

United Methodist Campus Ministry in the Philippines: A Model for Implementation

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Introduction

The campus is a ministry area that has not been intentionally entered by the United Methodist Church in the past decades. There are several campus ministries initiated by local churches, well-meaning individuals and the United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the past decade. Some of these campus ministries are still thriving, some are no longer operating, and still, a lot are struggling to survive.

But anecdotal evidences from several sectors of the church point to a growing number of youth and young adults who are leaving the UMC to flock to vibrant, emerging churches such as Victory Christian Fellowship, Christ Commission Fellowship, Doulos, and Destiny Church among others.

The United Methodist Church needs to go back to the campus, where John Wesley and his friends in the Holy Club really started from. We need to intentionally pursue a strategy to reach out to young people in the campuses.

Strengths of the UMC and Available Resources

This working paper presents a Campus Engagement model that can be implemented by the UMC in the Philippines. It rests on the following strengths of the UMC:

- The campus is a ripe harvest field where the UMC can engage young people—both those who came from the UMC and those who do not yet belong to the Christian faith.
- High School and College are important milestones in the development of young people. By engaging them where they are forming their identities and learning about themselves and the world around them.
- Although the UMYF initiated the SMACK project in 2006, Campus Ministry is the responsibility of the whole church and not just by the UMYF.
- Many young people have the passion to reach out to the members of their generation.
- The UMC needs to train FULL-TIME campus missionaries in order to penetrate the campuses. In addition to that, we may need to explore the possibility of establishing a ministry similar to “Campus Crusade for Christ” to fully engage the campus.
- Many United Methodists are supporting campus ministers working in parachurch organizations such as Campus Crusade for Christ, Navigators, and EveryNation Ministries. Therefore, if we present a compelling vision for reaching young people in the campuses, we can raise funds effectively.
- The UMC in the Philippines can partner with the Higher Education Ministries, Discipleship Ministries, UMCCom and other church agencies for funding and other resource needs.

PHASE 1: Training of Campus Missionaries

Participants: By-invitation-only. They will come from existing campus ministries of the United Methodist Church—from the local churches, districts, and conferences who have spearheaded a campus ministry. A maximum of 20 participants will be trained for the initial run.

Training Modules

The training will last for 5 days and is meant to prepare the trainees for deployment to the campuses within a few weeks after the training. Each module will last for about 2 hours each and will be followed by group processing and action planning (1.5 hrs). Evenings will be dedicated for visioning and time for fellowship, and informal sharing with each other.

Day 1 **Opening Worship**

The Call to Ministry in the Campus

Speaker: Rev. Michael McCord, Higher Education & Ministry

Knowing and Working with Young People in the Campus

Speaker: Pastor Caloy Novisteros, Grace Bible Church, Nagtahan, Manila

Day 2 Morning Devotion

Discipleship: Building Small Groups

Speaker: Rev. Julbert de Leon, Solid Rock Ministries

Soul-tending for the Campus Minister

Speaker: Rev. David Sablan Jr.

Day 3 Morning Devotion

Developing (or Gathering) Resources for Campus Ministry

Speaker: Ms. Earlie Pasion-Bautista, Discipleship Resources-Philippines

Worship in the Context of Youth and Campus Ministry

Speaker: Rev. Homer Wesley O. Refuerzo

Day 4 Morning Devotion

Basic Counseling for Young People

Speaker: Ms. Lou Nacion-Mandalupe

Building up Leaders in the Campus

Speaker: Mighty C. Rasing, Young People's Ministries

Day 5 Morning Devotion

Raising Partners and Supporters

Speaker: Rev. Francis Fajardo, District Superintendent, NEBD

Action Planning for Campus Ministry

Speaker: Ms. Flor Ramos

Day 6 Morning Devotion

Morning Session: Workshop on Collaterals for Partner Development, Fund Raising & Other Campus Ministry Related Resources; Creating Action Plans

Afternoon Session: Presentation and Critiquing of Action Plans

Day 7 **Closing Worship and Commissioning**

Budget for the Training of 10 Campus Missionaries

Venue & Food Package: P1,000 per person X 7 days X 20 pax	140,000 (subject to quote from venues)
Materials & Kits: 20 pax X P250	5,000
Love Gift for Speakers: 12 pax X P3,500	42,000
Communication:	5,000
Travel Allowance:	20,000
Miscellaneous:	21,200
TOTAL	PhP 233,200 (USD 5,423)

PHASE 2: Partner Development & Support Raising

At the end of this first training, we hope to deploy at least 10 full time campus ministers. To help them do that, the church will need to help provide for their financial needs, including some of the resources that they will need in the field.

To effectively reach the campus, we need a system of financial support for the campus missionaries so that they will no longer have to worry whether they can pay their bills and continue serving as missionaries in the next months or so.

Here is a support model that the UMC in the Philippines for the full-time campus missionaries:

- By partnering with UMC general agencies (i.e. Higher Education & Ministry, Discipleship Ministries, Global Ministries, Annual Conferences, among others), the UMC in the Philippines can come up with a Campus Ministry fund (anywhere between USD 30,000 – 50,000) that can help support the startup of this campus ministry project.
- To help sustain the Campus Ministry long-term, 10-15% of the CM Fund should be invested in some form or another so that it can earn and grow for future campus ministry use.
- The UMC in the Philippines may need to organize a Church agency that will handle the campus ministry of the church for the whole Philippines. This could be organized as parachurch organization (non-profit organization or Foundation) fully owned and operated by the UMC in the Philippines.
- Appointment to its Board and its Management should be based on merit and expertise in the area of campus ministry, instead of random appointment by a bishop or an agency of the church. Although, if this were created, a maximum of three seats could be appointed by the Bishops to represent each episcopal area.
- Each campus missionary should be compensated with a wage that should honor them and the skills that they bring. Besides, if we want to attract campus missionaries in the long term, the Church should also be able to show this particular calling could be done for the long term and not just for the short term. After all, the Church will compete with the top talents and if we are able to show these passionate missionaries that they can be sustained in doing this ministry, their passion may dissipate over the long-term and they may get burned out and drop out of the

campus ministry. Again, the UMC in the Philippines should treat this as a long-term project and not just a grants-based project.

- Should a General Agency (Discipleship Ministries, Higher Education, Global Ministries, or Religion and Race among others) support this project in the form of grants, at least 15% of all amounts received should be put into a Sustainability Fund that will be used for investment purposes, so that in the long run, even if the grants run out, this campus ministry initiative will have funds to use for its operations and expansion.

Here is the estimated monthly cost for each Campus Missionary (this is based on a budget for singles, for missionaries with families, this could greatly vary).

Housing & Utilities	PhP 5,000
Communications Allowance	1,500
Travel Allowance	3,000
Food Allowance	4,000
Mandated contributions	1,500
Miscellaneous	2,000
TOTAL	PhP 17,000

A single campus missionary will therefore need PhP 17,000 in any given month. If we were to pay this amount for every missionary, we will need PhP 204,000 every year per missionary.

But there are additional considerations to this computation:

- The above computation could be reduced if the UMC has a Staff House where the missionaries could stay. Decker Homes, KKFI dormitory, partner local churches near the church, and other church properties could also fulfill this need.
- Travel allowance could be reduced if the missionary could stay at a location near the campus.
- Program budget per campus is not included in the above computation. The program budget will vary from campus to campus, depending on the Action Plan of the Campus Missionary, and the volunteer team in each campus.
- The Program Budget will need to come from money received from grants and from money that the Campus Ministry Team will raise. IT SHOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CAMPUS MINISTRY AGENCY OF THE UMC IN THE PHILIPPINES AND NOT OF THE CAMPUS MISSIONARY.
- A sample Program Budget could be as follows.

Program Budget (per campus for one semester)

Representation (meetings, etc)	P 4,000
Rental for big fellowship venues (could be zero if a partner church is nearby)	P 10,000
Reference Materials (individual students could pay for this, this would also depend on the number of students being reached)	P 2,500
<u>Other expenses (budget for equipment and other needs)</u>	<u>8,500</u>
TOTAL	PhP 25,000

The full program budget needs to be raised by the Campus Ministry agency of the UMC in the Philippines through grants and other means of fund-raising. Furthermore, the church will need to decide the percentage amount that will be raised by the church and the percentage that will be raised by the missionary. The church could probably raise 30% of the 204,000-peso needs of every missionary. That would be equal to PHP 61,200 for every missionary for the whole year.

The strategy of other campus missionaries such as Every Nation, Campus Crusade for Christ, is for the missionaries to present the vision and mission of the campus ministry to potential partners and ask for 1) a One-time gift, or 2) recurring, monthly support in various denominations: P1,000; P3,000 or P5,000. If the UMC in the Philippines could come up with a solid fund-raising strategy, we could definitely adopt this strategy and improve on it.

PHASE 3: Development of Resource Materials for the Actual Campus Ministry

This will be done in partnership with the Discipleship Resources-Philippines, together with the Board of Christian Education and Discipleship. We can use existing materials such as “Mga Hakbang sa Pananampalataya” written by Rev. Homer Wesley O. Refuerzo. It could also be a series of booklets derived from existing materials already developed by DRP and BCED.

While a more comprehensive curriculum could be developed, at least two series of materials need to be developed.

Series 1: Basics of Faith Series

- God
- Grace and Salvation
- Jesus Christ
- The Holy Spirit
- Works of Piety: The Bible, Prayer, Fasting, Being in Community (Fellowship and the Church), Holy Communion, Healthy Living
- Works of Mercy: Doing good, Visiting the sick & prisoners, Feeding and Clothing people, Generosity, Advocacy as Ministry

Series 2: Growing as a Christian Series

This could cover topics related to the development of Christian character, and other practical matters such as integrity, character, personal finance, discovering one’s calling, love life, relationships, and other practical topics.

Series 3: Leadership Development Series

This series will be specific for students who are being developed for leadership roles. It can cover the leadership principles of Jesus, strategies for reaching out to people as shown by Jesus and John Wesley. It should also include actionable challenges that helps students stretch their horizon and step out in faith.

Some materials for Christian living are already available from Discipleship Resources-Philippines, and the Board of Christian Education and Discipleship. However, they will need to be repackaged so as to reflect the BRANDING of the UMC’s Campus Ministry initiative.

PHASE 4: Deployment to the Campus

It is very important for the UMC and the leaders of the church that this is a LONG-TERM project and should not be based only on the funds received through grants and other means. A lot of leaders in the church may also demand quick results within a year or two of this ministry. That is not the intention of this ministry.

This, however, is not an excuse for the lack of short term results. Instead, what this ministry needs to implement is a list of Year-on-Year Metrics that will be measured. The metrics will not only include numbers of students engaged and the giving of students, but rather, it should also include other qualitative measures such as the changes in the lives of the students.

The church will need to invest in this ministry for at least 5 years! That would be a good time frame to test the model and look at the impact of this ministry.

PHASE 5: Monitoring, Sustaining, & Evaluation

For proper monitoring, evaluation, and sustenance of the campus ministry initiative, the campus missionaries should meet once a month to discuss improvements in the campus ministry model, sharing stories of victory, struggles, and other matters affecting our campus ministries.

This time of meeting and fellowship could also be a time for mentoring and continuing education for our campus missionaries.