



Lutheran Men in Mission

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Ms. Lynette Todd, Baltimore, Md.

Bp. Erik Gronberg, Fort Worth, Texas

Leadership team

Pr. John Sundquist, *executive director*

Mr. Kevin Burke, *discipling consultant*

Statement of purpose

The vision of Lutheran Men in Mission is “for every man to become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ.”

Mission

The governing description of this ministry appears in ELCA continuing resolution 16.12.A16.b.: “By God’s grace, to intentionally disciple men by personally modeling the character of Jesus by living a lifestyle intended to help transform them from having an inward focus to a culture of naturally loving and serving our neighbors.”

Report of work for 2017–2020

Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) experienced a leadership transition in 2019 with the retirement of Deacon Doug Haugen after 26 years of service. LMM is proud to announce that the new executive director, effective February 2019, is the Rev. John Sundquist. The discipling consultant has continued to develop and train a network of local men’s ministry leaders. This remains an integral part of the LMM’s plan to grow.

The organization continues to improve communication with men throughout the church, expanding its ministry and redesigning its website to provide more and clearer information on activities, ministries, events, and resources. LMM continues to utilize Facebook and Constant Contact networks and is using a variety of electronic meeting resources with its network.

LMM is the driving force behind the “A-Team.” These 25 men’s ministry leaders represent three Lutheran bodies and four other denominations. The team aspires to be a “one-stop shop” for men seeking individual guidance and for leaders attempting to build an evangelical, grace-oriented men’s ministry. LMM’s major work includes creating new ministries and gathering information about all the effective ministries that meet the group’s criteria.

The first initiative is “Project Twelve,” whose website—projecttwelve.net—offers resources for individuals, group leaders, and organizational leaders.

LMM launched Lutheran Men in Mission Disaster Recovery Efforts, partnering with Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM). Their first response was to help hurricane victims in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. As of January 2019, 28 homes have been completed, with 50 more in the queue and an additional 20 under consideration.

Events

LMM continued to sponsor “One Year to Live” retreats in an expanding number of synods. In the safest of atmospheres, more than 1,500 men have examined how they got where they are in life and what God wants to do with and through them.

The organization also continued to develop, deploy, and lead “Building Men for Christ” workshops nationwide. This training, geared toward rostered ministers and lay leaders, is about what attracts men of all ages to congregational ministry.

Resources

LMM continued to assess and recommend ministry resources for use by ELCA congregations and their men. It also continued to promote the Master Builders Bible for Men, having distributed over 60,000 copies to date. The Master Builders Bible for Men contains 20,000 study questions for small groups and a 32-page section for men’s ministry leaders.

The organization is always seeking to find and fill holes in men’s ministry. One example is the “ManTalk Cards,” with five levels of questions on each playing card. Men use the questions to start discussions while playing card games and as icebreakers at everything from breakfasts to retreats.

Major directions for 2017–2020

In the next triennium, LMM will:

- Continue to develop and work its strategic plan to increase its donor base and remain one of the premier men’s ministries in the United States.
- Expand “One Year to Live” retreats to reach and impact the lives of more men.
- Continue “Building Men for Christ,” while seeking new and innovative ways to attract men of all ages to local congregational ministries and persuade them to become bold, daring followers of Christ.
- Engage in virtual “Bold Conferences” that will bring renewed strength and vigor to men and men’s ministries across the country.
- Continue to develop a mentoring program aimed at meeting men’s spiritual, personal and vocational challenges.
- Work with other denominations to bring top-level men’s ministries to all interested individuals and groups, seeking to reengage and bring men back to the church and, most importantly, into a loving, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Rev. John Sundquist, *executive director*