

UMC Cocoa Outreach Campaign (Rethink Church) Conversation Starters

Sample conversation starters:

For initial encounters:

“Hi! I’m a member of The United Methodist Church, and we believe church can happen anywhere. That’s why we’re out here on this cold day handing out cups of hot cocoa. Did you enjoy it? May I just give you a flyer to take with you? Thanks for stopping.”

When handing them a flyer, you can say:

“I invite you to come celebrate at one of our churches on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. If you’re interested, you can go to this website, **Rethinkchurch.org**, and click on ‘Find A Church’ to find a United Methodist community in your area. We’re really friendly, and you’re always welcome there.”

For Longer encounters:

“We believe church is not just a place to go, but it’s also something we do. That’s why we’re out here today giving out hot cocoa and warm greetings. Our church members are not just worshipping behind closed doors. They’re outside in their communities—in schools, parks and playgrounds, hospitals and nursing homes, shelters for the homeless, neighborhood festivals, lots of places. Where else do you think churches should be present in the community, meeting and helping people?”

“United Methodists believe Church should be a place where everyone is welcome. One of the statements we like to say is that we have ‘Open hearts, Open minds and Open doors.’ Does that sound welcoming to you? Does it make you want to visit a UM church... maybe?”

“United Methodists welcome anybody and everybody. That includes people who may have questions about faith or spirituality, because we all have those questions! There are United Methodist churches all around here in Philadelphia and beyond. Where do you live? There’s probably a UM church near you, where you can learn a lot about life and faith, enjoy some good music and conversation, ask questions and make new friends.

Additional Talking Points:

United Methodists believe in going out into the world, not only sitting inside a church. We help others here, across the U.S. and in other countries, by providing food, education, affordable homes, clean water, health clinics, and a lot more—even bed nets and medicines to protect children in Africa from getting malaria. We’re involved in people’s lives in our communities and around the world every day. We’re putting our beliefs into action wherever we are. And that’s why we believe church can happen anywhere.