

Lay Servant Ministries and the new Lay Speaker Track



The Basics

Under the newly titled Lay Servant Ministries program there are no changes to the requirements to become or remain as either Local Church or Certified. The only thing that changed is the new title of Lay Servant rather than Lay Speaker.

The New Step of Lay Speaker

The new "step," if you will, only affects those who feel called to provide pulpit supply (preaching) in the **occasional** absence of a pastor (while on vacation, serving on retreat, mission trip, at a camp, revival, etc.).

Those Certified Lay Servants desiring to provide occasional pulpit supply will need to complete study of six specific courses in order to be recognized as a Lay Speaker. In addition to the Lay Servant Basic Course the required Courses (five regular Advanced Courses and one "short" course) are:

- Discovering Spiritual Gifts
- Leading Prayer
- Preaching (any one of the 3 current courses available)
- United Methodist Heritage (Living Our UM Beliefs)
- *Leading Worship

and *United Methodist Polity (short course)

The courses above preceded by an * are currently in development but the other courses are already in place and being offered throughout the IGRC.

Please NOTE--

To those who have recently completed the Spiritual Gifts Advanced Course which utilizes materials from Willow Creek and was offered by the Mississippi River District: I'm sorry but I need to let you know that course **cannot** be substituted for the *Discovering Spiritual Gifts* Advanced Course approved by the General Board of Discipleship.

The required courses do not have to be taken in any particular order. District Committees of the IGRC may give credit toward the Lay Speaker track requirements for courses already successfully completed in the past three years (2010 and forward).

For those on the Lay Speaker track who may be interested in taking some of these courses online:

Special allowances may be made available. Please contact your District Director for more information and **additionally** follow the guidelines in the first paragraph of the Online Advanced Courses page <http://www.igrc.org/pages/detail/2270> and the guidelines (1, 2, & 3) at the top of the Alternative Courses page <http://www.igrc.org/pages/detail/2630> of the Conference website. Please know that space for each online course is **limited** and that this option may require a **larger financial commitment** than the typical, traditional face to face classroom courses offered in the IGRC.

Initial Lay Speaker Approvals

The Lay Speaker will additionally need to be approved and recommended by the pastor of the local church where their membership is held and by a vote of the Charge Conference.

When the required course work is complete, the individual will be examined/interviewed by the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries. Upon approval by the Conference Lay Servant Ministries Committee the Certified Lay Servant will then additionally be a Lay Speaker of record.

Ongoing Lay Speaker Requirements

As a Certified Lay Servant (CLS) the person must continue to report and re-apply annually fulfilling all of the requirements of a CLS. As a Lay Speaker (LS) the person must additionally re-apply annually for renewal as a Lay Speaker and appear before the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries **every three years** (to complete a "review") plus receive the endorsement of their Local Church Charge Conference in order to be continued.

Your Conference Lay Servant Ministries Committee has developed a brochure to help you understand The New 2013 Lay Servant Ministries/Lay Leadership Development tracks. Please click on this Link <http://www.igrc.org/pages/detail/2089> or copy and paste into your web browser to view and/or print a copy of the brochure.