

Lay Servant Academy 2021

August Online Training Day!

Course Descriptions

Basic Course (10-hour course)

Course Instructor: Richard Speirs

Full Day Course: 8:45AM-4:00PM

Course Description: This course is the foundation for all other Learning and Leading courses. In this course you are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended. Participants are invited 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. This course offers guidelines for best practices as a church leader and in mission and ministry in the community and in daily life.

Required Reading: Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course: ISBN: DR626 • 978-0-88177-626-3. Books may be purchased at Cokesbury.com or bookstore.upperroom.org.

**This course provides Certification credit and renewal credit for Certified Lay Servants and Certified Lay Speakers.*

For the Common Good: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts

(10-hour course)

Course Instructor: Larry Jent

Full Day Course: 8:45AM-4:00PM

Course Description: This course offers a scriptural understanding of spiritual gifts as always given “for the common good.” By helping participants identify and link their gifts, abilities, and sense of calling, laity will learn the powerful connection between spiritual gifts and vocational discernment in the context of the mission of their local church. They will also learn how to make spiritual gifts discernment a part of their congregation’s culture and commitment to equip mission-focused leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Required Reading: For the Common Good: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts--Christine Harman, Participant’s Book • DR958 • 978-0-88177-958-5 • \$14.00

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Serving 101—Missional Leadership (*10-hour course*)

Course Instructor: RJ Jun

Full Day Course: 8:45AM-4:00PM

Course Description: Serving 101 is designed to equip and develop missional leadership in our conference. When we are able to show God's call to mission in the life of our leaders, we believe that will directly impact the missional experience of our local churches. This course has the potential to become accredited as a lay servant ministry elective course. Serving 101 is an 8-hour interactive course, designed to be an elective of Mission Encounter. Each session, a 2-hour workshop, will be led by different instructors who will share a basic understanding of the missional work of the Virginia United Methodist Churches.

Required Book: The Mission of God's People – Christopher Wright.

This book can be purchased on Amazon here: [The Mission Of God's People](#)

**This course provides renewal credit for Certified Lay Servants and Certified Lay Speakers*

Discernment and Prayer Through Transition (*9:30AM-11:30AM*)

Course Instructor: Maria Maxwell

Course Description: Participants are invited to consider the importance of prayer as a spiritual foundation for discernment in the midst of transition. We will discuss components of Breakthrough prayer both on a personal and corporate level. We will look at how the practice of prayer and servant leadership can help ease the tension during liminal times.

Suggested Reading Material: Open Road by Sue Nilson Kibbey

Certified Lay Minister (CLM) Orientation (*Half- Day course*)

Course Instructor: Rev. Joanna Dietz

Two Class Times Available: 9:30AM-11:30AM OR 1:00PM-3:00PM

Course Description: This 2 hour orientation is designed to provide the support structure required during CLM training for those who have begun the training as well as for those who are considering the training. We will spend time learning expectations of becoming a CLM while creating a network of peers who are also moving toward certification. This cohort will continue to support one another throughout the educational process (1-4 years) while learning how CLMs are functioning in the Virginia Conference.

Suggested Reading: Roots and Routes by Randy Litchfield & Parttime is Plenty by G. Jeffrey MacDonald.

Between the Gospels and Paul – How to read your Bible

(9:30AM-12:30PM)

Course Instructors: Nickie Moreno Howard & David Jimenez-Cardenas

Course Description: In this course you will learn how to read and understand your Bible, particularly when it comes to the Gospels and Paul's letters. You will learn about the different approaches to do a holistic exegesis and to get to the heart of the authors and what they meant. Likewise, you will learn to approach the Gospels from different reading perspectives (i.e., narratological, historical, etc.) to discover God's word for you and your congregation. Additionally, you will learn the dangers and pitfalls of misinterpreting them and the possible implications for stable theological foundations.

Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition (Spanish)

(8:45AM-4:00PM--Full-Day Course)

Course Instructor: Chad Thomas Beck

Course Description: Estructurado sobre "los medios de gracia" de Wesley, este estudio trata, entre otros temas, la oración, Escritura, la Cena del Señor y el ayuno, los cuales son elementos principales de la vida devocional de Juan Wesley. Los participantes aprenderán como aplicar el ministerio de Wesley a sus propias vidas.

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.

Required Reading Material: *La vida de devoción en la tradición wesleyana*--By Steve Harper--Translated and Contextualized by Mary Lou Santillan-Baert

UpperRoom.org/store Libro del Participante • 876 • 978-0-8358-0876-7 • \$8.99

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