

A Lay Speaker Is

An active supportive member of a United Methodist Church; eager to serve through the church; well-informed on Scripture, doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of The United Methodist Church; committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, care giving ministries, and spoken communication; and willing to improve his/her skills for service.

Local Church Lay Speakers

Serve in and through their local churches; must be recommended by their pastor and Church Council or Charge Conference; and complete the Basic Course for Lay Speaking Ministries. Each year they must reapply reporting how they have served and continued to learn during that year.

Every 3 years they must complete a refresher course.

Certified Lay Speakers

Serve in their own churches ; In other churches; and through district or conference projects and programs. They must be recommended by their pastor and Church Council or Charge Conference, complete The Basic Course and one Advanced Lay Speaking Course; and be interviewed by the District or Conference Committee on Lay Speaking. They must report and reapply annually and they must complete at least one Advanced Course every three years.

**EACH YEAR LAY SPEAKERS
RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT
TO SERVE PURPOSEFULLY.**

To find out more about the lay speaking training, service and support network in your area, contact your

- *Local Church Lay Leader*
- *Pastor*
- *District Director of Lay Speaking Ministries*
- *District Lay Leader*
- *District superintendent*
- *Another Lay Speaker*

If the persons you ask don't have answers to your questions, they will know where to find them.

**YOUR LIFE MAY BE THE ONLY
BIBLE SOME PEOPLE EVER READ.**

For copies of
Lay Ministry Equipping Resources Catalog

call 1-800-972-0433
or visit www.gbod.org/laity
for a downloadable PDF

For other questions contact
General Board of Discipleship,



PO Box 340003
Nashville, TN 37203-0003
Toll free: 877-899-2780, ext. 7013

email: laity@gbod.org
www.gbod.org/laity



Lay Speaking Ministries
in the
United Methodist Church



*“Present yourselves as building stones
for the construction of a sanctuary
vibrant with life, in which you’ll
serve as holy priests offering
Christ-approved lives up to God”
1 Peter 2:5 (The Message)”*

LAY SPEAKERS WITNESS TO THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH BY

Leading

- Stepping forward to develop and improve ministries of service and witness;
- Starting new congregations or Sunday School classes;
- Serving as officers and leaders for administrative and ministry activities and small groups in the church;
- Teaching in church or leading Disciple classes;
- Making opportunities in school, business, and society to witness and serve.

Caring

- Seeking to understand others-their hopes and dreams, their pains and joys;
- Reaching out to others with love in their times of personal crisis;
- Welcoming newcomers to the church and neighborhood;
- Participating in outreach efforts, e.g., visitation in homes, nursing homes, hospitals; prison ministry, or with your organizations;
- Being friends and advocates for persons with handicapping conditions.

Communicating

- Sharing faith stories one-on-one;
- Leading devotions in the church/community;
- Interpreting conference and general church programs;
- Serving as liturgists for worship;
- Pulpit supply. – *with advanced training*

AS THEY SERVE, LAY SPEAKERS ARE SUPPORTED BY

Their Pastors Who

- Cultivate and recruit new lay speakers;
- Nurture their varied gifts and talents;
- Match skills and abilities with service and leadership opportunities;
- Give personal attention and counseling as requested or deemed helpful.

District/Conference Committees On Lay Speaking Who

- Assist in recruiting and in developing service opportunities;
- Oversee the training, interviewing, and certification process;
- Match the availability and capabilities of lay speakers with projects and program needs of the district and conference;
- Support lay speakers as they serve.

District Superintendents Who

- Help lay speakers with spiritual development;
- Work with committees on lay speaking to assure quality training and support and effective interviews;
- Interpret and promote lay speaking at charge conferences and at district clergy meetings;
- Help pastors nurture and support lay speakers;
- Share opportunities for lay speakers to care, lead and communicate.



Other Lay Speakers Who

- Meet for training, enrichment, and fellowship;
- Support each other in witness and service;
- Encourage and guide each other with wisdom coming from their own experience and study.

You Are Ready To Become A Lay Speaker If

- You are ready to share God's love and your faith with others
- You sense God's calling and you are willing to explore it;
- You are willing to go wherever and whenever God calls you;
- You will commit your time and energy to the service of God and your neighbor – in all areas of your life; home, work, community, etc.

**AS LAY SPEAKERS CARE,
LEAD AND COMMUNICATE,
THEY ENCOURAGE, EQUIP, AND
SUPPORT OTHERS FOR DEEPER
COMMITMENT TO CHRIST
AND TO
FAITHFUL DISCIPLESHIP.**