

Lay Leadership Team (Board of Laity)

Purpose

Laity live and work outside the church, in the midst of the ripe harvest fields. The Lay Leadership Team has considered that fact in view of our mandate from Jesus Christ and our church - to make disciples for the transformation of the world. Overlaid on that mandate is the *Discipline*, which calls our team to:

- foster an awareness of the role of the laity in all places
- develop and promote laity stewardship of time, talents and resources
- provide training for Annual Conference lay members
- provide support and direction for lay persons in ministry
- develop local church lay leadership.

2009 Activity and Accomplishments

This past year, members of our team have been involved in a variety of ministries, including: training local church lay leaders; attending charge conferences with their District Superintendents; interacting with clusters in their districts; and praying for and partnering with their District Superintendents. We also have met at various Indiana UM institutions in order to become more familiar with them, and to witness the impact, mission, and resources of the UMC in Indiana. As we have focused on the local church, our excitement has grown. We have learned that we are a group with a wealth of expertise and resources, both inside and outside the church. In addition, our efforts, prayers and brainpower have been multiplied, as our team is now composed of a District Lay Leader and *at least* one Associate District Lay Leader from each of the ten districts.

Our Contribution to Transformation

One of our primary tasks for the next year is getting to know the lay leadership of each of our local churches. In fact, our intention is to help all Indiana laity become better informed, equipped, and connected to one another. To that end:

- we will have a stronger web presence through the INUMC.com website
- we will make an effort to be in contact with all local church lay leaders and lay members so that we can respond to their needs
- we plan to serve as 'connectors' so that laity from churches with ministry needs can connect with laity from churches doing vibrant ministry in those particular areas
- we will continue to improve local church lay leader training
- we will continue to improve the Lay Speaking Program in Indiana, working to overcome the 'speaking only' stigma and to draw more laity to the deep spiritual growth and leadership opportunities in Lay Speaking
- we will prayerfully consider how we might help laity not only live and work in the harvest fields, but become transformational agents in those fields for the Kingdom of God.

It is with joy that we serve Him together.

Ike Williams and Kayc Mykrantz, Co-Conference Lay Leaders