

Training Resources – from the
General Board of Discipleship

Basic Course for Adults

- Adult Refresher Basic (new '07)
- Youth Basic Course

Advance Courses

- Leading in Prayer (new '07)
- Teach Adults
- Lead Small Groups
- Are Servant Leaders
- Discover Spiritual Gifts
- Lead Bible Study
- Disciple-Making Faith Communities
- Cultivate Christian Community
- Justice in Everyday Life (new '07)
- Lead in Evangelism
- Are Accountable Disciples
- Interpret Our UM Heritage
- Grow Through Daily Discipline
- Lead in Mission Outreach
- Lead in Stewardship
- Ministry of Caring (revised '07)
- Preach
- From Your Heart to Theirs (new '08)
- Tell Stories
- Lead in Worship

Korean Basic Course (available only on line)

Hispanic Resources

- Al interpretar nuestra herencia metodista Unida (Interpret Our UM Heritage)
- La formacion espiritual a traves de la disciplina diaria (Grow Spiritually through Daily Discipline)
- Nuestro liderato como evangelistas (Lay Speakers Lead in Evangelism)

For courses being offered in Districts see the Conference Web Site www.ngumc.org/lay_ministries
Questions? Contact District Director or Conf.Direct.

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NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE
of the
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2008

*“The Heart of the Matter: Do No Harm,
Do Good, Stay in Love with God.”*

LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES



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Lay Speaking - Overview

One of the four key priorities emerging from the Council of Bishops' "Seven Vision Pathways" for transformation of the United Methodist Church is developing new leaders. Lay speaking ministries is one of the most effective ways of developing faithful leaders, is an active response to Lovett Weems' statement "Young leadership is needed not to preserve a fading past but to help shape an emerging church that engages the world for Christ, transforming lives and communities."

Lay speaking brings together people with similar interests and skills for training, service, accountability and support in local churches, in districts, in conferences and in ministries beyond the church. Courses are a *minimum* of 12 hours divided over 3 or 4 sessions, while some districts offer five sessions and more time. Meeting times vary from week nights to Saturdays; the 12 districts use centrally located churches for the seminars. All course facilitators are certified lay speaking instructors (laity and clergy). The District Directors and their Associates are responsible for selecting courses. All districts offer courses semi-annually, in the spring and the fall. Also, lay persons may take courses in other districts beyond their own district.

The General Board of Discipleship's catalogue, LAY MINISTRY Equipping Resources 2008, lists all lay speaking courses. Many advanced courses are listed as *Learning & Leading courses* which means they can be used by local church groups who wish to become better Christian leaders but are not interested in becoming lay speakers. Often a person, not currently a lay speaker, may decide to pursue

lay speaking once experiencing the courses.

Lay Speaking Ministries in The Discipline
The United Methodist Discipline-2004 provides for Lay Speaking Ministries in paragraphs 267, 268 and 269 with two levels of lay speakers: **Local Church** and **Certified**.

A lay person attains **Local Church Lay Speaker** status after he/she has: [1] made application by submitting (in writing) the lay speaker annual report to the district committee on lay speaking ministries. The candidate must be recommended by the pastor and the church/charge conference of his/her local church and [2] complete the Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course.

A Local Church Lay Speaker becomes a **Certified Lay Speaker** after completing the following: [1] make application in writing to the District Committee on LSM, having been recommended by the pastor and the church-charge conference of his/her local church; [2] complete one advanced training course with approval of the Instructor and District Director of LSM; and [3] have your qualifications reviewed and approved by the District Committee on Lay Speaking Ministries.

Both Local Church and Certified lay speakers must submit an annual report to their charge conference for approval as lay speakers. To maintain continuous status a new course must be completed at least once every three years: for Local Church either a refresher course or repeat the Basic course, for the Certified Lay Speaker an Advance course. Some lay speakers have opted to pursue the local pastor license while others have heard the call to full-time clergy ordination.

The District and Conference Leaders who guide the program have a commitment to the highest quality of lay speaking ministries. 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*)

In the twelve districts of the North Georgia Conference, from 441 congregations, there are 501 Local Church Lay Speakers and 999 Certified Lay Speakers.

Lay Speakers in Service...

Leading – sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ: serving on local church, district and conference committees; helping design and facilitate programs within the church and community; Sunday School, organizing and developing study groups on social issues.

Caring – sharing the love of Jesus Christ: giving love and 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 the Word and making disciples for Jesus Christ: leading Bible studies, prayer ministries, youth and children's groups, evening worship services, community programs, retirement centers, prison ministries; filling pulpits.

As Lay Speakers we adopt the 2008 Annual Conference theme to "Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God," and guided by the Holy Spirit we look forward to the new year and its challenges.