

PROFILE OF A LOCAL CHURCH PRAYER ADVOCATE

(Herein referred to as LCPA)

Local church Prayer Advocate is a special designation among United Methodist Men. Herein referred to as **LCPA**. This person is carefully selected by the president of the local United Methodist Men Unit to establish and organize Covenant Prayer Groups and promote a life of prayer at the local church level.

Since this is a unique opportunity for personal ministry, the following criteria should be used by the President of the UMM Units in the selection of person's for this position.

1. A VITAL CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

The number One necessity is a vital Christian experience, which motivates personal ministry. The LCPA must be in touch with Christ's transforming power at work in one's personal life.

2. A DESIRE FOR A GROWING LIFE OF PRAYER

The Upper Room Prayer Ministry will provide many resources to aid persons in their prayer pilgrimages. The LCPA will also be a primary beneficiary in learning about practical resources for prayer. The desire for a growing life of prayer should be a priority motivation for a Local Church Prayer Advocate.

3. A WILLINGNESS TO BE EQUIPPED FOR MINISTRY

It is essential that the LCPA attend the training sessions planed by the District Prayer Advocate. Each LCPA should experience as many prayer oriented events as possible, such as the Prayer and Bible Conference, the Academy for Spiritual Formation The Walk to Emmaus, Companions in Christ and other prayer and formational opportunities. For information on events sponsored by Upper Room Ministries call toll free (877) 899-2780 ext. 7113.

These events are not required, but should be given priority consideration in each LCPA's personal schedule.

4. COMMITMENT TO A TIME OF SERVICE

Because of the scope and detail of this ministry, the importance of continued relationships with everyone in the local church and the sizable task, the LCPA should consider serving at least three years. This appointment by the local church UMM President is on an annual basis. The local Church Prayer Advocate should consider this ministry of prayer as a priority commitment in the local church.

HOW MANY LCPA's ARE NEEDED?

One local Church Prayer Advocate is needed for each local church where there is a desire for a direct and intentional emphasis on prayer among United Methodist Men, members of the local church in general males and females alike.

THE WORK OF THE LOCAL CHURCH PRAYER ADVOCATE

DEVELOPMENT

1. Begin by having conversation with the pastor regarding the prayer life of the congregation. Make yourself available to the pastor in developing intentional prayer ministries.
2. Identify intentional prayer ministries already happening in your church; such as prayer chains, prayer groups, prayer vigils, prayer partners, ect.
3. Work closely with United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Youth and Young Adults, Sunday School Classes, Administrative Board, Council on Ministries and all committees, commissions, task forces and special interest groups in the church in planning and implementing prayer emphases all year long.

PROMOTION

Recruit men to sign and participate in the UMM Covenant to read daily the Bible and to Pray. Mail a copy of each signed Covenant form in to the District Prayer Advocate. Keep a record of these men on file.

Encourage the men in your church to attend retreats sponsored by the District of Conference United Methodist Men.

The Upper Room Spiritual Growth Opportunities:

1. Spread information on the books & resources of Upper Room Ministries.
2. Promote the publicity of the Upper Room Living Prayer Center Prayer Line.
3. Encourage the support of the cost of the toll-free prayer line in your United Methodist Men Group
4. Schedule a remote Upper Room Prayer Center during one of your regular UMM Group Meetings.
5. Encourage your congregation to participate in one or more spiritual growth events offered by Upper Room Ministries such as the Walk to Emmaus, The Academy for Spiritual Formation, An Adventure in Healing and Wholeness, The Prayer and Bible Conference "Soul Feast" or Companions in Christ Bible Study.
6. Assist in starting new Upper Room Covenant Prayer Groups in your church.

7. Model Prayer as a personal life stile

COMMISSION

**THIS IS YOUR OFFICIAL COMMISIONING TO BE AT THE WORK OF
ADVOCATING PRAYER WITHIN THE LIFE OF YOUR CHURCH**

Helpful numbers:

**For information on how to start an Upper Room Remote Prayer Line or an
Upper Room Covenant Prayer Group call toll free The Upper Room Living
Prayer Center at (877)-899-2780 Ext. 7214 or 7215**

To order Upper Room Catalogs and resources call (800) 972-0433

**For information on events sponsored by the Upper Room Ministries Program
Unit call toll free (877) 899-2780 ext. 7113**