



LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

2025 Upcoming Training Opportunities

Fall, 2025 - Virtual Classes

Leading Public Prayer

Date: September 8, 15, 29

Instructor: Jennifer Robinson O'Brien, CLM

Book: [*Let the Whole Church Say Amen!* by Laurence Hull Stookey.](#)

LINK: <https://forms.gle/HnxhPsx987opFjAx9>

Description: This course provides an opportunity to grow in the discipline of leading public prayer. Using *Let the Whole Church Say Amen!* by Laurence Hull Stookey, participants will be challenged to examine their assumptions, expand their understanding, and deepen their prayer life. Designed for those in the lay speaker track of study, this course encourages thoughtful reflection and practical skill development in leading prayer within the church community.

UNITED METHODIST HERITAGE: Living our United Methodist Beliefs

Date: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1 and 10/8 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Instructor: Cindy Banek, CLM

Book: *Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way* Kenneth L. Carder

Link: <https://forms.gle/J85FZreSCGsDqmzy8>

Description: This course will explore the special gifts of theology, witness, and organization that The United Methodist Church brings to the church universal, how we got where we are today, and how our distinctive emphases are still needed in the 21st-century church. This is a required course in the lay speaker track of study.

Safer Sanctuaries

Date: Thursday, September 25 (6:30-8:30pm)

Instructor: Cindy Banek, CLM

LINK: <http://bit.ly/4fSmtL0>

This two-hour training provides a scriptural foundation for safeguarding our most vulnerable populations—children and the elderly. Participants will learn practical steps for creating safe environments and responding appropriately in the event of a safety concern. Designed for immediate application, this course equips individuals with essential tools and best practices. It is especially recommended for those working directly with children.

UNITED METHODIST POLITY: Life Together in the United Methodist Connection

Date: TBD

Instructor: TBD

Book: The Method of our Mission by Lacey Warner

Description: This course gives participants an overview of the structure and organization of The United Methodist Church. A copy of the Book of Discipline is recommended for this course. This is a required course in the lay speaker track of study.

Fall, 2025 - One Day In Person Classes

October 4, 2025 at Crooks Memorial UMC, Yorktown

[Registration Link](#)

BASIC Class

Date: October 4th

Instructor: Rev Brian Sixbey

Book: [Lay Servant Ministries BASIC course](#)

Description: This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and 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 their discipleship. This class is required for all Lay Servant Ministry Certifications.

Accountable Discipleship

Date: October 4th

Instructor: Rev David Hindman

Book: [Accountable Discipleship: Living in God's Household](#) by [Steven W. Manskar](#)

Description: This course focuses on the concept of the household of God, Scripture as divine revelation, Wesleyan understandings of grace, and the importance of the class leader in the development of the Methodist movement.

In Ministry with the Forgotten

Date: October 4th

Instructor: Martha Stokes, Conference Lay Leader

Book: [Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia through a Spiritual Lens](#) by [Kenneth L. Carder](#)

Description: This course equips both laity and clergy with a deeper understanding of individuals living with dementia, affirming their identity and worth as beloved children of God. Using *Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia through a Spiritual Lens* by Kenneth L. Carder, participants will explore the personal and theological challenges of loving and caring for those with dementia. The course calls the church to a deeper discipleship, defined by compassionate relationships and shared community. Through practices that

nurture and integrate individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia into the church's life and ministry, participants will discover a spiritual wholeness rooted in God's grace beyond human limitations.

Called to Preach

Date: October 4th

Instructor: Rev. Archana Samuel

Book: [From Pew to Pulpit by Clifton F. Guthrie](#)

Description: Called to Preach is designed for those who have not completed formal preaching training, for pastors seeking a basic refresher course, and for others who are called upon to preach in a pastor's absence. Called to Preach is the required preaching course in the lay speaker track of study.