

## PASTORS

Lay Speakers can be effective in increasing the ministry of your church in almost all areas. Many Lay Speakers feel that they have more to give and would like opportunities to serve. They have taken time to receive extra training toward becoming a better disciple of Christ. Clergy are encouraged to utilize LSMs gifts in the various work areas of your church, they offer a variety talents towards the overall ministry of the Church.

You approve all new candidates going to a Basic Lay Speaking course. Every year at charge conference you also approve all of your Local and Certified Lay Speakers. We as all Pastors want to encourage all LSM to have the opportunities to witness for Jesus Christ, by putting their gifts into action either in the Local Church, District or at the Conference Level.

In case of illness or vacation Lay Speakers can be called upon to fill the pulpit. While all are not gifted in this area, it is important that they be allowed to serve in this manner if they are led to do so. Many of our Lay Speakers have used their experiences as a prelude to full-time ministry. If you do not have anyone in your church to fill the pulpit you can contact the Director of LSM to assist you. We standby to assist in training your leaders. If your church would like to strengthen lay leadership through the Lay Speaking Ministry, either Basic or Advance classes, call or e-mail Vicki Poindexter. Encourage all Leaders to be Lay Speakers.

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

VA Conference Training At Blackstone	Last weekend in February
Bi-District Training Arlington Odd Years Alexandria Even years	October every year

Local Church training as requested. Check District Website for updates.

## DISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES

Lay speakers have many opportunities to witness for Jesus Christ, putting their faith into action.

**Sunrise at Hunters Mills:** Services every Sunday if you would like to be part of the team that conducts these services please contact Jean Banks at [jeanbanks@comcast.net](mailto:jeanbanks@comcast.net)

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We believe God has called us *“to train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ’s body, the church, until we’re all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God’s Son...”*  
(Ephesians 4:12, The Message)

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Lay Speaking Ministries

**Arlington District  
of the  
Virginia Conference**



*Director Lay Speaking Ministries*

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## LAY SPEAKING MINISTRY

The Lay Speaking Ministries is a national program, a strong spiritual force of the UMC across the United States. It is a connecting link for laity between the local church, district and conference.

The Virginia Conference Committee on Lay Speaking Ministries provides training at the conference and district level which reinforces lay people's response to God's call to a life of Christian service. Some courses focus on spiritual practices while others focus on skills, yet the two emphases are incorporated in every course. The UMC leans on the spiritual gifts and talents of laity who witness to God's love as lay speakers.

Lay Speaking Seminars bring together people with similar interests and skills for training, service, accountability and support. We are committed to "equipping God's people for ministry." Courses are offered yearly at the Conference level in February and at the Bi-District level in October. Any church may request training at their church by contacting Vicki Poindexter one of the Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries to set up Basic or Advance classes.

### **Lay Speaking Ministry is more than just speaking!**

This ministry goes beyond filling in for the pastor or speaking in public. Lay Speaking Ministries (LSM) offers many options for serving in roles other than the traditional pulpit supply. Teaching, serving, training, leading, participating, caring, loving, and communicating are integral parts of LSM. With so many avenues of training, LSM offers valuable education equipping United Methodist for all facets of lay ministry.

## HOW TO BECOME A LAY SPEAKER

The first step in the lay speaking process is getting approval from the pastor and church charge conference. Questions they will ask are:

- An Active, supportive member of a UMC
- Eager to serve though the church
- Well-informed on Scripture, and on the doctrine, heritage, organization
- Committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, are giving ministries, and spoken communications
- Willing to improve his/her skills by training for service

The next step is completing the 10-hour Basic Course. after which you are a qualified **Local Church Lay Speaker**. You must submit your paperwork and have charge conference, pastor submit Form 19 and training form to Dr. Cho.

To maintain status as a Local Church Lay Speaker another course must be taken within three years. Taking core courses in Discover Spiritual Gifts, United Methodist Heritage Accountable Disciples are just a few. Then taking classes in you specialty area of leading, Caring or Communicating is highly recommended.

Having completed the Basic Course you are ready to become a **Certified Lay Speaker** which involves, again, obtaining approval from your pastor and Charge Conference, then taking an Advance Course.

Maintain your certification as LSM-

- Must fill out yearly charge conference forms
  - \* Forms must have training form attached
  - \* Forms must be signed by: you, Pastor, DS
- Must take Advance Course every 3 years
  - \* Course must be approved by VA Conference Lay Speaking Director if not in the Discipleship Catalogue-*Lay Ministry Equipping Resources*

If status lapses a 5-hour, one day, Refresher Course is necessary for reinstatement or retake the Basic Course.

## DISCOVER YOUR GOD GIVEN GIFTS AND SHARE THEM WITH THE WORLD

**Leading**—accepting privilege and responsibility: serving on local church, district and conference programs; helping design and facilitate ministries within the church and community; Sunday School, developing study groups on social issues.

**Caring**—meeting needs of the soul: sharing the love of Jesus Christ through service in homeless ministries, health care facilities, shut-ins, one-on-one care, mission trips, crisis ministry, clothing/food pantries, counseling, visitation and hospitality, youth groups, Meals on Wheels etc.

**Communicating**—sharing Good News of God's saving grace though Jesus Christ: leading Bible studies, prayer ministries, youth and children's groups, evening worship services, community programs, retirement centers vespers, prison ministries, filling pulpits, making disciples for Jesus Christ.

The General Board of Discipleship catalogue, *Lay Ministry Equipping Resources* lists all lay speaking courses. Members wishing would benefit from the core courses such as *Discover Spiritual Gifts, United Methodist Heritage, courses on Prayer, Growing Spiritually, Accountable Disciples which are just a few of the Advanced Course we offer.*