



# Pittsburgh District Lay Servant Ministries School Fall 2023

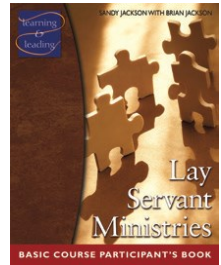
Lay Servant Ministries is a program to provide training opportunities and experiences to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to realize and respond to their personal call to ministry. Since each disciple is 'gifted' with one or more spiritual gifts (skills given by the Holy Spirit for the express purpose of serving the body of believers and thereby God), Lay Servant Ministries strives to help disciples become aware of their particular gift or gifts by offering educational events to enhance and develop the skill level necessary for the full fruition of these gifts. It is an excellent vehicle for servant ministry skill development and has aided thousands of church members to be better servants of Jesus Christ, to become stronger church family leaders, and to more capably assist their pastors.

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- ◆ Classes are open to everyone, not just Lay Servants
- ◆ The Book of Discipline (§251) urges Church Lay Leaders to become Certified Lay Servants
- ◆ **Class date, time and location depend on the class; check the dates, times and location for your course carefully. Each class is designed to provide 10 hours of training and is therefore held over multiple sessions.**
- ◆ The cost per class is \$15, no matter what platform, plus you need to purchase the book(s) required for your class. If you need financial assistance, please contact your church or the Pittsburgh District Office. The District Office has some of the course books available for purchase and will mail them to you. See each course for the books that are available.
- ◆ Please register and pay no later than 1 week before your class begins. Be sure to order and receive your course book so you begin reading it prior to attending class.
- ◆ All Pittsburgh District Certified Lay Servants & Certified Lay Speakers must take a class at least every 3 years. Send documentation to the district office for classes taken outside of the Pittsburgh District Lay Servant Ministries School.

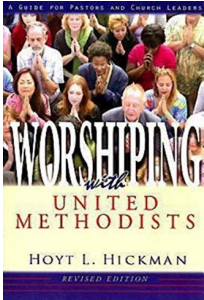
## The BASIC Course

- Instructor:** Rev. Matt Price ([pricemf11@gmail.com](mailto:pricemf11@gmail.com), (412) 532-6157)
- Location:** In person at Coraopolis UMC (1205 Ridge Ave, Coraopolis), online, or hybrid
- Book:** *Lay Servant Ministries, Basic Course Participant's Book* by Sandra Jackson and Brian Jackson (**the District Office has 2 books, \$9 each**)
- When:** Saturdays, 9/30 & 10/14, 9am - 2:30pm (bring lunch)



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.

## Leading Worship

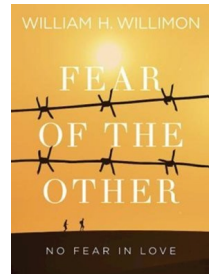


- Instructor:** Rev. Joshua Demi ([joshua.p.demi@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.p.demi@gmail.com))
- Location:** In person at Coraopolis UMC (1205 Ridge Ave, Coraopolis), online, or hybrid
- Book:** *Worshiping with United Methodists* by Hoyt Hickman (**the District Office has 2 books, \$13 each**)
- When:** Saturdays, 10/28, 11/4 & 11/11, 2 - 5:30pm

This course focuses on the ministry of the Lay Servant who either regularly or occasionally leads a group, class, organization, or the congregation in worship. The course is grounded in the classic patterns of Christian worship and the practices of leading worship. Participants will come to understand more about Christian worship in order to lead worship with more confidence. They will practice leading worship in a variety of formats throughout the course.

## Fear of the Other

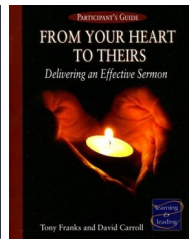
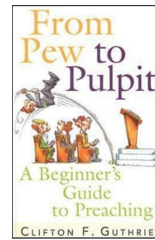
- Instructor:** Peggy Ward, [pdward11@gmail.com](mailto:pdward11@gmail.com), and TBD
- Location:** In person at Dutilh UMC (1270 Dutilh Rd, Cranberry Twp.), online, or hybrid
- Book:** *Fear of The Other: No Fear in Love* by Will Willimon
- When:** Friday, November 17, 6-9pm & Saturday, November 18, 9am-5pm



This is the first course in the Conference Lay Servant Ministry courses on dismantling racism. In this no nonsense book, a reliable spiritual guide, Will Willimon invites readers to consider the gospel command to love (and not merely tolerate) those considered to be "Other" or outside mainstream Christian culture. Rooted in the faith of Israel and the Christian story and vision, Willimon brings a Wesleyan perspective to bear on what may be the hardest thing for people of faith to do: keeping and loving the "Other" as they are - without any need for them to become like us. Emphasizing biblical teaching to receive Others for who they are and their differences as gifts and mysteries bearing the grace of God, Willimon also offers a strong critique of the privileged who all too often rush to speak of reconciliation and evade the injustice of huge inequalities faced by foreigners and strangers - as well as the antagonism the stranger experiences. He identifies concrete, everyday ways persons are formed in welcoming others without annihilating their differences...Beyond welcome, Christians must become "other" to the world, shaking off the dominant culture's identity and privilege through practices of listening, humility, and understanding.

## From your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon

- Instructor:** Rev. Dennis Lawton ([revlawton@yahoo.ie](mailto:revlawton@yahoo.ie), 814-706-8164)
- Location:** In person only at Coraopolis UMC (1205 Ridge Ave, Coraopolis)
- Books:** *From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon, Participant's Book* by Tony Franks and David Carroll and *From Pew to Pulpit: A Beginner's Guide to Preaching* by Clifton F. Guthrie **(the District Office has 2 *From Pew to Pulpit* books , \$10 each)**
- When:** Sundays, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22 & 10/29, 2 - 4pm



Classes will focus on: exploring the variety of speaking opportunities, finding a narrative and inviting others into that narrative, using technology to reach beyond our physical space, being guided by Scripture, utilizing hymnal and prayer resources to aid development of the message, writing with the end in mind, preparing messages, presenting in person and online material, and evaluating our effectiveness. Work outside of class will be required.

### FALL 2023 PITTSBURGH DISTRICT LAY SERVANT MINISTRY CLASSES

You are welcome to register for more than one class. Register at least 1 week prior to the start of your class at [wpaumc.org/pittsburghdistrictnews](http://wpaumc.org/pittsburghdistrictnews) or by using this form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Your District: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Choose Your Course(s):

- The BASIC Course
- Leading Worship
- Delivering Sermons
- Fear of the Other

#### I am taking this course:

- to become or remain a Certified Lay Servant
- to become or remain a Certified Lay Speaker
- for self-enrichment

Pastor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR PAYMENT SHOULD BE MAILED/POST MARKED NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE START OF YOUR CLASS**

Checks should be made payable to: "Pittsburgh District" and mailed with your registration to:  
Attn: Fall 2023 Lay Servant Ministries, Pittsburgh District Office, 3487 Route 130, Irwin, PA 15642

## ***What is Lay Servant Ministry?***

Lay servant ministry is a United Methodist method for lay leadership development. These courses are designed to help people develop their skills in leadership, communication, and care-giving. They also increase opportunities to be in ministry with others.

The school is not just for those looking to preach. Lay Servant Ministries strives to help disciples become aware of their particular gift or gifts by offering educational events to enhance and develop these talents. It is an excellent vehicle for anyone to develop servant ministry skills.

**Certified Lay Servant:** Serves in the local congregation and beyond

### **Requirements:**

- 1) Pastor and charge conference approval
- 2) Complete the Basic Course in LSM
- 3) Complete an advanced course
- 4) Request recognition of the position via the Lay Servant's annual report
- 5) Take a refresher or advanced course every 3 years

**Certified Lay Speaker:** Lay Servants who are certified to speak from the pulpit

### **Requirements:**

Meet all the requirements for certified lay servant. Must interview to (re)certify with the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries every 3 years and complete one course from each of the following subject categories:

- 1) Discovering Spiritual Gifts
- 2) Leading Prayer
- 3) Preaching
- 4) United Methodist Heritage
- 5) Leading Worship
- 6) United Methodist Polity

## **Pittsburgh District of the Western PA Annual Conference**

3487 Route 130, Irwin, PA 15642

Phone: 724.461.7178

E-mail: [pittsburgh.office@wpaumc.org](mailto:pittsburgh.office@wpaumc.org)

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