
The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.

Lay members of The United Methodist Church are, by history and calling, active advocates of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living, as well as the sharing of their own faith experiences, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ.

The ministry of all Christians in Christ's name and spirit is both a gift and a task. The gift is God's unmerited grace; the task is unstinting service.

This class will help you explore your call, discern your spiritual gifts, and explore ways to serve through leading, caring and communicating.



*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession.
You have become this people so that you may speak
of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of
darkness into his amazing light. —1 Peter 2:9*

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web:
www.igrc.org/layservant

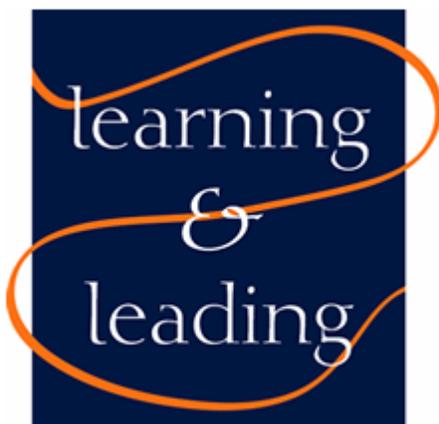
2018 IGRC Lay Servant Ministries

Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course

A foundational course to equip lay leaders in mission and ministry in the local church, the community and beyond



<https://www.igrc.org/layservant>



Why Take the Course?

Every local church needs more lay leaders. An informed, active and empowered laity engages and encourages others to grow spiritually.

This course will help you discern and respond to God's particular call on your life. It encourages you to recognize and employ your spiritual gifts for the church to become what God intended it to be. It invites you to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices and being part of a group that holds members accountable in discipleship. It offers guidelines for optimal communication in leadership and presents numerous types of ministries in which you, as a lay servant, may assume roles. Throughout the study, thoughtful questions provide excellent opportunities for individual consideration and group discussion.

Session Topics

- ◇ **Ministry of the Baptized**
Explore God's call on your life and the need to respond to that call, the meaning and purpose of spiritual gifts and the early Methodist movement and the role of laity.
- ◇ **Leading**
Explore servant leadership, spiritual leadership, spiritual disciplines and their role in authentic Christian living. Develop an understanding of the Means of Grace, the General Rule of Discipleship, Christian conferencing and the discernment process.
- ◇ **Caring**
Study the biblical basis for caring ministry and compare and contrast acts of compassion and acts of justice. Explore a variety of caring ministries in the church and community, such as prayer ministry, prison ministry and Stephen ministry. Work on skills required to be effective in these ministries. Discuss how we care for creation.
- ◇ **Communicating**
Develop effective communication skills and listening skills, practice respectful communication and mutual invitation. Share your faith witness.
- ◇ **Into the World**
Explore how to fulfill the Great Commission in your life, the need for continuous study and spiritual renewal and how to use the Appreciative Inquiry Method.



Training

The "Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course" is the foundational course for individuals wishing to become Certified Lay Servants. But this course can also be used as part of a discipleship plan for anyone in the church to acquaint them with spiritual gifts, calling and responsibilities as followers of Jesus.

Training is offered by district committees of Lay Servant Ministries. It is offered in a variety of formats, times and places.

Check the website for training events. You may take courses in any of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference's districts. Lay Servant Ministries courses are open to all people, depending on space availability.

Please see the website for additional details concerning the Lay Servant Ministries program.

www.igrc.org/layservant