

Epworth League Handbook

A guide to starting and growing a chapter

Version 1.2



Prepared by

Epworth League Central Office

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Epworth League

A Methodist Association for Young Adults

June 11, 2011

Epworth League Leader's Handbook
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Intended Audience for this book

This book is intended to provide a methodology and supporting information for anyone starting, re-organizing, or growing a United Methodist-based young adult program in the form of an Epworth League chapter. Others involved in young adult ministry should find the material useful as well.

The Epworth League Central Office realizes that there are many countries that do not have United Methodist churches and is in the process of updating this handbook to support Methodist churches outside the United Methodist Church. Contact the Central Office for details.

Epworth League Overview

The Epworth League is a new worldwide Methodist-based association for young adults aged 18 to 35. It consists of local church-based chapters throughout the world and the Epworth League Central Office which provides support to them.

Mission of the Epworth League

To encourage and cultivate Christ-centered character in young adults around the world through community building, missions, and spiritual growth.

Epworth League Origins

The name Epworth League comes from the town of Epworth, England, the birthplace of John and Charles Wesley, founders of the Methodist church.

In addition, the name Epworth League was used from 1889 through 1939 as the name of the young adult organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church. That denomination was one of the predecessors of the United Methodist Church. One hundred years ago the Epworth League consisted of thousands of young adult chapters around the world. There is much we can learn from the original Epworth League, and some of their programs have been adapted for our use today.

“Our God is organizing his forces for the further and final conquest of the world. Among these forces, he has impressed his servants to institute the Epworth League. You are solicited to act in concert with the movement. Of course your prayers, influences, and endorsement will be valuable; but the vital essence of your responsibility and your accountability will depend upon what you have done.”

“The Epworth League, Its place in Methodism”, by Rev J.B Robenson, 1890

The plan of the Epworth League provides for every member. "To every man his work." There can be a definite place for every individual, with duties easily understood, and with real service and personal growth involved in every duty.

Dan Brearley Brummitt 1914

With God's help, we hope to reignite the flame of the original Epworth League for ministering and supporting young adults through the worldwide United Methodist Church.

Epworth League Chapters

Epworth League chapters are where the work of the Epworth League gets done, but also where young adults can find a place to belong and to grow in their walk with Christ. Developing a successful growing chapter is difficult – just opening your doors and sending out post cards will not be enough. The successful chapter will need to make itself needed by the community that it serves.

Chapters are generally sponsored by a United Methodist Church and share a common operating model that is always focused at a minimum, on three fundamental areas:

- Spiritual Development
- Missions
- Community Building

An Epworth League Chapter, like a bicycle or an [airplane], to keep up must keep going. It was not meant to be stationary, and it cannot be at once stationary and successful.

The young people desire activity, and they need it. They will not stay where stagnation is.

But also they ask for justifiable activity. They must have their [activity] mixed with deeds. They do not care to play at Christian service, to talk endlessly about it without doing any of it.

Dan Brearley Brummitt 1914

Membership

The doors to the Epworth League are open to all. There are no membership requirements. With the exception of one of the leaders, participants do not need to be members of a United Methodist Church; however it is encouraged.

Age limits

The minimum age to be in the Epworth League is 18, and the suggested upper age limit is 35. There may be times, especially when starting a chapter, that some youthful passionate older individuals may be needed.

Epworth League Pledge

I will earnestly seek for myself, with God's help and that of my brothers and sisters, and do what I can to help others attain, the highest Christ-like standard of living. I will do my best to refrain from all forms of activity and behavior which is contrary to Christ's teachings, and I will attend the meetings of the Epworth League and the Church, and take an active part in them.

Epworth Statement of Faith

The Epworth League follows the beliefs of the United Methodist Church. For more information, please visit the United Methodist website. <http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?mid=519>

Epworth League Central Office

The Central Office provides the following key services

- Help with starting a chapter
- Management of Epworth League websites
- The Epworth League Institute for training
- Mentors for chapter leaders

Each of these is explained in more detail in the following sections.

Help with Starting a Chapter

The Central Office is primarily focused on helping individuals start and grow chapters. Volunteers with the Central Office will help you step-by-step with getting your chapter started. A detailed list of steps can be found later in this handbook. Contact the Central Office (see back of handbook) if at any time you have questions or just need someone to talk to about ideas or issues you are having.

Epworth Advance Team – Volunteers for the Central Office

This team consists of individuals mostly from around the world that have volunteered to help the Epworth League Central Office. With God's help, this team will grow to hundreds of volunteers over the next year or two. Many of these volunteers are in areas that have not yet established Epworth League. Membership in the Advance Team will enable these individuals to get involved and make a difference before they are able to pull together a group or church to sponsor a chapter. Members of the Advance Team will each be primarily focused on one of the five functional areas of the Central Office and will report into that department's director for instruction and work assignments. If you would like to be an Advance Team volunteer please contact the Central Office.

Epworth League Web sites

Currently there are two websites that the Central Office manages

www.epworthleague.org

This is the main website for the Epworth League. Currently, it is a simple website with some basic information including where you can download the latest version of this document. The website also has a calendar of key Epworth League events such as mission trips, retreats, and Epworth League Institutes. In the future, this site will include collaboration and social networking features designed to aid individuals in starting and growing chapters. There will be an option for other United Methodist Young Adult groups to get registered on the Epworth League website. They will be required to fill out an application and sign a covenant document signed by their young adult group leaders. We expect this site to become a key element in the Epworth League by allowing groups and individuals to share experiences, problems, and blessings for the benefit of others.

The Epworth League also has a Facebook group. It is a good place to meet others interested in the Epworth League.

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=356243866782

Epworth League Institute

The Epworth League Institute is a Central Office program providing training and educational opportunities for young adults. It currently consists of:

- Epworth League Institute conferences
- College-based leadership training
- An employment program that chapters can offer to their communities
- A parenting program that chapters can offer to their communities
- A prison ministry program

If you would like to help with the development of programs and/or training materials for the Epworth League Institute please contact the Central Office (see back of handbook).

Epworth League Institute - conferences

Epworth League Institute conferences are typically simply referred to as “Epworth League Institutes.” They are low-cost conferences sponsored by the Central Office and one or more chapters. They take place around the world and are located near the sponsoring chapters. Conferences will typically be one to seven days in length.

Most Epworth League Institutes will have multiple presentations on one or more of the following topics:

- Spiritual development
- Community building
- Missions
- Epworth League employment program
- Epworth League parenting program
- Epworth League prison ministry program

We are also investigating hosting “Virtual Epworth League Institutes.” These events would take place on the Internet and leverage videoconferencing and web based training technologies to allow people to participate from their home or church.

If your chapter would like to sponsor an Epworth League Institute in your community please contact the Central Office.

Chapter Leader Training - for College Students

The Epworth League Institute is currently partnering with the [Tentmakers](#) organization to develop a leadership training program to help college seniors learn how to start Epworth League Chapters after graduation. It will be offered to seniors on campuses with United Methodist ministry programs and will consist of the following elements:

- Two to three workshops that are about two hours each in length
- Connection with a dedicated Epworth League Mentor
- A six-day leadership training program during the winter college break
- Help with connecting to a sponsoring church

Epworth League Employment Program

The Epworth League is developing a series of programs aimed at enhancing work readiness skills, creating training and mentoring connections, and promoting young adult entrepreneurship (especially in developing economies). These programs will be open to people, who are either new to the workforce or facing challenges in finding sustainable employment. Young adults will be able to participate in these programs through their local Epworth League chapter. There is no denominational or religious requirement for eligibility.

It is designed to be conducted by a local chapter in cooperation with that chapter's sponsoring church congregation. Older members of the congregation will be given the opportunity to share their expertise in job searching as well as possible job opportunities in the community with the young adults. This program not only gives a chapter an opportunity to provide a vital service to the local community but also is a unique outreach to those who may not otherwise connect with the Chapter.

Epworth League Institutes will help chapters implement the Employment Program.

Details of this program are being developed and should be available in the first quarter of 2011. Chapters are welcome to start working on this program before the details are published by the Central Office. If your chapter starts on this please let us know how things are going so others can benefit from your experiences.

Work Readiness – Employment Program For Young Adults

This employability program is intended to be replicated at each Epworth League chapter as a core service for young adults. It consists of a series of 60-90 minute classes and workshops on essential skills for choosing a career and conducting an effective job search. Individual classes include:

- Career Evaluation: introduction and access to tools that help young people identify their own skills and interests, and help determine the types of jobs available that may be best for them.
- Lifelong Learning: understanding the importance of continuous skills development, and learning where and how people can get access in their communities to free or low-cost training.

- **Researching Employment Opportunities:** learning where and how to look for jobs, including web-based job boards and working with recruitment agencies.
- **Resume and Interview Preparation:** teaching young people to present themselves effectively on paper and in person; workshops in creating individual resumes and conducting mock interviews.
- **Mentoring:** visits from local business people who can provide hands-on advice and networking opportunities for young people.

The Epworth League is interested in meeting with business leaders who can serve as trainers, mentors, and speakers for youth programs, and who may be able to contribute curriculum content and materials.

Experience, Training, and Mentorship – Young Entrepreneur Marketplace

The Marketplace program will combine an online work-exchange platform with a significant training and mentoring initiative for young entrepreneurs. The goal is to give young entrepreneurs anywhere in the world expanded access to markets and experience in delivering “real world” products and services, while providing hands-on assistance from mentors and access to expert tools and resources.

Youth Entrepreneurship -- Epworth League Entrepreneur Program

The Entrepreneur Program is principally targeted at the poorest parts of the developing world, where personal incomes are less than \$3 per day and electric power is not available or reliable. Its goal is to mobilize the global Epworth League network to provide funds and equipment for small business development initiatives led by local Epworth League chapters in these poorest communities. A pilot of this program is being planned for Tanzania and Uganda.

The program focuses on delivering simple machinery, such as fruit presses, grain mills, sewing machines, or computer equipment, together with “off the grid” solar power to support the creation of small-scale, small business industrial operations offering entrepreneurial and employment opportunities in impoverished communities. Epworth League members and supporters will also provide small business mentoring services such as advice on operations, marketing, microfinance, and other issues important to new entrepreneurs.

Epworth League Parenting Assistance Program

The Parenting Assistance Program is another multi-faceted program that is being developed by the Epworth League Institute. The objective of the program is to help young parents with a range of parenting questions, training, and needs. It is also designed to be conducted by a local chapter in cooperation with that chapter's sponsoring church congregation. Older members of the congregation will be given the opportunity to share their parenting expertise with the young adults.

Like the Employment Program, this program gives a chapter an opportunity to provide a vital service to the local community but also is a unique outreach to those who may not otherwise connect with the Chapter.

The program is still in development but is expected to consist of the following components:

- Identification of public services available to parents

- Identification of child care options
- Connections to other young adult parents
- Classes on how to care for babies
- How to find resources for special needs children
- Organization of low cost family outings (ties to the Community Building Team)
- Organized educational outings for home schooled children
- Connection with older parents or grandparents that can be mentors to younger parents
- Providing a Parenting hotline – a number you can call to get help with a problem

Details of this program should be available from the Epworth League Institute in Q2 of 2011. Chapters are welcome to start working on this program before the details are published by the Central Office. If your chapter starts on this please let us know how things are going so others can benefit from your experiences

Epworth League Prison Ministry Program

This program will provide guidelines on how to start a prison ministry program. Details of the program will be available later in 2011.

Mentors for Chapter Leaders

Epworth League Mentors can be a key element of starting and growing an Epworth League Chapter. Epworth League Mentors are individuals passionate about young adult ministry in the United Methodist Church. In addition, Epworth League Mentors have direct experience with young adult ministry and the operations of the United Methodist Church. They will provide encouragement, guidance and advice for new chapter leaders.

If you are interested in getting a mentor to help you and your chapter, contact the Central Office.

Starting a Chapter

Starting a Chapter of the Epworth League is relatively easy to do if you have a few passionate leaders and a church willing to sponsor you. The steps are listed below. If at any time you have questions or concerns, contact Chapter Startup Services at the Central Office (see back of handbook for contact info).

The Epworth League Central Office realizes that there are many countries that do not have United Methodist churches and is in the process of updating this handbook to support Methodist churches outside the United Methodist Church. Contact the Central Office for details.

Step 1: Contact the Epworth League Central Office for initial consultation.

Central Office contact information can be found in the back of the handbook. They will answer any questions you have and help you with the next steps. They can also make sure you have the latest information and may be able to put you in contact with others in your area that are involved with the Epworth League. This will help us connect you with others looking for a chapter in your area.

Step 2: Hold a meeting with people interested in starting the chapter

Have an informal meeting with those that are interested in helping start the chapter. You may want to do this in a familiar public place such as a restaurant or coffee house. Share with them what the Epworth League is about.

Step 3: Hold an initial discussion with the pastor of the sponsoring church

Meet with the pastor of the sponsoring church and provide the pastor with an Epworth League brochure, The Role of the Sponsoring Church (Appendix A), and a copy of the Epworth League covenant. All of the documents are available for download on the website.

Wisely and opportunely the League [comes] to the pastor's aid. He has scarcely a burden that the League cannot lighten. Each of its... departments assumes directly some part of the pastor's cares and burdens. He is put in control of a trusty company of fellow-workers, greatly increasing his power for usefulness.

The League prepares the way for the pastor. This is markedly true with outsiders and seekers. The League can often reach them easier and sooner than the pastor....

"The Epworth League, Its place in Methodism", by Rev J.B Robenson, 1890

Step 4: Determine who the founding leaders will be

A minimum of three leaders are required to start a chapter. One of them must be a member of a United Methodist Church, however not necessarily of the church sponsoring the group.

Chapters ideally will have six leaders each assigned to one of the following roles:

1. President
2. Spiritual Growth Team Leader
3. Missions Team Leader
4. Community Building Team Leader
5. Treasurer
6. Secretary

However, if less than six leaders are available, each of the roles must be covered and ideally no person will have more than one team (spiritual growth, missions, community building) leader role. In addition a supporting pastor, lay leader, or other church leader, in a non-voting role, should be identified.

If three leaders are not available, individuals are encouraged to participate with another chapter until they can get the minimum number of leaders. If no other chapters are located nearby you can register with the Epworth League Central office as a “startup chapter,” which is described later under “Chapter Model”. The chapter model provides a breakdown of responsibilities that can be matched to the gifts of individuals and provide genuine service and personal growth opportunities for everyone. Individual chapters will naturally focus more on some teams than others. However, all chapters must attempt some level of support for each team. In addition, all leaders of the chapter are required to sign the Epworth Pledge. Other members of the chapter can sign the pledge but are not required to do so.

Step 5: Email signed pledges to the Epworth League Central Office

Mail copies of your leaders' pledges (or scan in and email them) to the Epworth League Central Office. See the back of the handbook for contact information.

As you get more leaders, continue to send in their signed pledges. It will be necessary to validate your signed pledges periodically. At this time it is assumed they will need to be updated once per year.

Step 6: Meet with the Administrative Council of the sponsoring church.

All United Methodist Churches are required to have an Administrative Council, typically referred to as the “Ad Council.” This group typically only meets quarterly or monthly so you will want to get on their calendar as soon as possible. Your pastor can help you with this. You will want to bring copies of the Epworth League brochure, a “Role of the Sponsoring Church” letter, and an “Epworth League Church Covenant.” These can be found on the website, and the “Role of the Sponsoring Church” letter and “Epworth League Church Covenant” can be found in the back of

this handbook. By this point you should have already given all these items to the pastor so that there are no surprises in the meeting.

Hopefully in your first meeting there will be a vote to support your chapter and you will get the signatures right then. The signed covenant document can be mailed or scanned and emailed to the Epworth League Central Office. See back of handbook. This is also a good time to send in your “Epworth League Chapter Registration Form” found in Appendix B.

If for some reason the church feels they cannot support your chapter or sign the covenant, please contact your mentor as soon as possible. He or she may be able to help you with this. In the unlikely event that you cannot get approval, the Central Office will be happy to help you find another sponsoring church.

Step 7: Hold chapter startup meetings

You now need to hold a few meetings. Initially, you will set up a few planning meetings and a few devotional meetings. You may want your first few planning meetings to be leaders-only. Keep in mind that if you are starting with a very small group and are reaching out to many people that are not familiar with church you may want to start with planning meetings and social events before starting the devotional meetings.

Step: 8: Start promoting your chapter

Low cost marketing of your chapter takes time and effort. You can make posters and put them up at your church and public bulletin boards. If you have successful promotional materials, please share them with the Central Office, and maybe we will post them on the website.

Chapter Model

All Epworth League Chapters are structured around three focus areas.

- Spiritual Growth
- Missions
- Community Building

From the very beginning of starting a chapter, the founders must commit that they will do all they can to make some progress in each of these areas, no matter how small the chapter may be. It is also because of this that in order to start a chapter, a leader must be identified for each focus area.

As chapters grow, they will organize their members based on their gifts, talents, and interests into one of three teams. Each team will concentrate on one of the focus areas. As teams grow they can be further divided into even more focused sub-teams.

It is important that chapters do not change the model. Many programs of the Epworth League Central Office are based on the assumption that, at minimum, chapters are supporting these three focus areas. These three focus areas will be used for organizing activities and programs of the Epworth League such as the Epworth League Institute, college training program, and the global website.

Affiliate chapters

Affiliates are young adult groups with three appointed team leaders and a sponsored church outside the United Methodist denomination. Affiliate chapters must still send in pledge cards signed by three of the affiliate chapter's leaders.

Startup Chapters

If less than three people want to start a chapter, they can register with the Epworth League Central Office and be designated as a startup chapter. The requirements for a startup chapter are:

- The leaders have signed the Epworth League Pledge.
- They have identified a sponsoring church and have discussed their plans with the pastor.
- Either A) the ad council signs the Church Covenant Document or B) the pastor has sent an email to the Epworth League Central Office indicating that he or she is supportive of the plan to start a chapter. (see back of handbook).

Startup chapters will be listed on the Epworth League website, and assistance will be provided to help them grow.

Spiritual Growth Team

Spiritual growth is the cornerstone of the Epworth League Chapter. From the beginning, the Epworth League's primary focus has been to help the lost find and accept Christ and to build a relationship with him.

All focus areas outlined below should be supported. Items listed under each focus area are examples of activities that support that focus.

1. Prayer

- Prayer vigils & retreats
- Prayer requests & chains
- Prayer teams

2. Worship

- Organize separate regular worship programs
- Organize special worship events
- Trips to worship events

3. Bible studies

- Small group Bible studies or discussion groups
- Trips to conferences including Epworth League Institutes

4. Evangelism

- To the community – through various outreach programs like the Epworth League Flower Program which consists of delivering flowers to random people in the community.
- To the region and the world through mission trips

5. Retreats

Retreats can be one or more days long and consist of a combination of any of the above. The Epworth League Central Office will be providing low cost, week-long retreats through its partnerships with other agencies such as Mission Bells Ministries.

More information about these retreats will be provided on our Facebook group and www.epworthleague.org.

6. Epworth League Meetings

Organizing the regularly scheduled Epworth League chapter meetings is the responsibility of the Spiritual Growth team. In an established chapter, meetings will incorporate prayer, Bible studies, and worship. When chapters are just starting out, these meetings may be more social in nature, and over time worship and Bible studies can be added.

It is suggested that Chapters eventually meet twice a month for 90-120 minutes. The other weeks should have time scheduled for at least one community building and one mission activity per month.

Suggested League Meeting components template

- Greeting time before meeting starts (make name badges)
- Announcements
- Ice breaker
- Worship songs
- Mission connections –Brief overview of mission opportunities
- Follow-up to past challenges
- Bible teaching time
- Break into small groups for prayer & discussion
- Challenges from the Word
- Closing song and prayer
- After-meeting social event

Partnerships

The global Epworth League will be establishing partnerships to aid Spiritual Growth activities. These partnership agencies will provide opportunities for activities, training, etc. Materials and contacts will be provided to the chapters via the Epworth website to simplify the process of a chapter partnering with these agencies.

Currently one partnership already exists with [Mission Bells Ministries](#), a Wisconsin based non-profit company that sponsors low cost mission projects and retreats for youth and young adults.

Community Building Team

Overview

The Community Building Team is focused on relationships between the young adults in the chapter. Three focus areas should be supported. Specific activities in those areas are suggested as guidance.

Outreach events

These events serve not only to bring the chapter participants closer together but also helps with making it easy for chapter participants to get their friends involved. Examples include: Sporting events, parties, concerts, starting a sports team, in-home movies, BBQs, hosting a concert, drive-in movies at the church, etc.

Adventures

Adventures are similar to retreats but may have less structured worship and Bible study time. Adventures are typically multi-day events where participants are together for a longer period of time allowing for strengthening relationships between chapter participants.

Building relationships

The Community Building Team is responsible for working with the Spiritual Development Team and the Missions team to ensure that Epworth League events provide opportunities for building stronger relationships between members.

The Epworth League Missions Team

The Missions Team is charged with getting the members of the chapter involved in serving those in need. The team should focus on three levels: Local, regional, and global. Some examples of each are provided below. Chapters are encouraged to find ways to make a difference and report them back to the Central Office to be shared with other chapters. Once the new website is available, chapters will be able to post their ideas and share their success stories.

Local Missions

The Epworth League has a unique focus on local missions. We think of it in terms of social service. Rather than providing a short term fix to a particular community pain, the Epworth League is focused on resolving what is causing hardship or pain. As previously mentioned, the Epworth League Institute is currently working on the employment program and the parenting assistance program to be implemented locally. These programs are aimed at root causes of many community, family, and personal issues.

Other examples of local mission activities are:

- Visiting shut-ins
- Community service projects (food drives, soup kitchens, Boys & Girls Club, etc)
- Community Service nights
- Free dinner nights for the public

As chapters get established around the world and set up local mission programs, these local programs can become another chapter's regional or global mission project. If your chapter needs help with a local project, please send a note to the Central Office. We can help promote it. Eventually there will be a feature on the main website for chapters to post their mission opportunities.

Regional missions

- Mission trips
- Supporting another Chapter's local mission with labor or funding

Global Missions

- Mission trips
- Supporting a missionary
- Supporting another Chapter's local mission with labor or funding
- Reaching the
- 649 Unengaged, Unreached People Groups (UUPGs)

Today there are 632 Unengaged, Unreached People Groups with populations more than 50,000 who are still beyond the reach of the gospel of Jesus Christ. These 366,000,000 people are spiritually lost and helpless like sheep having no Shepherd. Among them Christ remains unknown, unacknowledged, and unadored.

These 632 are perhaps the neediest of the needy. They are unengaged, which means that no one church, no one mission agency... no one has yet taken responsibility to tell them of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The 632 are at the very heart of the unfinished Great Commission task

from finishingthetask.com

(more info to be found on the Epworth League site soon)

Treasurer

Initially a chapter may not see much use for a treasurer; however, as a chapter grows, the responsibility for the role of a treasurer increases.

- Working with the church treasurer to set up a checking account for the Chapter.
- Collecting fees for events and activities
- Collecting donations
- Paying expenses of the chapter
- Providing financial reports to the Chapter Leadership team

Secretary

Some of the duties of a secretary are shown below.

- Chapter communications
 - Updates to the global Epworth League web site
 - Advertising on the web, newspapers, Facebook, community bulletin boards, etc.
 - Direct mail –emails, postcards, and letters
- Take minutes of the leadership meetings
- Record and maintain contact information for all participants

Appendix A – The Role of the Sponsoring Church

Epworth League chapters are required to be sponsored by a United Methodist Church (other churches can only sponsor affiliated chapters). Sponsoring an Epworth League Chapter is a serious matter. By signing the church covenant document a church is expected to support the chapter through prayers, words of encouragement and sharing of advice as well as provide a consistent United Methodist theology for the group to live by and teach.

Sponsoring an Epworth League chapter does not necessarily require any financial support of the group unless they desire to do so. The main responsibility to the chapter will be to assign someone on the pastoral staff or a senior laity member to be a mentor and provide oversight to the group. The young adult leaders of the group have the responsibility of running the group but the church assigned mentor has the responsibility of making sure the group is remaining true to scripture and true to the mission and beliefs of the United Methodist Church. The mentor can also help the chapter's leaders with the difficult faith issues they may face in their own lives and the lives of the members of the group. It may be necessary for the mentor to attend some of the chapter meetings or events, even if only for a short time, in order to understand how the chapter operates.

If you have any questions about the role of the sponsoring church please contact the Epworth League Central Office.

Appendix B – Chapter Registration

Name of your chapter:

Address of your chapter:

Mailing address (if different):

Name of sponsoring church:

Address of sponsoring church:

Pastor or lay member who is your contact within the sponsoring church:

Email &/or phone number for this person:

Web address for your chapter (if have one):

Name of one chapter leader who is a member of a United Methodist Church:

Church name and location:

Give names, addresses, emails and phone numbers for the people filling the following jobs.

Spiritual Growth Team Leader:

Community Building Team Leader:

Missions Team Leader:

President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Which contact information would you like listed in the Epworth League Directory:

If you would like an article to appear in the Herald about your chapter, please write out a short paragraph telling about your group:

Appendix C – Social Service

The following section is from the book titled "The Efficient Epworthian" by Dan Brearley Brummitt who was the editor of the Epworth League's newspaper, the Epworth League Herald. The book was published in 1922.

[The goal of social service is] is social salvation, "the deliverance of human society from disease, poverty, crime, and misery; the development and perfection of the institutions of man's associated life, and the construction of a social order that is the city of God on earth."

COMMUNITY STUDY

Any program of social service for the individual or the group must be based upon the needs of the local community. Therefore, these must be discovered. The only way to discover them is to make a study of local conditions, which will outline the field of needed activity.

Before any work is attempted, the Chapter must know also what agencies are already at work to meet the needs of the community and how they are doing it, in order that its efforts may not duplicate the work of other societies, but supplement it.

A chart can be made and placed on the wall of the church showing the agencies which will help in caring for poverty, sickness, or delinquency, or in meeting any civic or social emergency.

It is not advisable or even possible for the Epworth League to make a thorough study of the whole community, especially in the larger centers. In a community of ten thousand and under, however, it may be possible to get a good general view of conditions; but even in this case the effort should be confined to the things in which young people are naturally interested. This will limit the study and activity and concentrate the effort on a few things.

Any Chapter may well limit itself to discovering and improving the conditions of life for the young people of the community. This will include conditions of social life and recreation, conditions of education, conditions of health and housing, and of occupation.

The following schedule of questions will give assistance to the Chapter in studying its own community:

WHAT EVERY CHAPTER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ITS OWN COMMUNITY.

Poverty and Delinquency.—What charitable agencies exist? Their general efficiency? Any co-operation between them?

Approximate amount spent for relief in one year, and number of cases helped.

What relief work is done by Churches? Is there cooperation between the different departments of the individual Church? With other Churches? With other charitable agencies?

What city, county, or State provision for relief of poverty or sickness is there in the community? Does anybody inspect these institutions for efficiency?

Social Life and Recreation.—What organized recreation is provided? In schools, Churches, Y. M. C. A., etc.?

What amusements are operated for private profit? General character? Any that are flagrantly vicious?

What educational facilities are there for young people who wish to continue their education while working? Night schools? Special classes in Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A.? Lecture courses? Are these facilities efficient?

Health and Housing.—Death rate? Infant mortality? Compared with neighboring communities?

Does the Health Department control contagious diseases? Does it educate the community to measures of prevention?

Is there any section of the town living in unsanitary or congested houses?

What laws relating to such conditions, and how enforced?

Labor.—How many young people over sixteen are wage earners in the community? (How many, if any, under sixteen?) Where do they work? How many work more than ten hours? More than nine hours? Eight hours? How many on Sunday? How many girls working nights?

What are the wages of the lowest paid group? Young men? Young women? Is there a Minimum Wage law in the State, and is it enforced? Average wage in the various industries in the community? How does it compare with the cost of living in that place?

What are the conditions of health in the community's industries? What labor laws in the State? Do they protect the worker, and to what extent? Is there a system of factory inspection, and is it enforced?

What is done to help young people find employment?

Government.—What form of government? Who are the officers? What are their functions and what power have they? What are the forces that really control?

What departments of the local government most vitally affect the welfare of the community?

What co-operation is there between the Church's group and these departments?

HOW TO BEGIN.

A good way to begin is for the Social Service Department to make a general study of the community according to this schedule, modifying the schedule to fit local needs, and striking out such questions as are not applicable.

This information should then be classified and worked up in the form of charts, so that it may be presented to the whole Chapter in graphic fashion. The [slide projector] can be used to good advantage in this part of the work.

From this general study the members may select that particular condition which appears to call for the most urgent action. When this has been done, a more detailed study of that condition should be made before anything is done to meet the need. In the case of city Chapters, the district should be defined, and other young people's groups should, if possible, be enlisted in the effort.

MAKING THE MERCY AND HELP WORK CONSTRUCTIVE.

Relief Work.—The practical work of the Epworth League cannot be called social service until it becomes constructive and preventive, as well as palliative. Social service is not content to relieve, without at the same time investigating the causes of distress and seeking to remove them.

The very first principle of relief work is co-operation. Co-operation within the Church itself, seeing that one organization does not duplicate the work of another; co-operation with other Churches of the same denominations, and co-operation with agencies outside the Church, especially with the organized charities of the community.

The second principle is quite as important: There should be continuity of service. Spasmodic help will not only do little good, but may work harm. Whatever work may be selected, it should not be dropped until it has been carried through to completion and there is no further need of it. It is much better to select a permanent problem and give attention to that, than to attempt many different pieces of work, doing only a little of each. For instance, if a family is given help, it should be helped continuously until the members are able to care for themselves; not given a basket at Thanksgiving or Christmas time, and left to itself the remainder of the year.

Nearly every Chapter has among its members one or more young women who are able to give a good deal of time to visitation and other relief work. These should be trained as friendly visitors in the community, so that their services may be guided and directed in such a way as will make it doubly valuable. The local charity organization will accept such volunteer help and give the desired training....

Rural Chapters may provide fruit and flowers for the sick in the city by co-operating with the city Chapters. Express companies will usually carry such gifts free of charge.

Work for the sick, if the Mercy and Help Department is to be made a genuine social service agency, must not end with relief. It must be extended until it looks also to the prevention of illness and to the aggressive advocating of public health measures.

The local Health Department will be glad of volunteer help in spreading knowledge concerning its plans for sanitation and the proper care of disease, in reporting violations of health laws, in distributing literature dealing with public health, in its efforts to eliminate improper housing conditions, and in the effort to enforce the health laws of the community.

SOCIALIZING THE SOCIAL DEPARTMENT.

In every community there are groups of young people who are not touched or brought into contact in any way with the young people in the Church societies. Every Chapter should make an effort to get into contact with these.

Homeless Young People.—Take, for instance, that increasing number of young men and women in the cities who are away from home, without the restraints of their former environment, and without proper social life in their new surroundings.

Practical help may take the form of finding proper boarding places, and getting these homeless ones invited into Christian homes to spend Sunday, so that they

may have a touch of home life. The social hour after Church, at which light refreshments are served, has been used as a weapon against the loneliness and dangers of that hour.

Young People from Abroad.—Then, there are the immigrant young men and women. If America is to care for the new peoples who are drawn in such numbers by the promise of greater liberty, it will be only as the American young people, and especially those of the Churches, see in these groups an opportunity for splendid service.

Race suspicion and prejudice will never be disarmed until the young people meet face to face and find out for themselves the essential unity of the race.

Classes in English and Civics afford a good opportunity of getting acquainted. There are now a number of books designed for the purpose of teaching foreigners in simple, untechnical language, so that any ordinarily well educated Epworthian may successfully lead such a class.

Devise your own methods for extending the circle of friendship outside the Church group. The essential thing is to come into vital contact with the young people of other nationalities in the community, for this will open the way to larger forms of service to the immigrant group.

Recreation for All.—Has your Chapter a consistent and persistent program of recreation, or does it merely give a "social" occasionally? A well-planned program, covering the half-year season, will yield far more satisfactory results than a haphazard effort to furnish recreation. The plans should be extended to include every possible group in the community. The fall season may begin with informal "welcome" receptions to the various groups who have been away for the summer—teachers, students, etc.— and the program for this period may take many forms, such as musical and literary evenings.

Education, especially in the city, may be combined with recreation by making visits in groups to various places of interest in the city. This is a particularly good plan in the summer, on Saturday afternoons, when the trip may end with a picnic or social of some kind out-of-doors....



Epworth League Pledge

I will earnestly seek for myself, with God's help and that of my brothers and sisters, and do what I can to help others attain, the highest Christ-like standard of living. I will do my best to refrain from all forms of activity and behavior which is contrary to Christ's teachings, and I will attend the meetings of the Epworth League and the Church, and take an active part in them.

Signed - Epworth League Leader

Date

Print Name

Epworth League Sponsoring Church and location



Epworth League Church Covenant

We the members of the _____ Church,
on this day _____ agree to sponsor and
support the formation of a local chapter of the Epworth
League. We will do what we can to support and encourage this
important young adult ministry program.

Pastor

Date

Ad council chair or Lay Leader

Date

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- | | |
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