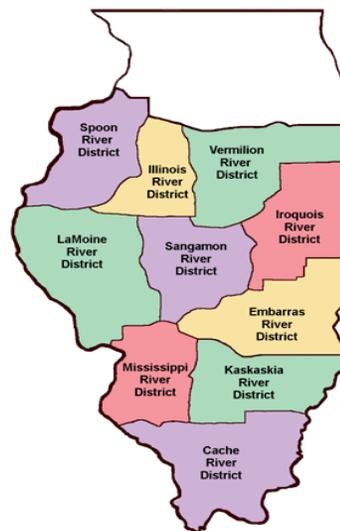




Lay Servant Ministries had its origins in the early organization of the Wesleyan revival in England in the 18th century. With more societies than ordained clergy, John Wesley authorized the use of lay assistants to preach and conduct worship in the absence of clergy. Today there are a wide range of ministries, both in the church and in the world, for lay servants.

The Scriptures and Christian experience point to the importance of proclaiming God's transforming love. Lay servants fill pulpits; lead Bible studies; teach Sunday school; speak at retirement centers, to prisoners and at youth group gatherings; as well as teach and facilitate in other small group settings. Some are involved with crisis ministries or hospital visitation. Others share in caring one-on-one or are involved in a specialized ministry.

Lay Servant Ministries help Christians to claim their spiritual gifts, talents and skills by offering empowering training. This training encourages them to find places to use their God-given gifts in ministry while providing them a network of support.



*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

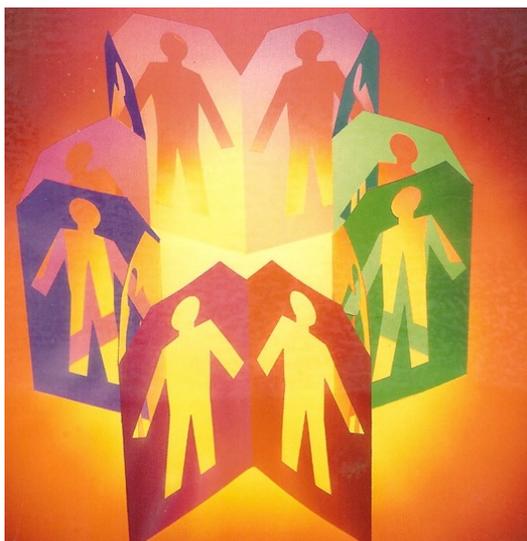
Lay Servant Ministries

In The United Methodist Church
Illinois Great Rivers Conference

Ministry isn't just for clergy; all Christians are called to serve. Explore and discover your unique call in serving God, neighbor and the greater church through Lay Servant Ministries.



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



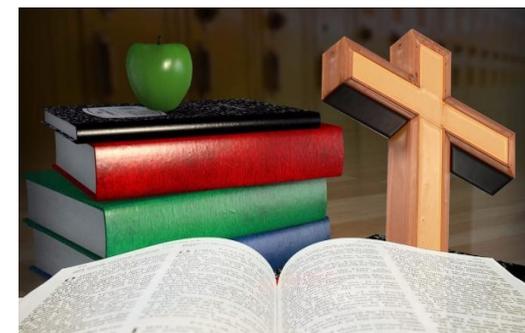
A Lay Servant Is:

- ◆ An **active, supportive member** of a United Methodist Church or a baptized participant of a recognized United Methodist collegiate ministry or other United Methodist ministry setting
- ◆ **Well informed** on and committed to Scripture and the doctrine, heritage, organization and life of The United Methodist Church
- ◆ **Committed** to Christian service that is supported by on-going formal training to witness to the Christian faith through:
 - ◇ Communicating
 - ◇ Leading
 - ◇ Caring

Categories

The 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church established three categories within the Lay Servant Ministries program.

- ◆ **Certified Lay Servant**, who serves the local church or charge (and/or beyond) by
 - ◇ Providing program leadership, assistance and support
 - ◇ Leading meetings for prayer, training, study and discussion
 - ◇ Conducting, or assists in conducting, worship services, preaching the Word, or giving addresses
 - ◇ Providing congregational and community leadership and fostering caring ministries
 - ◇ Assisting in the distribution of the elements of Communion as requested by the pastor
 - ◇ Teaching the Scriptures, doctrine, organization and ministries of The United Methodist Church
- ◆ **Certified Lay Speaker**, who serves by preaching the Word when requested by the pastor, district superintendent or committee on Lay Servant Ministries
- ◆ **Certified Lay Minister**, who serves as a part of a ministry team with supervision and support of a clergy member by
 - ◇ Conducting public worship
 - ◇ Caring for the congregation
 - ◇ Developing new faith communities
 - ◇ Preaching the Word
 - ◇ Leading small groups
 - ◇ Establishing outreach ministries
 - ◇ Serving as a class leader
 - ◇ Engaging in specialized ministries after appropriate training, such as parish nursing, United Methodist Men, children's faith formation, lay missionary and church planting
 - ◇ Assisting in program leadership



Training

District and/or conference committees of Lay Servant Ministries are responsible for training lay servants. An ongoing series of courses are offered. Courses are designed to equip laity for their roles in ministry as disciples of Jesus.

“Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course” is the foundational course for Lay Servant Ministries. It may also be used as part of a discipleship plan for other church lay leaders to acquaint them with their gifts, calling and responsibilities as followers of Christ.

Check the website for training events. You may take courses in any of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference's districts. On-line courses may be available through BeADisciple.com.

There are additional details on the website concerning procedures for applying to the program, requirements for certification, and requirements for renewal.

www.igrc.org/layservant