



Happenings during my Journey with UMMen

My relationship with other United Methodist Men (UMMen) began in earnest in 1996 at St. Paul United Methodist Church in the Benson neighborhood of Omaha, Nebraska. While I've been a United Methodist all my life and attended regularly (mostly!), participating in a fellowship of men at St. Paul UMC kicked off a desire to deepen my relationship with other fellows.

I soon found myself attending retreats at Camp Fontanelle and District UMM leadership discussions. I realized I could make use of learnings from my secular career and God-given talents to start assuming United Methodist Men various leadership roles in both my church and District (treasurer, secretary, president). Arranging for programs and presentations for both our monthly men's fellowship breakfasts and UMMen retreats at Camp Fontanelle. Both efforts grew over the late 1990's into the 2000's. Retreats were expanded and rotated twice per year among the 3 Nebraska Conference (at that time) camps. The leadership were also active participants in the national UMMen gatherings each year.

It was during this period that I rotated through some of the Nebraska Conference leadership positions (treasurer, secretary, web coordinator, president). When the Nebraska Conference was merged with the Kansas Conferences, I continued on the transition team help merge the UMMen Conference teams together. Growth, activities and friendships continued and deepened for several years. By the mid-2010's the activities and participation plateaued and began a slow descent. However, a high point continues to be the long-time Central District Nebraska (formerly Prairie Rivers) UMMen organization and the 100 Club. A Conference Prayer Advocate position was recently filled in 2025, along with renewed ties to the national and jurisdictional organizations.

Learnings While On My Spiritual Journey with God, Thanks to UMMen

Personal spiritual path/journey: Everyone is on their own journey!

Personal prayer: God really likes talking to me; and hearing from me.

Corporate prayer: Encouragement from close friends taught me about this.

UMC Prayer line: Others sometime need a one-on-one listening ear, and a heartfelt prayer.

Angels (human ones, that is): I've met more than I can count; and continue meeting more!

Testimony: Personal testimonies of trusted friends has had the greatest impact on me.

Small group (Sunday School, Bible Study): 2nd greatest spiritual impact on me.

Vulnerability: As hard as this has always been, it is worth it to acquire.

Fellowship: The joy of sharing time with others.

Friendship: The value of a human 'soul-mate'.

Service to others: This comes from my Christianity, not the other way around.

Leadership: God-given gift allowing me to praise God.

Deeper relationship to God: This has become my greatest desire while in this world.