

January 15, 2018

"You must continue with the things you have learned and found convincing. You know who taught you. Since childhood you have known the holy scriptures that help you to be wise in a way that leads to salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus. Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good."

~ 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (Common English Bible)

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

The Wilmington District is offering a Spring Lay Servant Academy session again this year. The District Board of Lay Ministries hopes you will seize upon this opportunity to participate in a Lay Servant course. The Lay Servant Academy is one of the most significant lay leadership development and discipleship programs available within the United Methodist connection. Through this system of equipping and empowering, Lay Servants have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who go on to make other disciples with the goal of transforming our world!

Thanks to the welcoming hospitality of Pastor Chris Pennington and the congregation at Aldersgate, we are offering Tuesday evening classes at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Additionally, on Thursday evenings, we are offering classes at Elkton United Methodist Church, centrally located in the Wilmington District, thanks again to the hospitality of Pastor Karen Bunnell and the congregation at Elkton.

On the Wilmington District – Lay Servant Academy website [[Wilmington District - Lay Servant Academy](#)] you will find a brief description of each course offered and the link to the online registration form. Please review the information and complete the online registration with your payment submitted to our registrar by March 31, 2018. This helps our instructors and the Lay Academy team to prepare any additional resources and materials ensuring an adequate supply for each Lay Academy participant.

Please review the course selections and pray for the Holy Spirit's direction. Apply early to help us prepare by ordering an accurate number of books and supplies for each class. This Spring, the Lay Servant Academy Registration will be completed online: [Lay Academy Registration - Spring 2018](#)

Please fill out your online registration form completely. This information is very important in keeping our records up to date. Your correct phone numbers and email address are especially helpful if we have need to contact you with important information. Also, for advanced courses, indicate a second-choice course to attend in the unlikely event we need to cancel a particular advanced course.

The Lay Servant Academy is open to all with a desire to learn, participants do not have to be Methodist, a Lay Servant, or wish to become certified to take any of these courses. All classes are open to anyone who wishes to expand their knowledge of any of the subjects offered and engage with other disciples of Jesus Christ. If you know of someone who might enjoy taking one of these courses, please forward them a copy of this information and have them complete the online registration.

The Lay Academy starts at 7:00 and runs until 9:30 PM for five weeks. On the first night, check in at the registration desk by 6:45 PM to obtain your book and any additional materials. The registration desk opens beginning at 6:30 PM the first night of classes. After registration some brief instructions will be shared with the entire group, prior to going to your individual classes.

We sincerely hope to see you at the Lay Academy this Spring!

Yours in Christ,

Ivan Turner, Jr.

*Director, Lay Servant Academy
Wilmington District*

Hal Barker

*Director, Lay Servant Ministries
Peninsula-Delaware Conference*

Spring 2018 Wilmington District Lay Servant Academy Course Offerings

Locations:

- Aldersgate UMC, Tuesday Evenings (7-9:30 PM): 4/17/2018 - 5/15/2018
- Elkton UMC, Thursday Evenings (7-9:30 PM): 4/19/2018 - 5/17/2018

Basic - Lay Servant Ministries (available both Tuesday and Thursday)

God calls every Christian to a life of servanthood as a disciple of Jesus Christ. The Basic Course, introduces and develops processes that help individuals discern and respond to God's call on their lives. By encouraging each person to recognize and apply his or her spiritual gifts for the mission and ministry of the church, the church becomes what God intended it to be. This course invites participants 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 discipleship. It offers guidelines for optimal communication in leadership and presents numerous types of ministries in which lay servants may assume roles. Throughout the study, thoughtful questions provide excellent opportunities for individual consideration and group discussion.

Advanced Courses

Lay Servants Practice Pastoral Care (available Tuesday only)

This Advanced Lay Servant course explores how the Lay Servant learns to care for others in the community of faith and the greater, extended community. Often the dynamics of contemporary life prevent the Lay Servant from reaching out in God's love and caring for others. Most of Lay Servants will find these practices developed in this course helpful to be a better care giver and improve their caring skills. This course offers a systemic way for caring to happen allowing committed Lay Servants to find personal respite in the use of caring gifts among those in need of an encounter with God's compassion.

Lay Servants Lead Worship (available Tuesday only)

This Advanced Lay Servant course focuses on the ministry of the Lay Servant who regularly or occasionally leads 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 by practicing leading worship in a variety of formats throughout the course.

Social Principles (available Thursday only)

This Advanced Lay Servant course is designed to help the Lay Servant examine "The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church" as contained in the official text of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016*. The Social Principles Advanced Course provides the Lay Servant opportunities to examine their own theology and ethics and to apply these values to their personal discipleship practices. The product of ninety-eight years of legislative decisions made by lay and clergy members of The United Methodist Church and its predecessor denominations, our Social Principles are prayerful and thoughtful efforts on the part of many General Conferences to speak to complex and controversial issues in the global community.

Vital Conversations for Vital Churches! (available on both Tuesday and Thursday)

In these times, when society seems divided along lines of ideology, race, culture, and ethnicity, the Vital Conversations Advanced Lay Servant course features contemporary theologians, sociologists, laity, clergy and others dealing with challenges of race, culture and oppression in the church and world. This Advanced Lay Servant course, developed by the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR), helps the Lay Servant to face fears, misunderstandings and tensions, inspiring the Lay Servant to discuss and work with others toward healing, spiritual, community and social transformation. By encouraging United Methodists (and other Christians) have serious, challenging and in-depth conversations about racial and cultural divisions, the Lay Servant and the church can become catalysts for justice, reconciliation and understanding, in the local community and beyond.

For Questions or to ask additional information contact:

- Lay Servant Academy, Wilmington District [layservantacademy.wilmdist@gmail.com]

Locations for Wilmington District Lay Servant Academy, Spring 2018

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Tuesday Evenings: 4/17/2018 - 5/15/2018

<u>Course</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Location</u>
Basic	Tuesday	Aldersgate United Methodist Church 2313 Concord Pike Wilmington, DE 19803
Lay Servants (Pastoral Care)	Tuesday	
Lay Servants Lead Worship	Tuesday	
Vital Conversations	Tuesday	

Thursday Evenings: 4/19/2018 - 5/17/2018

<u>Course</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Location</u>
Basic	Thursday	Elkton United Methodist Church 219 East Main Street Elkton, MD 21921
Social Principles	Thursday	
Vital Conversations	Thursday	

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