

## **Great Plains United Methodist Campus Ministry: Strategic Plan**

### **Vision of Great Plains UM Campus Ministries (GPUMCM) in 2020:**

The Great Plains Campus Ministry will equip 2,000 student leaders to be disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world through 20 young adult communities/campus ministries.

**Missional Priorities:** Leadership Development: Developing young adults and all involved in young adult communities as lay and clergy spiritual leaders

### **Connection to Missional Priorities:**

Campus Ministries will develop student leaders by *inviting, equipping, and sending*, at least 1% of the student population at United Methodist affiliated-schools, four-year public schools and community colleges in the Great Plains.

A student leader is a student who may have moved from interest/participant to volunteer to leader. They are students who have identified leadership gifts and could lead worship, small group or mission with Wesleyan theology wherever they go.

Grow from 14 to 20 young adult communities/campus ministries throughout the Great Plains that have a clear leadership development system to develop lay and clergy leaders. These communities would 1) assist students to utilize the theological lens of vocation to examine the relationship between their faith and their life/career choices 2) encourage students with inclination for Christian leadership to explore potential calls to full-time ministry.

### **Measures of Progress**

Starting in 2015:

- Conduct annual site visits/benchmarking meetings for each campus ministry, with representatives from boards/leadership teams and District Superintendents.
- Annual one page overview of campus sites to be submitted by all Campus Ministers due July 1.
- Detailed budgets for each campus ministry site qualifying explicitly how fund allocations from GPUMCM were used annually due July 1.
- Provide clear reporting and measurements for campus ministries, such as vital signs to track current reality.

### **Financial Implications for 2016**

\*See Attached 2016-Detailed Budget Request

## **Goals and steps to be achieved by December 31, 2016:**

### **1. Inviting: Connect youth with a next step in leadership and faith after high school.**

In 2015:

- Clearly articulate the purpose and message of campus ministries through an intentional communications plan, including logo, website, and annual conference luncheon.
- Identify and align connections with youth ministries, youth leaders, and youth events to recruit incoming students to grow in their faith and leadership in college, such as the One Event, Youth Ministry training, camping, and meeting with local church youth groups.
- Begin a campaign for 100% of United Methodist churches to identify and share lists of students who are college-bound and strengthen the connection from high school to college.

In 2016:

- Conduct strategy meetings ensuring each community has developed a clear strategy to invite students on-campus in next steps of faith.

### **2. Equipping: Develop a foundation to develop young adult leaders.**

In 2015:

- Ensure a vital leadership team/local board at each site for vision, governance, administration, church connections, and fundraising.
- Prepare trainings for local boards and leadership teams to increase clarity on the mission.
- Provide coaching, peer learning opportunities, and retreat for campus ministers.
- Provide measurement systems specific to young adult communities.
- Identify key church partnerships in the community and connect how to work together to develop young adult leaders in the community.
- Contract with a conference fundraiser as a consultant to local boards and a way to supplement the funds from the GPUMCM Board.

In 2016:

- Begin a grant proposal process to increase clarity and specificity on funding from the Great Plains Conference.
- All requests for grant money will be due by July 1, including the number of students (or percentage increase) in:
  - Student Leadership
  - Mission/Service
  - Small Groups
  - Worship
  - Students who experience a call to ordained ministry
  - Involvement in local churches

### **3. Equipping: Strengthen existing campus ministries with clear pathway for vocational discernment and leadership development.**

In 2015,

- Identify ministries with clear strategies for vocational discernment and leadership development and to secure funding to support ministries (through other grants, mission partner churches, and donors).
- Develop online toolbox of resources that each campus ministry/young adult community contributes to and uses as a resource.
- Develop partnership with Mercy and Justice, for campus ministries to take regular Volunteer in Mission trips.
- Attend Exploration 2015 for students to identify their leadership gifts and potential call to ministry.

In 2016:

- Every campus ministry will clearly articulate their vocational discernment and leadership development strategies.
- Attend Global Board of Imagine What's Next 2016, sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), for leadership development.
- Create Young Adult Leadership Retreat for Great Plains to share vocational discernment and leadership development resources, strategies and examples.

#### **4. Equipping: Develop clear process, for starting new young adult communities.**

In 2016,

- Partner with such a process as '20 in 20' plan of New Church Development. For the first year, GPUMCM Board, the campus minister commits to a monthly retreat format on building a campus ministry.
- The new starts are identified as:
  - Lincoln – University of Nebraska-Lincoln
  - Omaha – Creighton University and University of Nebraska – Omaha
  - Wichita- Wichita State University
  - Pittsburg State University – Gorilla Wesley
  - Washburn University –Ichthus Ministry

#### **5. Sending: Develop internships for students to grow in their understanding of spiritual leadership.**

In 2015:

- Develop leadership development system for students and young adult community with summer internships including Micah Corps, Vacation Bible School internships, youth interns, Hispanic Ministry interns, church planter interns, Great Plains camp counselors, and pastoral leadership internships.
- During the internship, there will be intentional times to articulate vocational discernment and invite students to explore clergy leadership.

In 2016:

Begin year-round internships in places with potential communities for young adults.

- For United Methodist schools and four-year schools, who are starting and expanding new ministries to young adults.
- Provide part-time employment based in a local church for community college outreach. The potential intern could be a young adult in the community, student leader and/or candidates for ministry who would be part-time on staff at local church.

#### **6. Sending: Establish mentoring through local churches through small groups and vocational discernment.**

In 2016,

- With the help of young adult representatives to annual conference, identify young adults throughout the Great Plains and leaders post-college who are willing to connect with graduates. The post-graduate leaders will be connected with a United Methodist Church and provide a clear pathway for the college graduate to use their gifts for Christ.

**Staff resources required:**

- The Great Plains Young Adult Development Staff person would facilitate the progress of strategic plan, assist in the connectional pieces of recruitment to campus ministries, connect student leaders to other faith formational experiences and maintain communication with student leaders post-college.
- Through trainings and retreats, campus ministers would continue to dedicate themselves and renew the work and mission of campus ministry, allowing the Spirit of God to work powerfully through them to invite, disciple and equip students to be disciples who change the world.

**Team member resources required:**

- The Great Plains United Methodist Campus Ministry Board will divide into six task forces that focus on this strategic plan in order to carry out the vision.
  - The six teams include:
    - Merit Scholarship Task Force
    - Budget/Grant Allotment Task Force
    - Communications Task Force
    - Site Visit Task Force
    - Measures of Progress Task Force
    - Leadership/Retreat Task Force
- The Local Boards/leadership teams will be asked to carry the responsibility of governance and support of the campus ministry advising the campus minister as to how God may be moving throughout the mission field.
- The local churches near a campus or community college will be asked to indicate their support through their prayers, apportionments, fundraising and testimony of campus ministry.
- Youth ministers will be open to the possibility of engaging with campus ministries and connecting students as soon as the student declares a college of choice.

**Volunteer resources required:**

- Student leaders are important volunteers who offer their gifts, times and ideas to Christ. It is our job to create an intentional invitation and space for them to lead while growing as a disciple of Christ to transform the world.

