



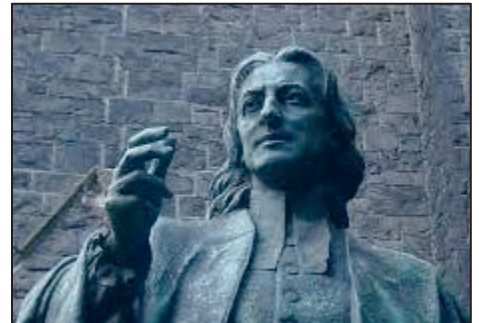
United Methodist Men: More Than a Monthly Meeting

It is important for us to remember that the point of every United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, who in turn make more disciples of Jesus Christ.

In many churches, “men’s ministry” is viewed only as a United Methodist Men’s monthly meeting where there is a meal, a report from the last meeting, a report on how much money this group has in the bank followed by a “program” which usually relates to mission of the church. This traditional style of meeting works for many men, and the interesting presentations and the fellowship serve a purpose for those men who attend, but does it accomplish the mission to “make disciples”?

Making disciples requires a conversation between people who are on the road, journeying life together. To facilitate this deeper “God-centered” conversation the General Commission on United Methodist Men recommends ***The Class Meeting***, by Dr. Kevin Watson.

This *weekly* meeting of 6-10 people begins with questions like: “Where have you and God intersected this week?” or “How is it with your soul?” or “Where did you respond to the Holy Spirit this week?” Fashioned like John Wesley’s “Class Meeting” groups, either face-to-face or electronic meetings, are guided by Watson’s book, to draw closer to God and become close friends. Many groups, after completing the book study, continue to meet on a weekly basis for one hour of “Christ-centered” conversations. As Steve Nailor, president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men, proudly says, “My group has been meeting for two years with men in four different states.” There are multiple advantages to doing these meetings electronically: There is no travel or prep time required, so an hour meeting actually lasts one hour. Men who travel, can still be in the meeting, groups combine a meeting in the same room with laptop or tablet for men, who for a variety of reasons, are unable to be physically present.



For more information, please contact the GCUMM at 615-340-7145 or email rvance@gcummm.org