

SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE  
THE UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH



## “Equipping God’s People”

for  
Leadership in the  
Church



## As we transition into the Lay Servant model....

... persons who are already lay speakers or certified lay speakers are “grand-parented” into the new model. To continue in those roles, they will need to be renewed and recertified by completing the new recertification courses now being developed.

...In an effort to make our Lay Servant process simpler yet effective, “**Equipping God’s People**” will be the basic course requirement for our Susquehanna Conference. For information about Equipping God’s People courses being offered, contact your District Office or go to the Leadership Development page on the conference website, [www.susumc.org](http://www.susumc.org).

### Please Note:

Although we are offering this course as the requirements for Lay Servant classes, “Equipping God’s People” can be used to train quality transformational lay leaders. Individuals or churches can benefit from the training experience!



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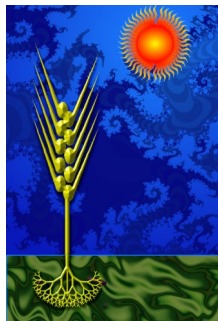
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# Lay Servant Ministries and Beyond

In 2012 the General Conference of The United Methodist Church approved legislation to change the name of Lay Speaking Ministries to **Lay Servant Ministries**. The new name was chosen to better define the role of those laity who wished to help lead in church beyond speaking alone.

The term “servant” best describes what Jesus told his disciples in John 13 after he himself had performed the duties of the lowliest servant. Just as Jesus called his disciples into service, we are called to live out our lives as servant leaders in the life of the church today.

Lay Servants can choose from different levels of training, all of which will help our churches raise up quality transformational leaders who can help our churches in their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!!



## The Lay Servant Journey...

The following describe three levels of Lay Servant Ministry. Lay persons are encouraged to grow in their leadership skills by beginning as a Local Church Lay Servant. For those who want to continue to deepen their leadership role, they may next become Certified Lay Servants. For those who desire to fill the pulpit as a Lay Speaker, additional course work is required. Below are the steps and requirements.

### Local Church Lay Servant

Serves primarily in the local congregation

#### Requirements

1. Pastor and charge conference approval
2. Complete Modules 1-4 of “Equipping God’s People” course
3. File annual report to charge conference
4. Complete a re-fresher course every 3 years

### Certified Lay Servant

Serves in the local congregation and beyond

#### Requirements

1. Pastor and charge conference approval
2. Complete Modules 1-8 of “Equipping God’s People” course
3. File annual report to charge conference
4. Complete a refresher certified lay servant course every 3 years

### Lay Speaker

Certified Lay Servants who provide pulpit supply

#### Requirements

1. Pastor and charge conference approval
2. Complete 8 modules of “Equipping God’s People”
3. Complete required courses for lay speaker
4. Interview with District Committee on Lay Servant Ministry
5. Approval by Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries
6. File annual report
7. Complete a certified lay servant course every three years and Interview with District Committee on Lay Servant Ministry