

A LAY SPEAKER IS . . .

- ✓ An active, supportive member of a United Methodist church;
- ✓ Eager to serve through the church;
- ✓ Well-informed on Scripture, and on the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of The United Methodist Church;
- ✓ Committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, caregiving ministries, and spoken communication;
- ✓ Willing to improve his/her skills for service.

LOCAL CHURCH LAY SPEAKERS . . .

serve in and through their local churches.

To be recognized as local church lay speakers, they must be recommended by their pastor and Church Council or Charge Conference, and complete the basic course for lay speaking. Each year they must reapply, reporting how they have served and continued to learn during that year.

CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKERS . . .

serve in their own churches, in other churches, and through district or conference projects and programs.

To be recognized as certified lay speakers, they must be recommended by their pastor and Church Council or Charge Conference, complete the basic course and one advanced lay speaking course, and be interviewed by the District or Conference Committee on Lay Speaking. They must report and reapply annually; and they must complete at least one advanced course every three years.



To find out more about the lay speaking training, service, and support network in your area, contact your

- *Local church lay leader*
- *Pastor*
- *District director of lay speaking*
- *District lay leader*
- *District superintendent*
- or
- *Another lay speaker*

If the persons you ask don't have answers to your questions, they will know where to find them.

For additional copies of this brochure, contact:

Lay Speaking Ministry
General Board of Discipleship
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Your life may be
the only Bible
some people ever read.



LAY
SPEAKING
MINISTRY
IN THE
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

LAY SPEAKERS WITNESS TO THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH BY:

CARING:

- ✓ Seeking to understand others — their hopes and dreams, their pains and joys;
- ✓ Reaching out to others with love in their times of personal crisis;
- ✓ Welcoming newcomers to the church and neighborhood;
- ✓ Participating in outreach efforts, e.g., visitation in homes, nursing homes, and hospitals; prison ministry; or work with youth organizations.
- ✓ Being friends and advocates for persons with handicapping conditions.

LEADING:

- ✓ Stepping forward to develop and improve ministries of service and witness;
- ✓ Starting new congregations or new Sunday school classes;
- ✓ Serving as officers and leaders for administrative and ministry activities and small groups in the church;
- ✓ Teaching in church school or leading Disciple classes;
- ✓ Making opportunities in school, business, and society to witness and serve.

COMMUNICATING:

- ✓ Sharing faith stories one-to-one;
- ✓ Leading devotions in the church/community;
- ✓ Interpreting conference and general church programs;
- ✓ Serving as liturgists for worship;
- ✓ Pulpit supply.



AS THEY SERVE, LAY SPEAKERS ARE SUPPORTED BY:

THEIR PASTORS WHO:

- ✓ Cultivate and recruit new lay speakers;
- ✓ Nurture their varied gifts and talents;
- ✓ Match skills and abilities with service and leadership opportunities; and
- ✓ Give personal attention and counseling as requested or deemed helpful.

DISTRICT/CONFERENCE COMMITTEES ON LAY SPEAKING AS THEY:

- ✓ Assist in recruiting and in developing service opportunities;
- ✓ Oversee the training, interviewing, and certification process;
- ✓ Match the availability and capabilities of lay speakers with projects and program needs of the district and conference;
- ✓ Support lay speakers as they serve.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS WHO:

- ✓ Help lay speakers with spiritual development;
- ✓ Work with committees on lay speaking to assure quality training and support and effective interviews;
- ✓ Interpret and promote lay speaking at charge conferences and at district clergy meetings;
- ✓ Help pastors nurture and support lay speakers;
- ✓ Seek out opportunities for lay speakers to care, lead, and communicate.

Each year lay speakers renew their commitment to train purposefully and to serve purposefully.

EACH OTHER WHEN THEY:

- ✓ Meet for training, enrichment, and fellowship;
- ✓ Support each other in witness and service; and
- ✓ Encourage and guide each other with wisdom coming from their own experience and study.

YOU ARE READY TO BECOME A LAY SPEAKER IF:

- ✓ You are ready to share God's love and your faith;
- ✓ You sense God's calling and you are willing to explore it;
- ✓ You are willing to go wherever and whenever God calls you;
- ✓ You will commit your time and energy to the service of God and your neighbor.

**As lay speakers care,
lead, and communicate,
they encourage, equip,
and support others for
deeper commitment
to Christ and to
faithful discipleship.**