

# What is Lay Servant Ministries?

God calls us all -- laity and clergy alike -- to a life of servanthood as disciples of Jesus Christ. **Lay Servant Ministries** (formerly known as Lay Speaking Ministries) is a long-standing program of the United Methodist Church which helps lay women and men to recognize and use their spiritual gifts so that the missions and purpose of the church may be carried out. Regardless of Congregation size, the program equips and encourages the laity to serve in a variety of roles in partnership with their appointed pastors. Within the church, lay servants may provide assistance, leadership, and support in preaching, teaching, and specialized ministry programs. Outside the church, lay servants may minister to community members in need such as the poor, the sick, or the incarcerated. The Methodist Church was built on laity service. Currently 99.2% of the church is laity. In the earliest days of the Methodist movement, lay preachers were known as "exhorters" who provided pulpit supply for absent pastors. In 1956, the term "lay Speaker" replaced "exhorter." By 1992, the church recognized that laity did much more than public speaking, and expanded the role to include ministries of **leading, caring and communicating**. At the 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church, the name was changed from "Lay Speaking Ministries" to "Lay Servant Ministries."

For more detailed information, visit our web page at:

[www.northtexasumc.org/LayServant](http://www.northtexasumc.org/LayServant)



*For more information about **courses and opportunities for service through Lay Servant Ministries in the North Texas Conference:***

**[www.northtexasumc.org/layservant](http://www.northtexasumc.org/layservant)**

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# Lay Servant Ministries



**Empowering  
LAITY to  
discover their  
unique place in  
ministry to the  
world in their  
active roles of  
Leading,  
Caring &  
Communicating  
The Gospel of  
Jesus Christ  
in THEIR  
Local Church**

# Lay Servants are *Witnessing to* Congregations in the North Texas Conference!

Whether your congregation is small, medium or large, *YOUR laity* can be equipped for discipleship & service through *Lay Servant Ministries*.

When Lay Servants are called, equipped, and effectively deployed, the missional results in the local church and community can empower the *entire laity*, resulting in congregations with “hearts on fire”  
**to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

## Lay Servant Ministries Training

The **Basic Course** and selected **Advanced Courses** are taught in all Districts of the North Texas Conference throughout the year. The **Basic Course** -- which is available in English, Spanish & Korean -- is appropriate for adults and youth. Both the Basic course and Advanced Courses strengthen an understanding of the ministry of all believers through roles of **Leading, Caring** and **Communicating**. Some advanced courses are also offered online through [BeADisciple.com](http://BeADisciple.com).

All United Methodist laity and clergy are invited to participate.

### Advanced Courses for Equipping Lay Servants

- ✓ Core Advanced Course
- Offered online
- \* Meets a requirement for Lay SPEAKER designation
- ◆ Meets a requirement for course instructor accreditation
- + Developed by NTC for “exceptional Credit”

Accountable Discipleship ✓ •  
Afire with God •  
Aging and Ministry...21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Biblical Storytelling •  
Called to Preach  
Caring for the End of Life++  
Caring for Those Who Grieve  
Children of Abraham •  
Class Leaders  
Come to the Table (Holy Communion) •  
Come to the Waters (Baptism) •  
Dancing with Words  
Devotional Life...Wesleyan Tradition ✓ •  
Discover Your Spiritual Gifts ✓ \* •  
Embracing Personal Prayer  
From Your Heart to Theirs...Sermon \*  
God's Mission...Our Journey  
Half-Truths, God Helps Those Who...+  
Holy Spirit Here and Now+

Justice in Every Day Life  
Lay Pastoral Care Giving  
Lay Servants ... Transformational Leaders  
Lay Servants...Conflict Resolution  
Leading Bible Study •  
Leading Public Prayer ✓ \* •  
Leading Missional Small Groups •  
Leading Worship \* •  
Life Together...UM Connection \*  
Liturgies for Healing & Transformation+  
Living Our United Methodist Beliefs \* •  
Multimedia in Worship •  
Patterned by Grace: How Liturgy Shapes Us •  
Planning Worship  
Prepare to Teach ◆  
Teach Adults •◆  
Theology  
Transforming Evangelism •  
You Can Preach \*

## Lay Servant Ministries

The church provides a clear path and educational resources for lay servants. Individuals can become **Certified Lay Servants** by completing the Basic Lay Servant Ministries course and one of 30 advanced courses. Similarly, those who complete advanced tracks of study can become **Certified Lay Speakers** or **Certified Lay Ministers**. The process of becoming certified begins with recommendation by pastor and church council or charge conference; Lay Speakers and Lay Ministers must also obtain higher levels of approval. The process of renewing certification includes submission of an annual report of relevant lay servant activities. **Lay Speakers** fall into one of three categories, along with **Lay Servants** and **Lay Ministers**. Described in the *2016 Book of Discipline*. **Lay Speakers** serve primarily by preaching the Word when requested, thus fulfilling the traditional role of pulpit supply. **Lay Servants** assist in worship services in ways such as distributing the elements of Holy Communion. **Lay Ministers** provide particular service to a pastor as part of a ministry team, for example, by conducting public worship services, caring for the congregation, or developing new faith communities. All lay servants may serve the local church or charge and beyond by preaching, teaching, leading, or supporting specific ministry programs, and conducting meetings for prayer, study, and discussion.

<http://www.northtexasumc.org/lay-servant/lay-servant-ministry->