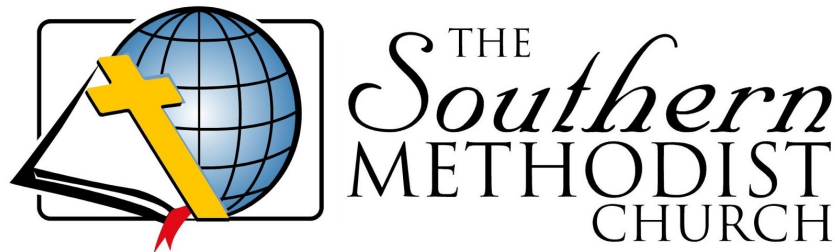


Laymen's Guide



A Guide for Organizing and
Maintaining the Cartwright
Men's Fellowship

"Give Us 10,000 Andrews"

"One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him (Jesus), was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus."

—John 1:40-42A



Laymen and Church Growth

Under the general heading of "Lay Activity,* the *Discipline of The Southern Methodist Church* states in paragraph 452.19 that the Board of Lay Activity "shall promote Christian stewardship, men's work, proper financial operations for the local church and proper discipling and development of lay leadership.

This booklet is published by Home Missions as a tool to encourage our lay people in Christian ministry.

The Southern Methodist Church was organized for the preservation of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and for the perpetuation of old-fashioned Godly Methodism and Biblical evangelism.

The ministers cannot and should not be expected to carry out every work of the church. Let us call to remembrance the "seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom" who were appointed to assist the apostle preachers in the ministration and work of the church as recorded in Acts 6:1-7.

If we are to increase our membership and attendance, every man, woman and young person in the denomination MUST be enlisted. The Board of Lay Activity presents to you some suggestions on how to help your church grow. Prayerfully use them as God leads you.

The places for work are manifold: the local church, the home, Southern Methodist College, foreign missions, summer camps, home missions projects, etc.

Enlist as one of our 10,000 "Andrews"!

Your Home and Church Growth

"choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." — Joshua 24:15

You can help your church grow by establishing and maintaining a Christian home:

- Endeavor to bring every family member to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Have daily devotions.
- Have blessing with the meals.
- Have consideration for each other by applying the "Golden Rule."
- Spend time with your family.
- Make your children's friends welcome in your home.
- Teach pride in the maintenance of the home.
- Have healthy family discussions to work out projects or problems
- Seek Godly counsel when things go awry.
- Encourage your minister to visit in your home.
- Go to church as a family.
- Teach and practice tithing.

Remember that God established the home before any other institution. Strong homes build strong churches, strong countries, and strong characters.

Your Local Church and Church Growth

Utilize the married couples you have in church growth:

- Give them jobs such as teaching, singing, visiting and directing activities.
- Encourage them to include potential church members in their social events, home parties, etc.
- Use them in visiting potential members, the sick and the shut-ins,
- Organize a program for single adults when feasible for church growth.

Reach children for church growth:

- Survey your community using door-to-door visitation, mailing information or invitation cards or hand out gift baskets with tracts, treats and information
- Get the unchurched children you find with the survey into your church by using buses, vans or personal vehicles.
- Get them involved in Bible classes, children's church, Week Day Bible Study, Sunday School, Epworth League, Vacation Bible School, Summer Camp, etc.
- Get them saved, baptized, and into the mainstream of the church.
- Make them as important to the church as they were to Jesus.
- Have attractive Christian activities for them.

- Recognize them on special occasions such as the conference-wide "Youth Sunday."

Support your minister for church growth:

- Allow him to truly be your minister.
- Be his friend.
- Be considerate of his family and personal needs.
- Remember him daily in your prayers.
- Keep him informed of sickness, special needs, potential new members, etc.
- Support him by supporting the church.

Support your local church for church growth:

- Attend and participate in all services.
- Invite and bring others to church and church activities.
- Give of your time, talents, tithes and offerings.
- Establish and/or support the Woman's Missionary Society and Cartwright Men's Fellowship.
- Promote love and harmony within the church.
- Assist the pastor in the follow-up of visitors and absentees.
- Encourage the discouraged and depressed.
- Volunteer your services.
- Faithfully fulfill your obligation when elected to an office.

Your Denomination and Church Growth

Be a loyal Christian and a loyal Southern Methodist for church growth;

- Pray for and give financial support to your president, other elected officials, and the General and Annual Conferences through the Conference Askings program.
- Pray for and give financial support to your denomination's departments: Southern Methodist College, Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Epworth League and Foundry Press.
- Pray for and give financial support to special projects.
- Get the Southern Methodist into every home.
- Send delegates to conferences, board meetings, seminars, etc.
- Publicize your local church and your denomination.

Cartwright Men's Fellowship

Constitution and By-Laws

ARTICLE I — NAME

The name of the organization shall be Cartwright Men's Fellowship.

ARTICLE II — PURPOSE

To enlist the men of the church as leaders in the great work of Kingdom building; to plan and conduct a church-wide, year-round campaign of evangelism at home and abroad; to become united, a power for righteousness in the home community and in the nation; to weld into one Christian fellowship the men of the church by means of spiritual, social, literary and recreational activities.

ARTICLE III — OBJECTIVES

1. Develop and increase loyalty to Jesus Christ and His cause.
2. Promote among men the study of the Bible and of the history, standards, agencies and aims of our church.
3. Develop men into Christ-like character.
4. Recognize the privilege and duty of sharing the Lord Jesus Christ with the world through the missionary enterprise, home and foreign.
5. Stimulate and enlist men in witnessing for Christ.

ARTICLE IV _ MEMBERSHIP

Any man in the church fellowship shall be eligible for membership.

ARTICLE V — OFFICERS

1. The elected officers shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
2. Officers shall be elected for a term of one year, by a majority vote of all the members present.
3. Officers must be members of The Southern Methodist Church.
4. The election of officers shall take place immediately preceding the close of the conference year.

ARTICLE VI — FINANCE

The officers of the Fellowship or the group council shall provide for membership dues and the gathering of funds through pledges, offerings, etc., to finance any program, local or general, which may be undertaken.

ARTICLE VII — MEETINGS

The Cartwright Men's Fellowship may hold monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly meetings:

Suggested Programs

Leader — Someone other than the president, select different ones to preside.

1. Opening suggestions:
 - A. Welcome - Be sincere
 - B. Silent or audible prayer
 - C. Scripture reading

D. Music - solo, duet, quartet, unison

Offerings may be taken here or later

Same with announcements (be brief)

2. Message, stories, illustrations, drama, talks, testimonies, pictures
3. Include a surprise from time to time
4. Encourage new members to take part in the program
5. Close - Benediction, Doxology, prayer response, invitation or appropriate hymn

The Business Meeting

Suggested Projects

Since our primary interest is the salvation of souls, we place missionary endeavors at the top of our list.

Prayer support, financial support, even supporting a missionary, material needs for outgoing missionaries; a college student who would be a missionary or pastor. Library books providing wholesome reading especially for our young people. Any phase of the church program; building fund, articles of furniture for Sunday School rooms, blackboards, maps, etc.

Information about Peter Cartwright

Peter Cartwright (born Peter Cartwright Jr.) also known as "Uncle Peter", "Backwoods Preacher", "Lord's Plowman", "Lord's Breaking-Plow", and "The Kentucky Boy" (September 1, 1785 – September 25, 1872), was an American Methodist, revivalist, preacher in the Midwest, as well as twice an elected legislator in Illinois.

Cartwright, a Methodist missionary, helped start America's Second Great Awakening, personally baptizing twelve thousand converts. Opposed to slavery, Cartwright moved from Kentucky to Illinois, and was elected to the lower house of the Illinois General Assembly in 1828 and 1832. In 1846 Abraham Lincoln defeated Cartwright for a seat in the United States Congress.

As a Methodist circuit rider, Cartwright rode circuits in Kentucky and Illinois, as well as Tennessee, Indiana, and Ohio. His Autobiography (1856) made him nationally prominent.

In 1801, at the age of 15, Cartwright was converted, at a camp meeting, associated with the Revival of 1800, a series of sacrament meetings conducted by Presbyterian James McGready and other Presbyterian and Methodist ministers. He subsequently joined the Methodist Episcopal Church and became a preacher in 1802. He was ordained in 1806 by Francis Asbury and William McKendree. In 1812, Cartwright was appointed a presiding elder (now District Superintendent), and he served in that office for the next thirty-five years. He also served as a military chaplain during the War of 1812.

From his *Autobiography of Peter Cartwright: The Backwoods Preacher*, published in 1857, Cartwright described his conversion in his own words:

To this meeting I repaired, a guilty, wretched sinner. On the Saturday evening of said meeting, I went, with weeping multitudes, and bowed before the stand, and earnestly prayed for mercy. In the midst of a solemn struggle of soul, an impression was made on my mind, as though a voice said to me, "Thy sins are all forgiven thee." Divine light flashed all round me, unspeakable joy sprung up in my soul. I rose to my feet, opened my eyes, and it really seemed as if I was in heaven; the trees, the leaves on them, and everything seemed, and I really thought were, praising God. My mother raised the shout, my Christian friends crowded around me and joined me in praising God; and though I have been since then, in many instances, unfaithful, yet I have never, for one moment, doubted that the Lord did, then and there, forgive my sins and give me religion.

Cartwright called himself "God's Plowman." As a circuit rider, he explained in his Autobiography, "My district was four hundred miles long, and covered all the west side of the Grand Prairie, fully two-thirds of the geographical boundaries of the state."

Fear no mortal man

Once Cartwright warned General Jackson (future President of the United States) that he would be damned to Hell just as quickly as any other man if he did not repent. A timid preacher apologized to Jackson for Cartwright's bluntness. The general retorted that Christ's ministers ought to

love everybody and fear no mortal man, adding that he wished he had a few thousand officers like Peter Cartwright. *(Taken from Christianity Today, Peter Cartwright: Colorful Preacher)*

Soul winner extraordinary

Crowds flocked to hear him. Throughout Kentucky, Tennessee and Illinois, Cartwright preached to hosts of men and women, speaking three hours at a stretch, several times a week. The conviction in his booming voice could make women weep and strong men tremble. 10,000 came to Christ through his preaching in meetings that often ran day and night. Cartwright baptized thousands, adding them to the church. Several church buildings were erected at his instigation to house services for the new converts.

To answer a desperate need for more preachers, he championed the creation of Methodist colleges. Having schooled himself, he saw the value of learning. Wherever he went he left behind religious books and tracts to convert and strengthened souls in his absence. The joy of soul-winning compensated him for all hardships. *(Taken from Christianity Today, Peter Cartwright: Colorful Preacher)*

Information about Lay Ministers

What Is a Lay Minister?

A lay minister is a non-ordained individual who serves as a minister in our denomination. He is recommended by his church, approved by the Annual Conference, and can be full-time or part-time, providing various services such as teaching, preaching, leading worship, and community outreach. Lay ministry offers opportunities for our men to minister outside of the clergy.

What about His Role and Responsibilities?

Lay ministers play an important role in our churches by assisting with various tasks and responsibilities. While their specific duties may vary depending on the needs of the congregation, some common roles include evangelism, mission-enabling, teaching, preaching, leading worship, conducting funerals, community outreach, and helping the pastor with communion and baptisms. Lay ministers work alongside ordained pastors to support and enhance the spiritual growth and well-being of our churches.

What Is the Difference between a Lay Minister and a Minister?

The primary difference between a lay minister and a minister lies in their ordination status. Lay ministers are not ordained clergy but are elected by the church to serve in a ministerial capacity. On the other hand, ministers are individuals who have met the educational requirements, received formal ordination, and are recognized as leaders within their local church and confer-

ence. While both lay ministers and ministers serve and contribute to the ministry, the distinction lies in the official authorization and recognition bestowed upon ordained ministers.

Overall, lay ministry provides an avenue for individuals to actively participate in and contribute to the work of the church, utilizing their gifts and talents to serve. Although lay ministers are not ordained pastors, their dedicated service and commitment make valuable contributions to the spiritual growth and development of the congregation.

What Are the Requirements for Lay Ministry?

Before embarking on the journey to become a lay minister, it is important to understand the requirements that need to be met. The specific requirements are:

- **Church Membership:** Lay ministers are required to be baptized members of a local Southern Methodist congregation.
- **Commitment to the Faith:** A strong commitment to the faith and a deep understanding of the doctrines and teachings of the denomination are essential. Lay ministers have studied the *Discipline of The Southern Methodist Church* and are in hearty agreement with it.
- **Character and Integrity:** Lay ministers are expected to be individuals of good character and integrity, serving as role models for the community (1 Timothy 3).

How Do I Become a Lay Minister?

To become a certified lay minister, there are specific steps that need to be followed:

1. **Local Church Recommendation:** Start by getting a recommendation from your local church. This involves expressing your interest in becoming a lay minister and getting the support of your church and pastor.
2. **Complete Coursework:** Once you have the church's recommendation, you will need to complete a series of coursework for lay ministry. This includes reading the Bible through in its entirety, studying the current *Discipline*, and completing a study on *How to Prepare and Deliver a Sermon*.
3. **Approval of the Annual Conference:** After completing the required coursework, you will need to seek the approval of your Annual Conference. This involves meeting with the Board of Ministerial Relations and discussing your desire to become a lay minister.

How Can I Get Involved as a Lay Minister?

- **Assisting with worship services:** Lay ministers may participate in leading prayers, reading scripture, delivering a sermon, and serving in other capacities during worship services.
- **Providing pastoral care:** Lay ministers may offer spiritual guidance, counseling, and support

to members of the congregation.

- **Engaging in outreach activities:** Lay ministers often play a vital role in reaching out to their communities, organizing events, and serving the needs of others.
- **Teaching and education:** Lay ministers may lead Bible studies, teach classes, or provide religious education for children and adults.
- **Administration and leadership:** Lay ministers can serve on various committees and boards within the church, contributing to decision-making and administration.

Why Is Lay Ministry So Important?

Lay ministry holds significant importance and has a profound impact on both the church, the community and the individuals involved. Here are a few reasons why lay ministry is crucial:

- **Accessibility:** Lay ministry provides opportunities for more people to actively participate in the life of the church, fostering a sense of belonging and engagement.
- **Diverse contributions:** Lay ministers bring a variety of skills, experiences, and perspectives to the church community, enriching the overall spiritual life and ministry of the church.
- **Support and care:** Lay ministers often serve as a source of support, care, and encouragement for members of the congregation, particularly in times of need. They provide a ministry that sup-

plements and expands that of the pastor.

- **Outreach and evangelism:** Lay ministry enables the church to reach out to the wider community, sharing the message of faith and serving those in need. Again, they work in tandem with the pastor to reach the community for Christ.
- **Shared responsibility:** Lay ministry allows for the sharing of responsibilities within the church, distributing the workload and fostering a sense of shared ownership. This is especially important as more pastors are experiencing the effects of burnout and need others to come alongside him and help.

Overall, lay ministry plays a fundamental role in nurturing the spiritual growth of individuals, strengthening the church community, and advancing the mission of the Christian faith.



Conclusion

Lay ministry plays a vital role in our denomination by providing spiritual support and serving the church. Unlike ordained ministers, lay ministers are elected individuals who dedicate their time and efforts to ministering to others. They may engage in evangelism, teaching, preaching, leading worship, and community outreach. They serve to expand the kingdom of God by offering their gifts of time, energy and talents to be used by God.



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