

The following Lay Servant Ministry course synopses are taken from the “**2015 Lay Servant Ministries Equipping Resources Catalog**”, published by Discipleship Ministries (formerly GBOD) of The United Methodist Church.

## **BASIC COURSE**

### **Lay Servant Ministries BASIC Course**

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.

## **BASIC REFRESHER COURSES**

### **Concepts in Leadership I**

This course is designed to prepare church leaders to focus on their roles as spiritual leaders and to function as role models for others in the congregation. Although this course is designed as a refresher course for local church Lay Servants, it may also be used for leadership development in any setting. This includes the following two modules:

- What Every Leader Needs to Know About Leading in Prayer
- What Every Leader Needs to Know About Leading Meetings

### **Concepts in Leadership II \***

This course is designed to prepare church leaders to focus on their roles as spiritual leaders and to function as role models for others in the congregation. Although this course is designed as a refresher course for local church Lay Servants, it may also be used for leadership development in any setting. This includes the following two modules:

- What Every Leader Needs to Know About Mission and Vision
- What Every Leader Needs to Know About Spiritual Leadership

### **Opening Ourselves to Grace \***

*Opening Ourselves to Grace* explores the basic practices of Christian faith and life from a Wesleyan perspective. This resource includes both a DVD and a CD - ROM with video content and written resources including a video presentation on Wesley’s understanding of spiritual practice, Bible study, and other helpful resources.

### **Pentecost Journey \***

This resource is intended to help congregations, districts, and conferences fulfill Christ’s mandate to make disciples with a particular focus on helping local churches understand issues related to developing ministry with Hispanics/Latinos. The guiding principle is the vision of Pentecost in which the uniqueness of the Hispanic/Latino cultures is affirmed as ministry is developed.

## **ADVANCED COURSES**

### **Discover Your Spiritual Gifts**

This course helps participants understand spiritual gifts and how the church can use them to fulfill its mission and ministry. Participants will also learn what it means to be a spiritual leader and will be equipped to lead others in exploring and using their spiritual gifts.

## **Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (United Methodist Heritage)**

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.

## **Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition**

Structured around Wesley's "Means of Grace," this study covers, among other topics, prayer, scripture, the Lord's Supper, and fasting – major features in John Wesley's devotional life. Participants will learn how they can apply Wesley's ministry to their own life.

## **Growing Spiritually Through Daily Disciplines**

During this course, participants will be guided in discerning God's direction for their lives, practicing daily disciplines, and reaching out in love.

## **Transforming Evangelism**

This course leads participants to learn from John Wesley how to practice relational evangelism. They will discover that evangelism involves not only sharing our faith with others but also welcoming people into a community where they can grow in faith.

## **Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (United Methodist Polity)**

This polity course gives participants an overview of the structure and organization of The United Methodist Church.

## **Accountable Discipleship \***

This course focuses on the concept of the household of God, the importance of scripture as divine revelation, Wesleyan understandings of grace, and the importance of the office of class leader in the development of the Methodist movement. You are encouraged to look at your own faith community and see how it is (or is not) a reflection of genuine Christian community.

## **Class Leaders \***

This course will explore the origins of the office of class leader in the Wesleyan Methodist tradition. It examines the need for recovering the lay pastoral ministry of the class leader for the twenty - first century church. NOTE: *Accountable Discipleship* is a prerequisite to this course.

## **Justice in Everyday Life \***

This course looks at the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church.

## **Leading Worship**

This course focuses on the ministry of the Lay Servant who either regularly or occasionally leads a group or congregation in worship.

## **Planning Worship**

This course builds on the course *Leading Worship*, and it is grounded in the principles and practices of worship planning.

## **Leading in Prayer**

For many people, prayer remains a mystery, and praying in public is a test of faith left to the "professionals" of the church. This course on praying in public will help the participant grow in confidence and skill in prayer, both public and personal.

## **You Can Preach!**

This course 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.

## **Lay Pastoral Care Giving**

How do you learn to care for others in the community – whether the community of faith or the extended community? Some people seem to have natural gifts, but most can learn to improve their caring skills. This course offers insights into the life span and the dynamics of contemporary life to help church leaders reach out with God's love and care to others.

## **Dancing with Words**

Participants in the course will learn what constitutes a good story, discover storytelling styles, learn the techniques of effective storytelling, and practice creating stories from their experiences.

## **Aging and Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

This is a practical guide for building ministry for older adults.

## **Afire with God \***

This course helps participants develop a holistic understanding of stewardship.

## **Start Here \***

This course is designed to help provide a basic understanding of the ways in which adults learn and grow.

Notes:

\* These courses will require that this district take the time to prepare an instructor or obtain an instructor from another district, as we have no instructors prepared to deliver these courses at this time. *July 2015*