



# NORTH CAROLINA UNITED METHODIST OUTDOOR AND CAMPING MINISTRIES

Chestnut Ridge • Don Lee • Kerr Lake • Rockfish

## How to Start a Campership Ministry In Your Congregation

- **Begin with a commitment** to the life changing opportunities for children and youth afforded by the experience of Christian summer camp. There is no other experience quite like spending a week with a small group of new friends and a caring, well training Christian counselor learning about self, others, God, and God's creation.
- **Identify a person with a passion** for the spiritual development of children and youth and who will take the leadership for a Campership Ministry. In every congregation there are persons whose lives were profoundly changed by an experience in Christian summer camp. They will be the best source of leadership.
- **Assume that a full Campership Ministry will be directed toward all children**, children in families with financial need and children in families without such need, children in your church and children in the community your church serves. For many churches, their Campership Ministry is an outreach ministry, a way of connecting with families who are un-churched, as well as an extension of nurture for children and youth.
- **Begin with a goal of awareness in your church** of the benefit of a Christian summer camp experience for children and youth. Some families have had that experience and can help tell the story. Invite one of the camps to do a presentation at your church, at a family night supper, etc. During the summer, host a counselor from one of our United Methodist camps for a weekend to participate in youth activities and to worship with you.
- **Invite your congregation to give** to a Campership Fund that can be used for any child in your church, to encourage all to attend. Utilize the Matching Campership Fund for those who have financial need. Invite Sunday School classes to make it a priority. UMM and UMW often make it a part of their giving. There may be individuals in your church who have a particular desire to help send children to a Christian summer camp.
- **Begin small, but dream a God-sized dream** about what can happen in your church. Set a goal for the first year and see where God leads your congregation. Invite persons in your church to establish a special prayer ministry just for the Campership Ministry.
- **Celebrate successes in ministry.** Invite families and children who experience Christian summer camp to share their stories and to be a part of the planning for next year. During any week that children and youth from your congregation are in camp, invite the congregation to pray for them by name during worship and during the week of camp. Acknowledge them in worship when they return.
- **For more assistance** with your Campership Ministry, call Wray Stephens, Executive Director, NC United Methodist Outdoor and Camping Ministries at (800) 849-4433. View all of our United Methodist camps on the web at [www.ncumcamps.org](http://www.ncumcamps.org).