual Raleigh District UMM Retreat at Louisburg College...
- ◆ He led the congregation to begin a "gleaning ministry" over ten years ago in support of the Society of Saint Andrew...
- ◆ He is currently recruiting men for a HeartQuest Retreat sponsored by the North Carolina Conference...

Green has found that men need three things: 1) they need to be affirmed; 2) they need a safe place to be held accountable; 3) they need to feel called to a worthy cause that they can be passionate about.

**He is helping** the United Methodist Men find all three at the Cary FUMC. The men are making extraordinary contributions to the total ministry of the church. Their work is recognized and celebrated annually on United Methodist Men's Sunday. They sponsor the Easter Sunrise Service and serve breakfast to all who attend. They have even formed their own choir. Since the devastation of Hurricane Floyd, the UMM of Cary First have been going "down East" every month for five years to help repair homes. No wonder this Associate Pastor is loved and honored by those who know him best.

THE REV. JACK TEMPLE  
The Mauldin United Methodist Church  
SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

**Preacher pressure on a project** does not last... It dies when the preacher gives it up. I want to stay away from a 'preacher-directed' ministry. I'd rather allow the men to initiate and encourage them in the ministries they discover," the Rev. Jack Temple said as he shared during the Clergy Think-Tank.

Temple was born in Saluda, SC and was educated at Spartanburg College, the University of South Carolina, and Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. His first marriage left him deeply scarred, and he despaired of entering the ministry. Friends and loved ones finally assured him that he was not to blame and that God's grace would enable him to serve effectively as a pastor in dealing with the hurts of other people. The counsel was good. He lifted his head and trusted in God. As he began to heal, he married beautiful Marian fourteen years ago. They have a healthy blended family of three sons. His non-judgmental ministry, his warm sympathetic counsel, and his supportive preaching blesses the congregation. The work of the church flourishes.

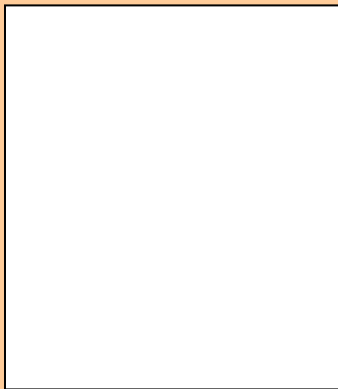
Temple has been pastor of the Mauldin United Methodist Church for eight years. His identification with men, his comfort in going where they are, and his willingness to listen won their hearts.

**United Methodist Men** of the Mauldin Church nominated him for the **G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award** in 2004. He was chosen by the *Selection Committee* of the South Carolina Conference and named by the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Men Leadership Awards Committee to receive the honor for his influence among men in ministries of evangelism, missions and spiritual growth.

The plaque is awarded by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men and the G. Ross Freeman Foundation to recognize pastors who inspire men of the church.

The plaque is more than a symbol to occupy a space on the wall of the Pastor's Study. The award immediately elevates the recipient to a place of leadership. Going with the award is an invitation to participate in *The Clergy Think-Tank* sponsored by the G. Ross Freeman Foundation at the Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, NC. There he shares the stories of others who receive the award that year, and together they create ministries for men. They come away inspired, anxious to put some of the ideas to work. Often they are invited to speak at men's meetings, conferences and retreats.

**Under Temple's leadership** as pastor, men are a growing influence in the Mauldin congregation. He goes where men go, dressed as a man, not hiding



SOUTH CAROLINA  
The Rev. Jack Temple  
Mauldin United Methodist Church  
Mauldin, SC 29662

**ARE YOU  
WILLING**

***To do what God  
wants you to do —  
even before  
you know  
what it is?***

behind his clerical protection. They feel comfortable with him and often open up to him about some of the problems they are facing.

A group meets Tuesdays for breakfast and a spiritual/Bible study. Some men join in a regular lunch group to develop friendship and caring bonds with each other and the church. The Men's Ensemble has grown from four members to a choir of over twenty. The Praise Choir and the Chancel Choir both have more men than women. Mauldin men lead the church through membership on committees and in leadership roles.

Four times a year they host the Upper Room Prayer Line by a remote connection out of Nashville, thus giving the men a sense of the importance of this intercessory prayer ministry

There are 40 active men in the chartered UMM Fellowship, but many more are involved in positions of influence in the church. The monthly meetings schedule a variety of speakers, usually lifting up some need or ministry which the men decide to support. Three fund raisers were arranged during the last 12 months. Fellowship and bonding among the men is the chief focus of these efforts, but they enable the men to support mission causes. Last year, they helped buy a church bus; this year they designated the money for the church's mission trip to Peru. Work teams spent time and money to convert an old church building into a chapel for outreach services in a downtown area at the request of the District Superintendent. They are always ready to respond as needs are presented.

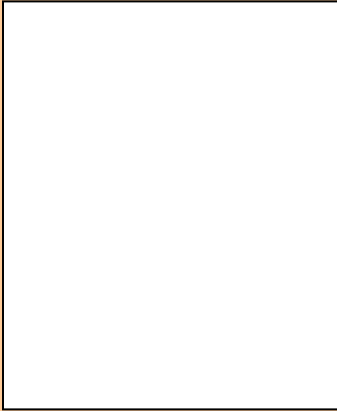
"Activity, fellowship, spiritual search and the encouragement of our pastor has led us into an era of great strength for the men of our church," Steven Hendrix said in making the nomination. "Under Temple's leadership our church has become much more about supporting each other and developing friendships inside the church so that we can support our mission projects."

**THE REV. DENNIS E. STALVEY**

**The Fort Valley United Methodist Church  
SOUTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE**

**H**old on to your seat, cause this guy is about to blow you away with down-home, folksy southern humor," the speaker said in introducing the Rev. Dennis E. Stalvey at the Think-Tank dinner. "Preacher Dennis is a country boy born in the rural Georgia town of Hahira and grew up in the railroad town in southeast Georgia, Waycross, home of the Okefenokee Swamp. His humor is refreshing as he takes us on a delightful journey of the antics and happenings of Swamp life with side-splitting laughter. You are about to experience some "just plain fun!"

So ran the introduction of the Ambassador of Good Will, the Okefenokee Swamp Storyteller. He came trotting on stage dressed like a country parson in a black suit, with a clerical collar, a red shirt and a black hat.



**SOUTH GEORGIA**  
**The Rev. Dennis E. Stalvey**  
Ft. Valley United Methodist Church  
Fort Valley, GA 31030

We soon discovered that Stalvey is far more than an entertaining comic. He is a member of the National Storytelling Association; member of the Georgia Sheriff's Association Chaplaincy Division for Officers and Firemen; Chaplain of the Peach County Sheriff's Office and Fire Department; Chaplain of the Peach County High School Trojans Football Team; and member of the Houston County Hospice Board of Directors.

**Dennis Eugene Stalvey** was born in Hahira, Georgia, graduate from the Ware County High School in Waycross, Georgia, attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, the University of Georgia, and graduated from Valdosta State University with a B.S. degree in secondary education, history and social science. He obtained a Five Year Certificate from the Emory University Course of Study School, and a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology.

He married Jerita Carolene Highsmith January 30, 1972. She graduated Cum Laude from Georgia Southwestern University with a B.S. degree in Childhood Education. She is a teacher and recording artist. Music has been a great part of their ministry because of her. They have three sons, two of whom are in the Army with tenure in Iraq.

Stalvey was Licensed to Preach February 17, 1976 in his home church, the Jamestown United Methodist Church in Waycross, and was admitted into the South Georgia Conference in Full Connection in 1984.

**Stalvey was nominated for the *G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award*** by the United Methodist Men of the Fort Valley Church and chosen by the *Selection Committee* of the South Georgia Conference for his influence among men in ministries of evangelism, missions and spiritual growth.

The plaque is awarded by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men and the G. Ross Freeman Foundation in recognition of pastors who inspire men of the church.

Ken Banter said in presenting the nomination, "Dennis leads by example. He shows what a United Methodist Man should be and do. He is always at the monthly meeting unless his duties take him out of town. He gets involved in whatever we are doing."

- ◆ He spearheaded the Krystal Club, a group of men who have a night out, watch a movie and eat Krystal hamburgers, while bonding with other men
- ◆ He supports the Scouting program and mentored five scouts this year in achieving the God and Country Award...
- ◆ He led his congregation in supporting the Potato Project, a project of the United Methodist Men to Feed the Hungry, in cooperation with the Society of Saint Andrew...
- ◆ He invited Bishop Richard Looney to come from Junaluska to speak to the congregation about the Foundation For Evangelism. As a result Fort Valley is helping to underwrite this exciting program...

And the list goes on.

**Stalvey joined** other local pastors of various denominations in starting the Grace House in Fort Valley. The House provides counseling, clothing, food, and other services for needy families. Under the positive, enthusiastic leadership of this effective pastor, UMM gave about \$1,200 to purchase supplies and over 1,100 hours of volunteer labor to refurbish the facility. Stalvey, right in the middle of it, invested many hours of sweat equity himself.

Reaching beyond the local church, Stalvey sponsored, organized and carried out a district-wide United Methodist Men day. A fish-fry was planned to get more men of the District interested in the ministries of UMM and Scouting. Dr. Joe Harris, General Secretary of the Commission of United Methodist Men was invited to speak for the function and to preach the next morning at Fort Valley. In these and other ways Stalvey is building the connection!

Stalvey is an experienced world traveler with journeys to London, Brussels, Israel, Jordan, Austria, Mexico, India, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and Tokyo. He still has time for hobbies like bow hunting, fishing, gold, singing and reading.

**THE REV. RANDY N. SHERRILL**  
**Konnoak Hills United Methodist Church**  
**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE**

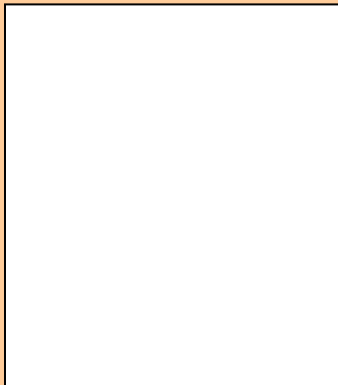
**T**alk about a lifetime commitment to ministry! Randy Sherrill was called to preach at the age of three and has never wavered. "This is the only thing I've ever wanted to do with my life," he shared in the Clergy Think-Tank at the Hinton Rural Life Center.

Sherrill was born in 1956, the final son of three born to his parents. He grew up in Sherrill's Ford, NC, a small rural community in western North Carolina. Family roots run deep. He can trace them back to 1747 when his grandfather, nine generations before him, became the first permanent non-native settler west of the Catawba River in what would become North Carolina.

Methodist blood for the Sherrills was nearly as deep as their connection to the land. His family was active in the Rehobeth Methodist Church with direct links to the founding ministry of Daniel Asbury and the budding camp meeting movement in the late eighteenth century.

**Sherrill grew up** in a typical rural home. His father worked in a cotton mill most of the time. Much of life centered in their home on God and the church.

This God-directed boy preached his first sermon in a worship service he was thirteen. Invitations to preach continued from his home church and other



**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA**  
**The Rev. Randy Sherrill**  
Konnoak Hills UMC  
Winston Salem, NC 27127

**THE CHURCH  
NEEDS . . .**

***Men and Women  
of equal strength  
if the church  
is to soar  
with power  
to obey Christ's  
Commission to  
make Disciples  
of all nations!***

churches in the community throughout high school and college. School was exciting. His personality and academic aptitudes open doors. He graduated highly ranked in his class with many honors. Colleges sought him, but he chose Davidson in North Carolina. Coming from a southern revivalist background, he had no exposure to classic spiritual disciplines or the rich liturgical traditions of the church. Davidson, and the new pastor appointed to the Methodist Church there who invited him to be an unofficial associate pastor, opened these doors for him. That atmosphere sparked a lifelong hunger for spiritual formation and a deeper walk with God.

The search intensified when he enrolled in the Candler School of Theology. There he met, dated and married the woman with whom he has shared the spiritual journey and struggles of a clergy-couple for a quarter century. Kathie is also a United Methodist pastor. He and Kathie were ordained Deacons in 1980 and Elders in 1985.

Their son William, born in 1981, is now 23. He is set to be married in December of 2005 to a wonderful young woman.

The Sherrills decided to have another child. Kathie became pregnant and was to give birth in June of 1986. Everything was going well with the delivery. Suddenly her doctors realized there was a problem. They performed a hasty C-section, and our daughter, Sarah Louise, was born. She faced major problems and lived a little less than an hour.

"As she struggled, I quickly called together a congregation of her medical team in the operating room," Randy remembered. "In that antiseptic setting I baptized the youngest person I have ever baptized. Courage to do that came in a clear instruction from God to 'Baptize Sarah.' I held her until she died, the first person to ever die in my presence. Baptism has never been the same since that time. Sarah was born and baptized and died Tuesday. The following Sunday, I baptized another infant."

**Randy was nominated for the *G. Ross Freeman Leadership Award***

by the United Methodist Men of the Konnoak Hills Church and chosen by the *Selection Committee* of the Western North Carolina Conference for his influence among men in ministries of evangelism, missions and spiritual growth.

The plaque is awarded by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men and the G. Ross Freeman Foundation in recognition of pastors who inspire men of the church.

Randy has served the Konnoak Hills Church in this growing community for four years. He encourages the United Methodist Men to be chartered, with 20 percent of the local Fellowship being members of the EMS program – (Every Man Shares in Evangelism, Mission and Spiritual Growth) to support the ministries of men around the nation and world.

- ◆ He inspired the organization of a monthly "MUM Breakfast" to achieve the purpose of "Men Uplifting Men..."

**MEN HAVE  
THE CAPACITY**

***To grasp the  
Truth of Scripture...***

***To master the  
intricacies of theology...***

***To understand the  
inner structure  
and mission  
of the Church. . .***

***And even the  
complexities  
of international  
commerce!***

***So why don't they?***

- ◆ He builds into the church calendar an Annual Methodist Men Sunday so that the entire congregation can know and celebrate what the men are doing...
- ◆ He helps the men schedule and promotes an annual steak supper and a church-wide chicken bar-be-cue to raise money for missions and projects of the men and to deepen the fellowship of the congregation...

**In these and many other ways**, Sherrill encourages men to be involved in enriching the life of the church through activities in evangelism, missions and spiritual growth. They have a Valentine Party for all the women of the church, especially those who are older and live alone. They prepare and serve breakfast for the entire congregation Easter Sunday.

In addition to work with the men, he gives a lot of attention to the youth and to community activities. He is President of Open Arms Ministry, an Emmaus leader, a leader in the Conference Course of Study. His call to missions is leading him deeper and deeper into work with the poor.

Randy and Kathie are serving two medium sized churches seven miles apart. His ministry with the congregation at Konnoak Hills is enriching and satisfying. Hers is likewise fulfilling and growing.

"I have reached the place in my spiritual and professional life that a new freedom for true ministry has arrived," this sensitive and gifted pastor shared with participants in the Clergy Think-Tank. "I rejoice in all that I do. I am focusing more and more on the primary tasks identified by Professor Eugene Peterson as reading of scripture, spiritual direction of my people, and prayer. I am blessed by extremely active and vital United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women who support my call to minister to the poor."

**THE GAP  
BETWEEN**

***The church's  
Declaration  
from the Pulpit...***

***and***

***Its Demonstration  
in the world***

***Leaves the church  
unable to  
penetrate the  
institutions  
and structures  
of society  
with transforming Power!***

## CHALLENGE

### THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING WITH MEN

G. ROSS FREEMAN

The quickest way to fall into an assignment is to suggest a speaker or a particular subject. If in the last minute the speaker cannot come the committee will insist that you be the substitute.

I made a strong appeal about including a topic on *The Importance of Work with Men* for the Clergy Think-Tank of 2005 and even suggested a suitable speaker. The distinguished gentleman, after some delay, could not accept; so here I am.

**IN THE BEGINNING**, God created living creatures male and female for the continuation of the species. The plan included men and women. Let's agree that both are essential for fulfilling the divine purpose. Especially is this true within the church. Men and women are needed at equal strength if the church is to function well.

Two strong wings are required for a bird to fly, otherwise it hobbles around crippled on the ground until some predator destroys it.

If the church is to move forward to accomplish God's purpose for the future, we must have strong disciples of both men and women.

The truth is that more women are committed active disciples than men. For example, they tell me that only ten percent of the weekly prayer and Bible study groups in the nation are men. The others are women.

Because of their faithfulness, we men have left them to carry most of the important work of the church. This is the reason our denomination is crippled, with little spiritual vitality and excitement in some local churches.

**At the same time** that the church is floundering, men are searching for identity, meaning and fulfilling relationships

During the fifteen years I was at Emory, striving to develop a new generation of clergy, I had the opportunity of working with the lay leadership of the Southeastern Jurisdiction in planning and leading retreats in most of the annual conferences.

**EVEN THOUGH  
MANY OF THE 19-35  
GENERATION**

***Grew up as “church-kids,”  
according to the Barna  
Research Group in  
California, 86 percent  
are no longer  
affiliated with the church.***

During this same period, I was the only clergy member from the Southeastern Jurisdiction elected to serve on the General Board of the Laity. For eight years I was Vice President of the Board, traveling across the nation speaking to the men and learning from them. I learned that men can master the complexities of high finance and international business and the new technologies without difficulty.

They also have the capacity, I discovered, to grasp the truths of the Bible, to master the intricacies of theology, and to understand the inner structure and mission of the church. Often they find, however, that pursuing a career in the corporate, business, financial, political and scientific worlds leaves little time for them to cultivate the inner life, especially when pastors fail to mentor men as disciples.

Unless the pastor works with them, the answer, if they are to become disciples, has to be found in retreats, or accountability to others in small spiritual search groups, or a spiritual friend who will mentor and guide them.

**My own work** with men in the church has convinced me that they want to be more than greeters at the door, receivers of the offering, payers of the bills, keepers of the property, helpers of the preacher, or just hearers of the Word from the pew.

Preaching is important, but no matter how effectively the gospel is proclaimed from the pulpit, it has to be proven in the pew before it becomes living truth for the world to see. The gap between the church's declaration from the pulpit and its demonstration in the world is apparent in our inability to penetrate the institutions and structures of society with transforming power.

Make no mistake about it, men are carriers of the faith from the sanctuary to the world. Failure to take advantage of this potential leaves the church impotent and without a voice in the power centers of society.

Some men are eager to be in the mainstream of the church where decisions are made; where they are involved in significant ministries at the cutting edge of what God is doing; and where they are investing themselves in efforts to influence the quality of life in the future.

**THE PURPOSE** of this effort to strengthen the denomination by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Leadership Awards Committee and the G. Ross Freeman Foundation has a sevenfold program. We are convinced that the Church must have with two strong wings to fly:

***We want to Strengthen the Church*** by having men committed to a strong emphasis on evangelism, missions, and spiritual growth.

**WE ARE TRYING  
TO REACH  
A GENERATION**

***Who has grown up  
without any influence  
of the church,  
memory of biblical stories,  
or guided by the wisdom  
of Godly people.***

***Even so many  
are hungry for  
something more.***

***We want to Activate Men*** so they are involved and persuaded to offer their Ministry Gifts to God for use in blessing the Church.

***We want to Empower Pastors*** so that it will be impossible for them to fail. I've never known a Pastor to fail who had a group of Men around him to encourage and pray for him/her.

When Bishop Ernest Fitzgerald was a pastor in Western North Carolina, he met once a week with 12 intelligent, committed men for lunch. He asked them to tell him honestly how things were going, and he asked: "What am I doing wrong? What do I need to do? What am I doing right?" Then they prayed with him.

***We want to Identify and Honor Pastors*** who work with men. This program all started when the Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men wanted to recognize and encourage Pastors who work creatively with men.

These Conference Presidents want Pastors to help men achieve their goals, join their projects, publicize their activities, connect them with the larger church, mentor their spiritual growth, inspire them with a vision of how the church serves, and see where God wants men to fit in the divine plan for the world.

***We want Pastors to influence other Pastors*** who will help men find a place in the Ministries of the congregation. This can be done in conversations with other pastors as they talk about the exciting things the men are doing, share with them the ways men are expanding the ministries of the church, invite them to speak to the Fellowship of United Methodist Men so they can catch a flavor of what is going on. Maybe they will go back and start some exciting activities among the men of their churches.

***We want to find resources to Fund Grants*** for Doctoral Candidates who might teach in Seminary. The Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men feel that United Methodist Seminaries do not have an emphasis on the needs of men, the place of men, the ministries of men in the church.

When the *Foundation For Evangelism* discovered that there was little emphasis and no courses on evangelism in our Seminaries – and that in fact evangelism and making disciples was looked down on – the Foundation started a campaign to change that. They sought funds to support Chairs of Evangelism where our preachers are taught. Now the Foundation is able to provide an endowed Professorship in Evangelism in

**LOOK FOR  
YOUNG MEN**

***Who have  
some memory  
of their  
childhood  
experiences  
in the Church  
and who are  
discovering  
a hunger  
for something  
more.  
They may be  
reachable.***

every United Methodist Seminary. These honored Professors are making a difference.

What if we could discover doctoral candidates who have an interest in teaching pastors to work with men; what if we could help them achieve their goals by providing financial assistance; and what if these scholars had an interest in the ministries of men as they enter careers of teaching?

Wouldn't it make a difference to have Professors teaching seminary students who see the importance of preparing pastors who have a holistic understanding of the place of both men and women in the church?

***We want to Offer Scholarships*** for Students who are preparing for Ministry. Tuition and the cost of obtaining college and seminary degrees is sky-rocketing. Back when I was working at Candler, we had a goal of making it possible for students to graduate without being heavily in debt for their education.

The Ministerial Education Fund, which is still in our Local Church Budgets, was started by three Atlanta men who wanted to help us achieve that aim. What started as a luncheon dream of these three men, spread through the Southeastern Jurisdiction and in a few years it was adopted by the General Conference for supporting theological education. Our United Methodist Schools of Theology during those years became the best supported seminaries in the country.

But the seminaries keep escalating tuition and other expenses until today the MEF provides only a drop in the bucket. A pastor, who has been out of seminary about 20 years, told me the other day that he still owes \$37,000 on his seminary debt. This is not an unusual story.

Think how this limits what a beginning pastor on minimum salary is able to do toward taking care of his family and providing enriching experiences for his ministry.

How can we find resources to help with this?

**MAJOR ENERGY** in our work with men must focus on Young Men. This is the cry across the church. Answers are difficult to find. Most of us have no idea what they think or how their minds work or what their values are. Us older types have got to learn.

Since I don't even know how to talk to this generation, I decided to dip into the experience of my grandson who is having rather remarkable success in reaching the 19-35 age group.

Stephen Posey is one of the pastors of a megachurch in Tulsa. He now has primary responsibility for guiding two aspects of the ministry in

**IDENTIFY  
AND TARGET  
YOUNGER MEN**

***Venture into  
their world and  
discover  
their interests  
and needs.***

***Don't expect them  
to come into  
your world  
looking for  
answers.***

addition to hospital visitation, counseling seekers, and supervising other staff.

***He is responsible*** for the 10:00 o'clock service – one of four worship services each Sunday morning. This hour targets young adults (the age group we are concerned about).

He plans the service, recruits and trains all the volunteers, and directs a Fellowship Hour afterwards. Here opportunities are provided for trained volunteers to make individual contacts and guidance. The service is currently attracting 700-800 each Sunday.

***Stephen's other*** major responsibility is the Church's Sports ministry. He directs four employed staff and a host of volunteers to make this program successful. Again the primary target is youth and the 19-35 Age-group.

The church has a wonderful facility dedicated to youth and young adults. The auditorium seats 2,000 and is equipped with modern sound, video, big screens. The building has space for eight computer stations, conversation centers and sports of all kinds including table games and basketball.

They have outdoor fields for baseball, football, soccer, tennis, and volley ball, in addition to races, golf, bicycle paths, and hiking on the spacious campus. They sponsor special events with the target-audience in mind.

All activities become part of the evangelistic ministry. The various sporting events, to illustrate, involve members of the church, but the primary purpose is to attract non-church people through participation in these popular activities.

More than a thousand participants registered in a three month period giving their names and addresses and other information about themselves. Each person signs a contract in which he or she agrees to a code of conduct which Stephen has written for the Sports Program.

***Over the Christmas Holidays*** Stephen agreed to spend two or three hours with me sharing some of the lessons he has learned about the 19-35 generation.

- *Even though many of them grew up as "church-kids," according to the Barna Research Group in California, 86 percent are no longer affiliated with the church.*
- *We are trying to reach a generation that has been without any influence of the church, memory of biblical stories, or guidance by the wisdom of godly people.*

**REACH INTO  
THEIR CULTURE !**

**Plan activities  
relevant to  
what they  
think is important  
and start there.**

- *Because of this detachment from the faith, their mind-set is different from anything we know, and church people have to make an effort to get into their world.*
- *Even so, they are hungry for “something more.” According to Stephen, people in this age-group agree with the Message of the Christian Faith; they just don’t agree with the methods and rituals and ceremonies used in the church.*

**Stephen gave me** three strategies or concepts which he finds useful.

1. **Identify and target younger men** – Venture into their world to discover their special interests. Don’t expect them to come into yours – i.e., the organized institutional church – looking for answers.
2. **Reach into their culture and plan relevant activities.** Publicize special events in places where this age group frequents to attract them. For example:

The Sports Facility has a hall with six or eight pool tables. They are always full of people who like to play, and it’s free.

Occasionally they organize teams from the congregation and others to come from the community. They publicize a Tournament and the hall is filled with spectators who come to root for the teams.

Another example:

Recently they featured an event for hunters and brought a well known big game hunter with experience on four continents to talk about some of his expeditions.

The grounds around the large church campus were filled with displays by vendors that sold hunting and fishing equipment. Videos about hunting events were shown around the grounds by those who had and were willing to share them. They brought trophies to display. Prizes were given for the biggest trophies.

Men wandered through the exhibitions, shared their hunting stories and just enjoyed the delightful male atmosphere.

The main attraction was the speaker, but the relaxed, carnival atmosphere held their attention. Men who filled out a registration card were promised a CD if they would come to church and pick them up.

Again, they had church people with an interest in hunting or fishing, as well as information about the church, to mingle with the crowd and be alert to find any who show an interest.
3. **Make it a point to assimilate individuals** into Church groups with people who have similar interests. Keep in mind:

**CATCH MEN  
ON THE  
PERIPHERY**

**And find  
them a  
Place where  
they are comfortable  
and can serve.**

— Roger Watts

Identify and Target Men specifically – generalized  
announcements won't work;  
Find activities in which they are interested; and  
Relate them to individuals or groups in the church with  
whom they share this interest.

Note the importance of the “Home Field Advantage.” Stephen tells me that they have found that in making disciples, it pays to have at least three carefully recruited and trained, sharp church people for each non-church person involved in the event.

In the course of the interaction on the field or in the game, the church people can speak a word, give a witness, or demonstrate an attitude which may encourage the non-church person to come back.

The purpose is to find young men who remember their childhood experiences in the church or who are discovering that they have a deep hunger for more, and are now ready for discipleship.

**HERE IT IS THEN.**

God's Plan from the beginning included men and women.

The church is floundering because we are trying to fly with only one strong wing.

I've learned some lessons from my work with men which I am trying to spread to the church through the SEJ Conference President's Leadership Awards Committee and the G. Ross Freeman Foundation.

Churches must make a major effort to reach and disciple Young Men from 19-35 because the generation of Older Men who constitute the UMM Fellowships and the male leadership in most churches are dying out.

Let us therefore find ways to **identify and target younger men, reach into their culture and plan relevant activities, and discover ways to assimilate individuals into groups with similar interests.**

Out of our search together, let's create ways of reaching out to men and communicating with them!

**MOBILIZING A  
MINISTRY OF MEN  
REQUIRES**

**Good leadership!  
A clear Vision!  
New strategies!**

**And a few  
committed men  
who are  
passionate  
about  
serving Christ!**

— Dr. William Green

## MAJOR POINTS

**Formal presentations by the Six Pastors** and the discussions after each provided the content highlights and the grist for the mill which produced the insights from the brainstorming sessions for the Third Clergy Think-Tank. An amazing amount of work had gone into the material on the themes assigned, the videos and the power point created for each. A full report to do justice to them would call for a book. They were designed to stimulate the “think-tank” as new suggestions were created for the Ministries of Men. What we have tried to do in this report, therefore, is to mine the wealth and lift up the major points which might inspire leaders of local United Methodist Men Fellowships as they follow the suggestions in the Study Guide.

### CONNECTING MEN TO THE DENOMINATION

**LARRY G. TEASLEY**

*Marion United Methodist Church, Alabama-West Florida*

**My goal during a** pastorate is to find 12-15 men whom I can mentor and into whom I can pour my life. When one is gradually identified, I pray for him a long time before he is quietly eased into the relationship. Cultivation is accomplished through association, friendship and personal influence.

“Of course these special men may not be aware of my objective, but I consider them my ‘apprentices,’” confessed the Rev. Dr. Larry Teasley, a preacher-professor now serving as pastor of the church in Marion Alabama and part-time teacher in a nearby college.

He uses a visual aid to illustrate one way he connects local men who are interested to the denomination. Teasley presents them with a special key-ring in the form of a screwdriver-set as they become members of the General Commission on United Methodist Men’s EMS Program.

The set includes four screwdriver bits that can be placed into the slot, depending upon which one is needed for a particular job. It is a tool of universal use, that can be used in a specific context... depending upon what kind of screw needs to be tightened.

The purpose of Teasley’s presentation is to offer a tool that has universal application but can be used in a specific context. Our task is to connect them to the local church, the district, the annual conference, the jurisdiction, and the general church. He believes that if we are to connect men to the

**DON'T INVITE  
BUSY MEN  
TO A MEETING ...**

**Rather say  
to busy men,  
'Come help me  
do this; it's important!'**

**If it is important,  
they'll come.**

denomination, we must consider the context in which they operate. First we need to review what we know about men and their needs, attitudes men have toward United Methodist Men, and the ways men look at the church. In order to do this, he provided statistical data about the United Methodist Church as a way of putting it all in perspective.

**A beginning point** is for the pastor to share his story. The general story of the denomination is important, but it has to be connected with a personal story. As Teasley's story unfolds of his conversion, his struggles for an education which led him to earn a doctorate, his growing conviction that God wanted to use him as a pastor and teacher and mentor, and his surrender to whatever place God chose. This story becomes the benchmark of his credibility to serve as a guide for the men God gives him. His honesty encourages others to believe in their story and to discover how it fits into The Story of what God is doing.

One of the ways Teasley connects men to the denomination is by providing them with theological and biblical images from a Wesleyan perspective. Drawing upon his studies in the Celtic views of key doctrines about the church as the Family of God, into which sinners are adopted and in the process experience regeneration, as they move toward wholeness in understanding that Christianity is relational and not regulatory. Out of this comes models for evangelism and assimilation which were so effective in the work of John Wesley and early Methodism in America – and which Teasley uses in his ministry.

Some of the biblical images of the church he uses are seen in these verses. There are others.

Jesus used "Abba" or "Daddy" to refer to God as the head of the Family in *Luke 11:1ff.*

*Spirit of adoption as seen in Romans 8:15-17; 23.*

*Promise of adoption as an advantage over election in Romans 9:2-5.*

*We are co-heirs with Christ and co-heirs with Abraham: Galatians 3:26-29.*

*God is the origin and originator of all families: Ephesians 3:14.*

*The resurrection has family nuances: Romans 8:29; I Corinthians 15:23-24.*

*Recognition of the Church as the Family or Household of God: Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:19-20; I Timothy 3:15.*

*God naming us as his children: I John 3:1.*

*The eternal declaration of son-ship: Revelation 21:7.*

John Wesley, with a strong mother and strong father to guide the family in which he grew up, resonated with this emphasis in the scripture and in the Celtic tradition. In this context with an appreciation for connection, he saw the importance of keeping his converts close to one another in the Societies, in the Classes, and in the Bands. This way he kept them together and guided their spiritual development toward perfection. This is relational. This is family. This is the by-product of adoption.

**MULTIPLY  
YOURSELF**

**Recognize men  
with potential,  
and guide them  
in using their  
Spiritual Gifts  
to serve God.**

**God will  
use them  
to reach  
others.**

**Thus  
the Kingdom  
Spreads.**

**Every United Methodist Men leader** keeps asking why no more men are involved in the organized Fellowship. Seldom are there more than 20 or 25 who gather for the monthly meetings. Most of them are elderly. It could be that UMM have a poor public image and maybe a poorer self-image.

Or could it be that the United Methodist Church has a poor public image. Some years ago the General Council on Ministries employed a well-known research organization to study the image which the denomination has across America. When the findings were reported, the good news was that we do not have a bad image. But the survey found that we do not have a good image either. The discouraging news was that the United Methodist Church does not have any image at all. When people were asked what they think of when they think of the United Methodist Church, the answer was a blank.

More importantly, what do United Methodists think of themselves? We are an international church, under one Book of Discipline and one form of government, living under one umbrella, committed to one Lord; but we face unsettled and serious issues that disturb our people.

Could this be the reason we are not attracting men into the church or into the organization primarily created for men?

**Teasley's plan of assimilating and guiding** men is to develop the 12-15 who work with him in ministry and use them to reach others.

He has powerful examples of guiding some extraordinary men through the rites of passage into a life long journey of faithful discipleship. He stays close enough to them to celebrate the milestones in their journey. Think of the concepts suggested by terms like Coaching, Monitoring, Discipling, Apprenticing, and Discovering their Witness.

Three images capture the essence of Jesus ministry. Reflect on them. Consider what they mean. They may provide a path for our work with men.

Think of Jesus as a Priest, as a Prophet, as a King.

Think of Jesus as "A Spiritual Companion" walking with the Twelve. Norman Shawchuck and Roger Heuser wrote on page 126 in Leading the Congregation (1993. Abingdon. Nashville) "To journey with others is the primary role of the pastor..." Teasley took this model.

Think of Jesus as an "Influencer" molding and shaping the understanding and the hearts of his followers. "We have two choices – to impress or influence others. You can impress people from a distance, but you have to get up close to influence them; proximity determines impact!" Rick Warren on page 215 in The Purpose Driven Church (1995. Zondervan. Grand Rapids.)

Think of Jesus as "A Coach" or "Mentor" who took a few people, worked with them for three years, and then turned them loose on the world to build a reputation that 'they were turning the world upside down.' John Maxwell wrote on pages 10; 37 of Developing the Leaders Around You, (1955. Thomas Nelson. Nashville.) "Leaders who mentor prospective leaders multiply their

**WHAT ARE  
THE MARKS OF**

***A Healing Man...  
A Healing Group...  
A Healing Church...***

***Think on these things!***

effectiveness. We must have the ability to recognize ability.” That’s why Jesus prayed all night before selecting the Twelve.

These images call us in United Methodist Men to be *Incarnational* and *Innovative* in our approach to connecting men to the denomination.

Follow up on the concepts and information that Dr. Teasley presented. He has a wealth of material on this topic and can be reached at Post Office Box 85, Marion, AL, 35756; or 334-683-6543; or e-mail: Sermonator@es.com

## **ONE HUNDRED MEN OF INFLUENCE**

**H. WILLIAM GREEN**  
**Cary First United Methodist Church, North Carolina**

*“Give me 100 preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God and I don’t give a straw whether they be clergy or laity, for they and they alone will shake the very gates of hell and establish God’s kingdom on earth.” - John Wesley*

The Rev. Dr. H. William Green, beginning his seventeenth year as associate pastor of the large membership church in Cary, presented his journey in starting a dynamic accountability group of men. That experience has revitalized the men of the Carey First United Methodist Church, as they accepted the challenge to deepen their faith and grow in discipleship.

**100 Men of Influence** grew out of an encounter Green had with a man in the church named Deven.

Green said to himself, “What if we had 100 men like that in our church?”

God said, “Go get them!”

So, he did.

One man’s witness gave birth to the vision! So the search began to find 100 men who would hear the challenge to make a difference for Christ’s sake. A letter went out to 100 men explaining the requirements. The response was gratifying; 85 responded affirmatively. The purpose was not to form an honorary society; the invitation made it clear that they would be disciplined as a working, witnessing force moving through the congregation and community.

The group’s motto is: “Every Man is a Leader... Every Man an Influence for Christ... and Every Man needs a Lift!”

“Leadership Lifter for Men” is held the last Friday of each month. The 100 Men come together for breakfast and to hear a special speaker on leadership. It provides them with a monthly spiritual lift.

**Green is convinced** that Christian men are called of God to become leaders. He posed five questions for **100 Men of Influence** to reflect upon:

**EVERY MAN  
NEEDS**

**Affirmation**

**Accountability**

**A person ministry**

**The objective of**

**United Methodist Men**

**is to provide them.**

1. When did you first see yourself as a leader?
2. What are the greatest challenges you have faced as a leader?
3. Who have been your leadership mentors?
4. What are you currently doing to grow as a leader?
5. What is the best leadership lesson you have learned to pass on to others?

Green also feels that, basically, every man needs three things:

◆ Affirmation ◆ Accountability ◆ A personal ministry.

His goal, at the church he has served for 16 years (now beginning his 17<sup>th</sup>), is to enroll every man in a small group where he can receive: 1) the affirmation he needs; 2) a safe place to be held accountable; and, 3) a personal challenge to be in ministry to a worthy cause he can be passionate about.

The vision kept before them is to foster a “ministry to every man in the church for a ministry through every man in the church.” He says that the best way to grow “A Man of Influence” is through the life of a “Man of Influence.”

So, at Cary FUMC, they have a “Celebration of 100 Men of Influence,” where they select and recognize an older man in the church who represents a real “man of influence.” The story inspires and challenges younger men to strive to model their life after someone they know and respect. Men would rather see a sermon than hear one!

Some of the differences these men have made since they responded to the invitation in their church include:

1. Leading the way for “40 Days of Purpose”
2. Repairing homes down east devastated by the hurricanes
3. Supporting the MERCI Center headquartered in Greensboro and named for Bishop Marion Edwards
4. Supporting Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of NC, Inc. as a prison ministry. Look them up [www.disciplebibleoutreach.org](http://www.disciplebibleoutreach.org)
5. Providing a weekend “Salute to Veterans”
6. Providing total lawn care for the church
7. Supporting Scouting Ministries
8. Providing scholarships to Methodist colleges
9. Helping with Habitat for Humanity
10. Sponsoring the “Influential Leader” simulcast at FUMC-Cary

Green suggests that collecting and telling stories about the difference just one man can make, is an important tool for inspiration and encouragement. He says, “Mobilizing a men’s ministry requires good leadership, a clear vision, new and innovative strategies, and a few committed men who are passionate about serving Christ.”

Contact Dr. William Green, 117 South Academy St, Cary, NC 27511. (919)467-1861. [wgreen@FUMC-Cary.org](mailto:wgreen@FUMC-Cary.org) or check out William’s blog at <http://100moi.blogspot.com/> for more details on these and many other projects.

## ORGANIZING DISTRICT-WIDE MEN'S MEETINGS

DENNIS E. STALVEY  
Fort Valley United Methodist Church, South Georgia

*"Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..." - Hebrews 10:24-25*

**Dennis Stalvey believes** as pastors "we need to do more to pull local United Methodist Men into fellowship opportunities where they come together in a larger group for inspiration and encouragement." He dreamed of leading men of his church "beyond hammer and nails" to significant gatherings in a connectional context to broaden their relationships and vision.

Using Hebrews 10 as a text, Stalvey reminded men that they are to "provoke one another" to do something good and to encourage each other more. His conviction is that men need to discover that monumental ministry/gift that can inspire others. For Fort Valley UMC, it is Scouting. Recognizing the strength of his local UMMen-sponsored Boy Scout troop and wanting to build on its success, he posed the question, "How can we bring men together to affirm and provoke each other to do loving good deeds and encourage our Scouting ministry at the same time?" The answer seemed to be to hold an event that would interest, welcome and inspire men and boys.

As pastor Stalvey pulled together a task force of men who determined that they should sponsor a fish fry and rally for men and boys. One of the men told of meeting and being impressed with Dr. Joe Harris, General Secretary of the Commission on United Methodist Men. It was decided that they should take a step of faith and invite this denominational leader to Fort Valley for the event. They convinced him that he could "provoke" the men, who would also have a great time fishing and enjoying the outdoors with Scouts and other males, doing "guy" things. One of the men offered his pond, pavilion and property near town for the event. Lake Hunnicutt was the perfect location.

**The idea quickly grew** to include other United Methodist Men's groups from across the district. This was going to be too good to keep to themselves. The task force was enlarged to include the District Superintendent and District UMM President and "key" men from various churches to be cheerleaders for the event. Calendars were cleared and plans put into place. It was a big success. Men from across the Macon District came and had a great day. Dr. Harris stayed over and preached at First Church on Sunday.

Stalvey lays out what they did to bring this about:

**DON'T INVITE  
BUSY MEN  
TO A MEETING ...**

**Rather say  
to busy men,  
'Come help me  
do this; it's important!'**

**If it is important,  
they'll come.**

**ENCOURAGE  
YOUR UMM  
TO WORK THE  
'NETWORKS'**

**Note the men  
who draw together  
when they come  
into a group.**

**Notice who talks with  
whom, and who is  
the center when groups  
cluster together.**

**When you identify  
the networks,  
it is easier to  
mobilize the men.**

- Discover that part of God's dream for your location/area that should be shared (it can be a concern, need, gift of ministry, etc.).
- Accept the challenge to sponsor this event ("We ought to do this!")
  - Dream – be in touch with God
  - Plan – how to prepare
  - Implement what you plan – it's a celebration!
  - Evaluation – what did we do?

At Fort Valley FUMC, their dream was to:

- Promote relationships between fathers and sons
- Provide a time of fellowship with brothers in Christ
- Affirm the Scouting program
- Offer support and ideas for Scouting and UMMen

The FVUMC plan utilized the "inverted ∇ triangle" process to work backwards to the event. Ask the who/what/when/where/why of the event questions, beginning with what was expected to happen on the day of the event. Then, what needs to happen the week prior? Then, two weeks out. Then, one month, etc. Keep planning until you get back to "now." This method proved to be very productive.

Stalvey says hosting the district-wide event that brought a recognized leader in the denomination to his local town and church was something the men of the church enjoyed doing and certainly provoked many men to love and do good deeds for the kingdom. The Scouts, men and boys who attended, and district leaders were encouraged with a fun event. It is something any group can/should do!

You can obtain more information about these and other projects from the Rev. Dennis Stalvey, Post Office Box 1258, Fort Valley, GA 31030. (478) 825- 2762. dstalvey@earthlink.net

***LOVE GIFT TO CORAL SPRINGS COMMUNITY***

*ROGER G. WATTS*  
Coral Springs First United Methodist Church, Florida

The prevailing purpose in our church is  
"making disciples who are making disciples who will make disciples."

**The United Methodist Men** are involved every year in providing a free "love gift" to Coral Springs. The love gift to the community is an annual "Bethlehem Revisited" – a walk-through Nativity which incorporates the recreation of the

**BELIEVE THAT  
ALL MEN CAN  
HELP IN SOME WAY**

***The mark of a leader  
is to get men to do  
what they can  
willingly so that they  
will feel like they are  
contributing.***

***The more people  
involved in  
a project or event,  
the most successful  
it will be.***

Bethlehem complete with homes, shops, Roman soldiers, street people, animals, and much of the biblical atmosphere. Building the city takes two months and another month to take it down following the five-night performance. About 10,000 people visit every year, and the men offer free Bibles to the children and adults who come. After each performance, people are invited to “The Rest of the Story” in the sanctuary where people are invited to make a commitment to Christ. It is a part of the evangelism effort of the church.

This is just one of the gifts that the men offer the church and community each year. According to the UMM President Bill Thompson and his Leadership Team, the objectives adopted for 2005 include:

- ◆ Establish relationships with more men
- ◆ Get more men involved in church activities
- ◆ Encourage men to provide Christian Family leadership in teaching Christian values
- ◆ Support mission initiatives of the congregation and UMM
- ◆ Provide Christian educational opportunities for the spiritual growth of the men
- ◆ Expand and strengthen the personal networks of men

**In making the formal presentation** for the Clergy Think-Tank, Roger Watts used a video tape and power point presentation which had been prepared by President Bill Thompson and the communication geniuses resident among the brilliant young men. His pride in them was obvious.

The formal Leadership Team is made up of the President, Vice President and Treasurer, Secretary and Communications, Education, New Member Outreach, and Events Leaders. These meet monthly to check up on the objectives and in an annual planning session to formulate goals.

There is no formal UMM membership; all participants in the events are members. All the events and projects are self-funding. United Methodist Men are not included in the church budget.

Participants are kept in a database for phone and e-mail contacts. The database is continually updated to be sure that promotional and informational messages reach the men. In addition the Secretary/Communications officer sees that appropriate announcements and news is included in the church bulletin and newsletter. A website for the men is in the formative stage.

One of the unique promotions they use for the Leesburg Retreats and other events sponsored by the UMM is the placement of a Recruiting Table as people come out of the worship services. The table is manned by the men and has signs, displays and brochures urging men to register for attendance.

It was discovered that a lot of time was being spent in the discussion of routine business and budget matters during regular programs and events. So the officers recommended that these be separated from the UMM events.

**FUND RAISING  
PROJECTS FOR  
A WORTHY CAUSE**

***Become a fabulous way  
of building friendships,  
assimilated new members,  
and reaching out to the  
community.***

Decisions about these could be made by the expanded and more formalized Leadership Team.

Monthly events sponsored in 2005 by the UMM include the Steak Dinner in January, a major fund raising event which attracted 160 men this year; the Couples Retreat in February; the Family Mission event in March; the fun Picnic event in April; the Golf Tournament, the second major fund raising effort, in May; the Father-Son event in June; the Family Bowling event in July; the Music event in August; the Education event for the men in September; the Leesburg Men's Retreats in October with Coral Springs having the largest registration of any local church in the conference for the last three years; the Christmas Family Mission event in November; and preparation for and operation of the Bethlehem Revisited event in December.

**Several Challenges** are facing the United Methodist Men this year. 1) we are attracting different age groups now, and they bring differing needs which require differing approaches; 2) the multiplication of church activities sometimes compete for the attention of resources of men; 3) the major events require heavy marketing and recruiting efforts; 4) the Leadership Team is experiencing serious time constraints; and 5) we are faced with too many opportunities to pursue.

In spite of these, in the future our UMM will initiate more small group involvement. Our target is five new groups in 2005. These will provide more continuity of relationships, closer fellowship, and more varied opportunities for serious study. Find ways to connect with more young family men whose time is limited. Encourage the men to be more proactive in recruiting new church members. Activate and maintain an up-to-date website to reach this younger generation who are computer literate. Look for avenues to connect with youth and seek opportunities for contact with them. Engage men's groups in other churches and build ecumenical participation in joint community projects. Christian men will profit from associating with other Christian men.

Our UMM projects and events are successful because we are members of an active church which encourages involvement, and we have strong pastoral leadership to prod and lead us. An active and committed UMM Leadership Team keeps searching for and providing a variety of significant opportunities for men. Our men have become a community and we rely on one another. The methods we use in actively recruiting men for events keep the congregation aware of how important men are. The up-to-date database enables our leaders to contact the men instantaneously via the phone tree and e-mail – technologies which are used regularly by the young professional and up-scale executives in our church. The **40 Days of Purpose** program drew many of our men to seek a deeper spiritual life. But the major revitalizing force was the way our pastor provided leadership in the Leesburg's Men Retreat and went with us even when he was not the speaker. There we bonded in Christ in

**MEN TELL STORIES  
AND SOMETIME THEY  
HAVE A LARGER MEANING**

**My Story can become  
Our Story can become  
The Church Story can become  
The Gospel Story!**

***What a way to build  
a gripping program.***

a way we could not do otherwise, and the bonds help us throughout the year. From the fund raisers we provide scholarships which made it possible for younger men to attend, support mission trips. The United Methodist Men's Sunday each year calls the attention of the entire congregation to the enthusiastic and significant ministries of men.

\* You can obtain more information about any of these programs by contacting Rev. Roger Watts, First United Methodist Church, 8650 West Sample Rd., Coral Springs, FL 33065, or call (954) 752-4647 or e-mail Roggarwat@myacc.net.

**INVOLVING MEN IN LAUNCHING  
A CONTEMPORARY SERVICE**

**JERRY E. TEMPLE**  
*Mauldin United Methodist Church, South Carolina*

*The mission of Mauldin United Methodist Church is to B.L.E.S.S. people:*

- **Bond** through worship and fellowship,
- **Learn** of Christ,
- **Encourage** everyone in the faith,
- **Share** the love of God, and
- **Serve** others.

**The Rev. Jerry Temple**, senior pastor in his eighth year at the church, listened to a United Methodist man who came into his office one day with a suggestion.

The successful young businessman, Todd, suggested that Temple add a contemporary worship service to the regular Sunday schedule. The two agreed that a different type service was needed to BLESS another segment of society in the Mauldin/ southeast Greenville area they served. This young entrepreneur, who was president of his company, believed that the pastor had the authority to add the service and would welcome the chance to further Mauldin's mission.

A loyal United Methodist, Temple told Todd that he would turn the suggestion over to the Worship Committee for action. The committee studied the recommendation for two months and determined that it would take choir members out of the Chancel Choir (thus hurting the music program); would not be supported in the community (no other mainline denomination in town had one); and, besides, there was no money in the budget to fund such a project. They rejected the idea and told Temple, "No!"

**HOW BETTER CAN  
WE HIGHLIGHT A  
FUND RAISER FOR  
A MISSION PROJECT . . .**

**Than to have  
a representative from the  
mission or agency  
to be present for the event.**

**Todd asked his pastor** what he was going to do now. Temple said, “We’ll just have to go around this committee!”

Feeling the leading of the Holy Spirit and wanting to support his friend, Temple *stuck his neck out* and *cached-in some chips* earned over eight years of ministry in the church. It is, after all, the pastor’s responsibility to “oversee the worship life of the congregation.” He turned to the United Methodist Men.

The men endorsed the need and agreed to help. With support of the United Methodist Men’s Fellowship, Jerry and Todd set out to make it happen, develop a plan, and obtained approval of the Council on Ministries.

They determined that Sunday morning at 11:00 would be the best time. The church’s gym, having recently been made acoustically fit for having programs in the space, would be the best site. It was decided that it would take approximately \$25,000 to buy the equipment and make the space suitable for a contemporary service. A man in the church donated \$15,000 and the Council on Ministries found another \$10,000 in their budget that could be re-directed for the project. Men volunteered to set-up and take-down each week. Men stepped up to learn how to run the sound system, video/cameras, and ‘PowerPoint’ projection needed to have a state-of-the-art worship service that BLESSes people. Temple’s 8:45 Worship sermon is video-taped each Sunday, and it is played back at the appropriate time in the **Live! Contemporary Service’s** order of worship.

**In the beginning**, it was hoped that the new service would attract fifty attendees. They had 150 at the first service! Since then, the attendance has grown to an average of almost 200. The overall average worship attendance has grown at Mauldin from 638 in 2003 to 660 in 2004 and, thus far in 2005 is over 700! The six men who left the Chancel Choir to be part of the Worship Team at **Live!** have been replaced in the choir loft at 11:00 by seven new men who have stepped-up to sing in the traditional service.

Temple says that “men want to be about the business of ministry” and his attitude is to “get out of the way!” As pastor he asked for the support of the men and involves them in the church’s mission.

When one of them came to “a pastor who listens” with an inspired idea, he encouraged, guided and directed their efforts... the result has been a real BLESSing! The men of Mauldin continue on their mission to: **B**ond through worship and fellowship; **L**earn of Christ; **E**ncourage everyone in the faith; **S**hare the love of God, and; **S**erve others.

**Years as a successful pastor** has taught Temple some other lessons from his involvement with the men of the church. Trust them. When a man has a vision, and feels passionately about it, I want to help him bring it to reality. A project, no matter how worthy, which depends on “preacher-pressure” does not last; it dies when the pastor gives it up or moves.

**CREATE A  
SMALL UMM  
LEADERSHIP  
TEAM**

**Who will meet  
year round  
dreaming about  
ways to enlarge  
the ministry  
of the men.**

If you want to influence men, you have to go where men are, and show an interest in the things that interest them.

“I often go into places men frequent by myself, dressed like a man not like a preacher, so that they relax and talk to me. I have found that it is possible to identify strong men who can become important leaders in the church,” this sensitive pastor told us.

“Because of my personal background, I make myself available to men who are hurting. I want to be there for my men. When they are having problems at home, I sense it and try to get the whole family together to discuss the situation. Sometimes they are hurting because things are going badly at work, and I have been there too. Often I can help them gain perspective or find a way through the problem. Catching them at ‘men’s places’ frequently alert me to ways in which they are slipping into destructive addictions, and ordinarily they are unwilling to admit problems or acknowledge how they are hurting. They smile on the outside, but they are weeping on the inside. They continue to keep an-all-is-well face in public – it’s a man-thing – but they fall apart when they are alone. I know. I’ve been there.”

*You can contact the Rev. Jerry Temple, 100 East Butler St, Mauldin, SC 29662. (864) 288-3501. [JerryTemple@charterinternet.com](mailto:JerryTemple@charterinternet.com) for further information about his approach to men.*

**FUND RAISERS FOR MISSIONS AND OTHER PROJECTS**

Randy N. Sherrill  
*Konnoak Hills United Methodist Church, Western North Carolina*

*Go... make disciples of all nations... baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit... teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you... and remember that I will be with you...”*  
– “Matthew 28:19-20

**One of the three major emphases** of United Methodist Men is Missions. The other two, Evangelism and Spiritual Growth, are closely related to Missions. Here in Matthew 28:28-29, we find the assignment of men in the Great Commission. But obedience in Missions, and other good projects, depends on our skill in raising funds. Success comes as we find ways to mobilize the strength of men in a joint coordinated effort.

The Rev. Randy Sherrill, pastor of the Konnoak Hills United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, NC, has been very successful in rallying men for significant activities to raise money. He was good enough to put his secrets together for the Third Clergy Think-Tank in a clear and comprehensive

**ENCOURAGE THE  
UMM OFFICERS TO  
ATTEND DISTRICT  
OR CONFERENCE  
OF CHURCHWIDE  
TRAINING EXPERIENCE**

*In this way they  
will learn about  
the work of their  
office and gain valuable  
insight from what  
others are doing.*

presentation. This is a carefully thought-out blueprint which can be useful by the men of every church.

**Begin by asking** what Missions inspire the men to respond? These are some of the elements to consider.

- Identify a real need in local church, community, or beyond
- Look for natural or personal connections to constituents
- Be sure the agency through which the proceeds are channeled is trusted by the group
- Can the men discern that their actions are alleviating suffering and/or building the Kingdom of God

**Some things NOT to do.**

- Never emphasize making money over the flavor and spirit of the event.
- Do not exclude people or groups and thereby narrow participation.
- Don't sponsor an event that reflects poorly on the church.
- Always insist on full disclosure of financial information.
- Prevent less than positive people from being in very public roles – put them behind the scenes.

**Steak Suppers are a sure winner!**

- Allows men to demonstrate their caveman expertise with meat and fire.
- All men can help in some way.
- Fabulous opportunity for friendship building, assimilation of new men, and outreach to the community.
- Shows the church having fun together.
- Sell allotted tickets in advance to insure that all receive the food they purchased, and to have upfront funds for supplies.

**Several advantages in a Chicken BBQ!**

- Men can take the lead and participate in this all-congregation event by helping with the sale of tickets, set-up for the barbecuing, tables for serving and eating, assembling plates, delivery of take outs (to businesses, factories, construction crews, and other places where people have short lunch breaks), etc.
- Provides a wonderful time for cooperative work of all groups, and assimilation of new persons as a part of the work force.
- Highlight and focus on missions supported by the proceeds. Use posters, displays, and people ready to tell the stories of the causes which are being supported.

**Some raise big money in Golf Tournaments**

- Highlight projects and missions supported.

**SCHEDULE AN  
EVALUATION SESSION  
AFTER EACH PROGRAM  
OR EVENT**

***Notes kept by the  
officers or 'dream team'  
while the experience  
is fresh will provide  
valuable in planning  
future events.***

- Enlist Hole sponsors – clear money.
- Putting contest, contribution ticket prize drawings.
- Simple meal provided, and abundant on-course refreshments.
- Every participant receives some prize.
- Open team competition and church team competition.
- Captain's choice, bunny hop, whatever...
- Wonderful fellowship outreach.
- Invite other church UMMen to participate.

**Some ideas for non-fundraising projects UMM can support**

- Provide Easter sunrise breakfast for congregation.
- Valentine's Banquet to honor all women of the church.
- Sponsor recognition on Mother's Day.
- Cooking teams for church events such as teacher recognition, Shrove Tuesday, and community events.
- Fix meals for Vacation Bible School
- Support Youth and Adult Mission Building Teams

**Things we can do better:**

- Highlight the missions being supported.
- Include some of those mission representatives in the event.
- Utilize all forms of communication better.
- Make fewer assumptions.
- Challenge people to try news tasks.

***In the Great Commission every Christian is called by God to either GO or to SEND! If your situation is such that you can not go as career missionaries or on mission trips, then it becomes your calling to send those who can. Involve yourself and your UMM group in fund raising projects to support the mission efforts of your church.***

You can contact the Rev. Randy Sherrill at 430 Weisner St, Winston-Salem, NC, 27127. (336) 788-7423. rsherrill@triad.rr.com for more information about any of these ideas.

**ALL THE WAY HOME  
FROM THE  
CLERGY THINK-TANK**

***I was charged up  
over what I want  
to do in  
Ministries of Men***

**– Dennis Stalvey**

## **CREATIVE BRAINSTORMING**

### **HOW TO REACH BUSY MEN**

*Ideas from Brainstorming Sessions collected by  
ROY LIFSEY AND GEORGE FREEMAN*

**The Six Pastors** were asked to share *Secrets of Communicating with Men of the Church*. These were collected on newsprint and recorded on audio tape to preserve them. For the purposes of this report, the creative ideas have been organized and refined to make them available to the church.

Others who want to communicate with busy men will benefit from the jewels that sparkle from these sessions. They have been proven to work.

Read them. Reflect on them. Renew your determination to reach men in innovative ways. Don't try to do them all. Rather select those you think might work in your church, or use them to stimulate imaginative methods of your own.

#### **ARE YOU USING THESE METHODS**

- ◆ **A postal card reminder** of meeting dates, committees, assignments, special events, and things in which men are to be involved.
- ◆ **Create a telephone network** with each man being responsible for contacting four or five others; or, for the technologically savvy, create a Phone Tree so that information can be spread by computer generated calls to all the men of the church.
- ◆ **Send information** about what is happening to men of the church by e-mail. Report illnesses, new jobs, promotions, recognitions, honors, and what is coming up among UMM. This is another way of affirming men.
- ◆ **Use the network of men** to start a "buzz or conversation" about special programs or events to create excitement and promote attendance.
- ◆ **Have regular notices** about the activities of men in the Sunday bulletin as a reminder to the congregation about the ministries of men.

**WHEN MEN HAVE  
A VISION**

**And are  
passionate  
about it,  
help the men do it !!**

**– Jerry Temple**

- ◆ **Feature periodic stories** in the church newsletter about what one or more men are doing for the church, about mission trips that are planned, about special ministries in which men are engaged – just to let the whole congregation know.
- ◆ **Why not have a UMM Newsletter** mailed to all the male members of the church so that men may be able to find their place or at least be aware of what some men are doing.
- ◆ **Occasionally have a man** speak to the congregation about some project the UMM are planning or doing.
- ◆ **Submit stories to the local newspaper** about what men are doing of special interest to the community.
- ◆ **Establish a relationship with the local radio station** and give them announcements of special events or activities of UMM.
- ◆ **Put up posters or flyers** around the community in places where men frequent to invite them to masculine activities at the church.
- ◆ **In using these communication tools**, keep in mind how men think, how they act, and what moves them to action. Use brief sentences, strong nouns, active verbs, and few adjectives and adverbs.

**IN ALL THINGS BE AUTHENTIC**

- ◆ **Authentic communication.** Men want you to be straightforward and brief, not cutesy. They won't take time for games or to figure out what you want them to do. Communicate in such a way that they will learn to trust and act on what you tell them.
- ◆ **Authentic Men-Food.** Men like well-prepared, recognizable variety; they don't want to wonder what it is. Think about it. When men go into an eatery, they don't even wait for a menu. The waitress asks, "The same?" The answer usually is, "The same."
- ◆ **Authentic Relationships of trust with men.** Men want to be with other men without having to keep their guards up, feeling free to express themselves without wondering if they will be misunderstood, assured that what they say will not go beyond the group. Men need to be able to share their doubts, fears, shortcomings, successes and failures.

**MAKE NO MISTAKE  
ABOUT IT —**

**Men are the  
Carriers of  
the Faith  
from the  
Sanctuary  
To the World!**

**– The Challenge**

**MEN WORK BETTER AS TEAMS**

- ◆ **Challenge them** with something substantive to do. Busy men seldom respond to a invitation just to attend a meeting. They will respond when asked to do something important.
- ◆ **Talk to them face to face.** Public announcements, notes in the bulletin along with half a dozen other things, even form letters seldom get a response. Even a phone call or e-mail, better than the above, is not as effective as a personal face-to-face invitation.
- ◆ **Talk to them two or three at a time.** They will encourage one another to agree and feel good as they see other men are involved.
- ◆ **Say to men, “Come help me”** do so and so...rather than say “You go do” so and so.
- ◆ **Identify networks of men.** Note which men speak to which men as they come into any gathering. Those who do may work together, socialize together, play golf together, have common interests, live near one another, their families enjoy being with each other, talk with each other and influence each other. With a little effort, it is possible to identify a potential leader among them. If your group of church has ten or twelve such networks, you can spread the word to all the men by enlisting the help of only ten or twelve.
- ◆ **In involving busy men** leaders need to be persistent and upbeat as you keep the big picture before them. With such heavy schedules and many obligations, most men require constant reminders.

**IN PLANNING EVENTS**

- ◆ **In daring to plan big** for the future, get a group of men together once a month to talk about a vision for the ministry of United Methodist Men.
- ◆ **Ask yourself if busy men** will discover meaning and purpose for their lives by investing precious time and energy in this meeting?
- ◆ **Search to discover what men want.** Then find a way to give them what they want in the context of what they need even when they don't know that they want it. Keep it fun and friendly and focused.
- ◆ **Remember that in communicating with men** move from verbal language to visual language. Men tend to think in pictures rather than words.

**GIVE A MAN  
A CHANCE**

*To tell his stories  
in a small group  
and he will!*

*Set the pattern  
by telling  
your own stories.*

◆ **Keep in mind that change is a matter of “process.”** The journey starts when we make a decision to give our lives to Christ. We grow slowly from childhood to manhood. Especially is this true of growing spiritually. It takes time to move from being a self-centered sinner to becoming a generous hearted saint. Don't expect men to become mature spiritual personalities overnight after their conversion. God uses a lifetime to grow a man and perfect what we are to become. So don't be surprised if one of us stumbles every now and then on the climb to perfection.

◆ **Encourage men to pray with other men.** This can begin in small groups of three or four. Those who are not accustomed to hearing their voice speaking aloud to God may be given permission to pray for the others silently. When he has completed, he can say “Amen” aloud as a signal for the next man to begin. This is a process by which a man can learn to pray audibly. Thus they learn to feel comfortable hearing their own voices talking to God.

**GIVE MEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO TELL THEIR STORIES**

◆ **Men tell stories naturally** about fishing, sports, trips, funny experiences, military adventures and heroes. That's why the Bible is full of stories about interesting people.

◆ **Give a man a chance to tell his stories** in small groups. He is familiar with them and can talk about them. His telling of them will reveal the path and substance of his life.

◆ **As he recounts the stories,** forgotten experiences will be recalled. These sometimes uncover moments when they felt close of God, deep emotional moments they have known and lead to new convictions.

◆ **Set the pattern by telling your own stories** about how you grew up, mistakes you have made, the way you became a Christian, mountain top experiences you have known, some of the things you have learned in your walk with Christ.

◆ **As men tell their stories** God uses them to influence others and bring them to Christ. Some call them testimonies. The New Testament calls them witnesses

◆ **When we hear men tell their stories** of what God has done, they become our stories, the church's stories, the gospel stories – and create the climate of the congregation.

## IDEAS FOR KEEPING THE GROUP ALIVE

- ◆ **Form a Team** to dream about the Ministries of Men all year long. Encourage them to gather information about what men are doing around the denomination to find what local churches can do. Great ideas are found in the *UMM Magazine*, published by the General Commission of United Methodist Men and available free to those who join EMS.
- ◆ **Conduct Business** separately from special events and programs devoted to substantive matters. Elected officers can discuss the business and report recommendations to the larger group rather than waste the time of men arguing over the details. Make every minute with the men count.
- ◆ **Promote relations with the fathers and sons.** Let the sons see how the fathers interact with other men. This helps the sons understand how men talk, how they think, how they act. As they group up among men of the church, they learn to discuss their faith and personal issues without embarrassment.
- ◆ **Work to move men from Isolation** to where they feel welcome and enjoy Gathering with the group. As they listen to the stories others, they will come to feel safe in revealing things about themselves. Eventually they grow into the Brotherhood where “My story connects with Your story and fits into The story.
- ◆ **As men trust and grow together** they may learn the value of making decisions based on the principles of Spiritual Discernment where the men agree on ways to move forward rather than resolving issues by calling for a vote. Men could model this method for other official bodies of the church.
- ◆ **Some United Methodist Women** name their smaller Units after Women of the Bible. What about following their example and naming the small Ministry Groups of United Methodist Men after Men of the Bible who symbolize the work they do. This might grow out of spending time studying the Men of the Bible in order to choose. Would that be bad?

**More nuggets like these** are buried in the pages of this report. Look for them as you utilize the three session Study Guide with your local Fellowship.

**GET FATHERS AND SONS  
TOGETHER AS OFTEN  
AS POSSIBLE WITH  
OTHER MEN !!**

***Then the Son will see  
how the Father interacts  
with other men.***

***The Son will begin  
to understand  
how men feel  
and how they act.***

# EMPOWERING LOCAL MEN FOR MINISTRY

## STUDY GUIDE FOR LOCAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIPS USING THE CLERGY THINK-TANK REPORT # 3

### SUGGESTED FOR THE PRESIDENT

*Bring Leaders of United Methodist Men together.*

*Discuss whether to have this Retreat or not.*

*Decide whether to have a meal and refreshments.*

*Agree on the dates and hours for the six hours.*

*Assign responsibilities to prepare for the event and make it run smoothly.*

*Plan the promotion and registration to assure maximum attendance each time.*

*Select a Leader for the Event.*

### SUGGESTED PROGRAM

#### FIRST SESSION – 2 HOURS SUGGESTED

Call to Order

Scripture and Prayer

I Introduction

II The Challenge for United Methodist Men

God's Plan includes Men and Women

Some Churches are Floundering

Lessons Men have taught Me

Make an Effort to Reach a New Generation

Identify and Target Younger Men

Plan Relevant Activities

Discover Ways to Assimilate Individuals

Break

III Creative Ideas that Work in Local Churches

39 Proven Methods of Reaching Busy Men

Circle of Prayer to close Session

#### SECOND SESSION – 2 HOURS SUGGESTED

Call to Order

Scripture and Prayer

IV Meet the Six Pastors for 2005

See why they were chosen for the Freeman Leadership Award

V Examine Insights from the Six

Connecting Men with the Denomination

One Hundred Men of Influence

Break

Organizing District-wide Men's Meetings

Love Gift to Coral Springs

Pray for one another in Groups of Three

#### THIRD SESSION – 2 HOURS SUGGESTED

Call to Order

Scripture and Prayer

VI Examine Insights from the Six (Continued from Second Session)

Involving Men in Launching a Contemporary Service

Fund Raising for Missions and other Projects

Break

VII What do we want to try

List ideas that impressed the group on newsprint

Prioritize the things we would like to try

Select five from the list

Now let's plan and schedule five new Activities for the next 12 months.

Guided Prayer as we make ourselves available

## **SUGGESTED FOR LEADER**

*The Leader may want to ask one or two to assist with each session.*

*It would help to have several copies of the Clergy Think-Tank Report # 3 like this available; if this is not possible, have someone go the internet [www.sejumm.org](http://www.sejumm.org) and download the report from RESOURCES.*

*Copies can be printed conveniently from the computer.*

*Check the room before each session to see that everything is ready for the Men.*

*Seat the men around tables if possible.*

*Have a chalk board or newsprint stand for making notes.*

*Have paper and pens for making notes. Encourage the men to write down ideas which impress them as possibilities for this church.*

## **STUDY GUIDE FOR LOCAL UNITED METHODIST MEN FELLOWSHIPS**

### **First Session – 2 Hours Suggested**

#### **Call to Order**

**Scripture and Prayer** (*Designate in advance someone for this.*)

- I. **Introduction** (*20 minutes suggested to relax and orient the men*)  
We are here to do some thinking about the Ministries of Men in our church, using ideas from the 2005 **Clergy Think-Tank Report # 3**.  
Obtain information from "The Purpose of the Third Clergy Think-Tank" by Roy Lifsey on IntroductionPage.  
Ask Question: "What would you like to see our men do?"  
List responses on newsprint so they can be referred to later.
  
- II. **The Challenge for United Methodist Men** (*30-45 minutes suggested, depending on how involved the men get in the discussion*)  
Use the article from page 17 on "The Importance of Working with Men" by Ross Freeman.  
Summarize the following points in a minute of two; then allow time for discussion. Be flexible. Ask the men to make notes.
  - God's Plan Includes Men and Women*
  - Some Churches are Floundering*
  - Lessons Men have Taught Me*
  - Man an Effort to Reach a New Generation*
  - Identify and Target Younger Men*
  - Plan Relevant Activities*
  - Discover Ways to Work new Individuals into the Group*

**Suggested Break** for 10-15 minutes

- III. **Creative Ideas that Work in Local Churches** (*30-40 minutes suggested, depending on how involved the men get in the discussion*)  
There are 39 ideas, organized in six sections beginning on page 39, from the Brainstorming Sessions when the Six Pastors were asked to share Secrets of Communicating with Men of the Church.  
Not all of them would be appropriate for this church. The Leader, or a person designated by him, should select 10-12 which could be most useful for the men of this church.  
As these are presented, ask the men to make notes of any ideas they think we should try.

#### **Circle of Prayer to Close the Session**

Ask the men to stand in a Circle and hold hands.  
Encourage each man pray for the one on his right.  
Those who do not feel comfortable praying aloud at this point may pray silently. Say "Amen" aloud when he is through as a signal for the next man to begin. The Leader should close.

## Second Session – 2 Hours Suggested

### Call to Order

**Scripture and Prayer** (*Designate in advance someone for this.*)

- IV. Meet the Six Pastors for 2005** (*25-30 minutes suggested for this*)  
Assign one of the Pastors the night before to a person in the chapter on page 4 and ask him to tell the group some of the reasons why this pastor was nominated by the men of his church and chosen by his Conference for the Freeman Leadership Award.  
Ask them to use 3-5 minutes.

- V. Examine Insights from the Six** (*Suggested 60 minutes, with not more than 12-15 minutes devoted to each topic. Lift up the ideas in the Major Points chapter beginning with page 24 which we can use with men.*)

Connecting Men with the Denomination – Page 24  
One Hundred Men of Influence – Page 27

### Stand up Break

Organizing District-wide Men's Meetings – Page 29  
Love Gift to Coral Springs – Page 31

### Pray for one another in Groups of Three

## Third Session – 2 Hours Suggested

### Call to Order

**Scripture and Prayer** (*Designate in advance someone for this.*)

- VI. Examine Insights from the Six** (*Continued from Second Session with 30 minutes suggested for the two topics*)  
Involving Men in Launching a Contemporary Service – Page 33  
Fund Raising for Missions and Other Projects – Page 36

- VII. What do we want to try** (*Suggested time for Planning 60 minutes.*)  
Use a few minutes for each man to reflect on what he has heard and the notes he has made.  
Now Ask: "What would you like to see us try with our Men?"  
List these on newsprint as they come up without discussing them.  
Now prioritize the ideas in 1,2,3 order of importance to us.  
Now let's plan and schedule 5 new activities for the next 12 months.  
Assign responsibility for each one.

### Guided Prayer as we make ourselves available.

### REMEMBER.

***What is to be done  
has to be done  
by somebody  
at some time  
in some place  
to accomplish some  
purpose!***