

WHAT DOES A LAY SPEAKER DO?

Leading, Caring, Communicating, these words characterize what lay speakers do in ministry as The United Methodist Church engages the world we live in. Lay speakers serve in and through their local churches by becoming well-informed in matters of Scripture, doctrine, heritage, organization and life of the United Methodist Church. They are a group of people committed to witnessing their faith whenever the opportunity arises. Lay speakers serve purposefully through two avenues:

LOCAL CHURCH LAY SPEAKERS...

Serve exclusively in and through their own local congregations. A local lay speaker must complete the Basic Course. Each year they must reapply, reporting on their church's Charge Conference form how they have served in their church and what additional learning they have done. Every three years Local Lay Speakers must complete at least one additional Advanced Lay Speaking Course, even if they do not want to be Certified Lay Speakers.

CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKERS...

Serve in their own churches, in other United Methodist Churches, and through District or Conference projects and programs. They must be recommended by their pastor and Church Council or Charge Conference, and complete the Basic

Course and one Advanced Lay Speaking Course. Those who wish to be pulpit supply speakers must complete at least one Preaching course and one on leading worship. They must report their progress on the Charge Conference form and reapply annually, and they must complete at least one additional Advanced Course every three years.

WHAT IF I JUST WANT TO LEARN?

Of course, there are those who simply like to take classes for their own personal enrichment, to learn more about their church and to grow in their faith. Lay Speaking Ministries offers many and varied opportunities for those who have no desire to become Lay Speakers, and all are welcome to attend for that purpose without a pastor's or Charge Conference recommendation.

HERE'S HOW TO GET STARTED

Choose a class from the list on this brochure, fill out the registration form, and send it with your check for \$25 (payable to North District INUMC) to cover the cost of books and supplies to:

North District INUMC
P.O. Box 1701
LaPorte, IN 46352

PLEASE NOTE: If you wish to work toward either Local or Certified Lay Speaker status you must also enclose your pastor's recommendation!



NORTH DISTRICT LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES WINTER CLASSES 2011

**SUNDAY AFTERNOONS
2:00 – 4:30 P.M.
JANUARY 30
THROUGH
FEBRUARY 27, 2011**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
400 W. MISHAWAKA RD.
ELKHART, INDIANA**

CLASS OFFERINGS

(Please indicate your choice below)

_____ **Basic Course.** This is a great class for getting started, and **if you want to be a Local or Certified Lay Speaker, it is required as your first class.** But it is a solid beginning if you just want to learn more about your faith, your church, and yourself, too.

_____ **You Can Lead in Evangelism: Evangelism Without Additives.** If the Gospel is good news, why do most Christians avoid evangelism? Learn to make real connections with the people formerly known as “lost”.

_____ **Lay Speakers Are Accountable!** This course focuses on the household of God, the importance of Scripture as divine revelation, the Wesleyan understanding of grace and the importance of the office of class leader in the development of the Methodist movement.

_____ **Spiritual Gifts.** Learn what the Bible has to say about Spiritual Gifts, how they work in every Christian’s life, and how to discover what yours really are. Restoring the Holy Spirit to the center of your life can set you free to serve God in new and surprising ways.

_____ **From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon.** This is one of the required courses for Certified Lay Speakers. It addresses the foundations necessary for preparing an engaging sermon. Topics include exploring types of sermons, finding the story, using the hymnal, reading the Bible aloud, communicating on paper and beyond the paper. If you are a Certified Lay Speaker and have not taken this course, it is highly recommended!

_____ **United Methodism (7 Myths of the United Methodist Church).** This course will help you gain an understanding of the distinctive traditions and emphases of the UMC. We will deal with the 7 myths of the church that have hurt its growth, especially with younger generations.

_____ **Worship Today.** Understanding the role of Worship, Sacraments, and Liturgy today. Learn how to prepare and develop a worship service. If you are a Certified Lay Speaker and have not taken this course, it is highly recommended!

_____ **Lay Speakers Teach Adults.** Designed to help provide church leaders with a basic understanding of the ways in which adults learn and grow.

_____ **How Welcoming Is Your Congregation?** How welcoming is your church toward people with disabilities? Are there spoken and unspoken barriers that are keeping people with disabilities from fully participating in church life? Use the Journey of a Congregation to determine your congregation’s overall level of commitment toward the goal of full inclusion.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

It is best to make each and every class session. However, life isn’t always predictable, so if you miss **one** of the five sessions, that’s okay. If you miss two, though, your class cannot count toward becoming a Local or Certified Lay Speaker.

If you have been a Local or Certified Lay Speaker in the past, and would like to re-certify, but it has been three or more years since you took a class, **you will need to begin again by taking the Basic Course.** It is a new curriculum, so you won’t be simply repeating what you have already done.



Winter Class Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Church _____

Pastor _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Child Care is available, but we need to know in advance. Please list:

Number of children _____

Ages of children _____

Please select your interest:

_____ Local Lay Speaker (**MUST** take Basic Course first)

_____ Certified Lay Speaker (Please note the year of your last class _____)

_____ Just want to learn more and grow in my walk with Jesus.

QUESTIONS?

Questions can be directed to: Sue Irwin
574-936-8711(home) 574-952-8711 (cell)
or sue.irwin@inumc.org.