

Lay Servant Academy 2025

Lay Servant Academy **VIRTUAL** Winter Training

*February 21st & 22nd *including a Lenten Sacraments Course that begins March 3rd AND A 5 week course on Ministry with the forgotten.*

Virtual Only

Registration Fee **per course: \$30.00/\$15.00**



February 21st & 22nd Course Offerings

You may sign up for only one course on Feb. 21st and 22nd

Basic Course

(10-hour course)

Instructor: Rev Seungsoo "RJ" Jun

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--

<https://upperroombooks.com/book/lay-servant-ministries-basic-courseparticipants-book/>

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

Note: *2 hours of class time prior to class should be spent on reading the required materials for the class! *This applies only to those who are working towards Lay Servant Certifications or CEU's.*

Serving 101

*An Introduction into United Methodist Theology of Mission and Justice
(10-hour course)*

Course Instructor: Rev. Jo Ann Batteiger

Course Description: In the Serving 101 course, students will have the opportunity to gain deeper understanding around our United Methodist theology of mission and justice, and begin to draw connections into how this theology informs our practice. Students will be able to name and develop their skills to be leaders in mission and justice in their respective contexts.

Required or Recommended Reading: *Required reading is still being discerned and will be sent out via email with sufficient time to complete before the course begins.*

Called to Preach

(10-hour course)

Course Instructor: Rev Nathan Decker

Course Description: *Called to Preach* 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. *Called to Preach* is the required preaching course in the lay speaker track of study.

Required Reading: From Pew to Pulpit: A Beginners Guide to Preaching
<https://store.upperroom.org/product/from-pew-to-pulpit>

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United Methodist Heritage; Living Our Beliefs

(10-hour course)

Course Instructor: Rev Mina Sumpter

Course Description: Explore a basic explanation of the beliefs and practices of the United Methodist Church as defined in Part II of The Book of Discipline. Uncover a deeper understanding and experience of Christian faith as you embrace the United Methodist way. "Beliefs are to be lived; doctrine is to be practiced," writes Carder in this updated edition of his 1996 bestseller. "The authenticity of believers lie in their ability to shape people and communities into the image of Christ and to promote holiness and happiness. ...The important test of the validity of doctrines and beliefs for United Methodists is the kind of character they produce in individuals and communities and the actions they inspire in the world."

Required Reading: Living Our Beliefs The United Methodist Way by Kenneth L. Carder --- <https://store.upperroom.org/product/living-our-beliefs>

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

Note: *2 hours of class time prior to class should be spent on reading the **required** materials for the class! *This applies only to those who are working towards Lay Servant Certifications or CEU's*

Certified Lay Minister (CLM) Orientation

(2-hour course) Friday 7:00-9:00PM

Course Instructors: Joanna Dietz and Jenn O' Brien

Course Description: This 2-hour orientation is designed to provide information about the two year CLM training for those who are considering a path toward CLM. We will spend time learning expectations of becoming a CLM while creating a network of peers who are also considering certification. If the participants discern that they are indeed called to become CLMs, 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 & Part Time is Plenty by G. Jeffrey MacDonald.

This course qualifies as one of the courses toward CLM specialization in Children's Faith Formation.

Additional LSA Course Offerings

**Please note dates and times. *Additional fees apply!*

Ministry With the Forgotten

(10 Hour Course) ***5 week Course on Thursday Evenings 7:00-9:00PM**

Begins Thursday, February 27th

Course Instructor: Martha Stokes, Virginia Conference Lay Leader

Course Description: This course is designed to help laity and clergy deepen their understanding of persons living with dementia and help all maintain their identity and worth as beloved children of God. Carter calls the church to a deeper discipleship defined by the quality of our caring and receiving relationships. Participants will discover what it means to carry each other's memories, joys, and diminishments together in community. Through loving practices that nurture and incorporate persons with Alzheimer's and dementia into the church's life and ministry, we experience a spiritual wholeness rooted in God's grace beyond our own strengths and capacities.

Required Reading: Ministry with the Forgotten: *Dementia through a Spiritual Lens* by Bishop Kenneth Carter

<https://www.cokesbury.com/Ministry-with-the-Forgotten?refq=ministry%20with%20the%20forgotten>

This course is open to all! In addition, This course provides Certification credit and renewal credit for Certified Lay Servants and Certified Lay Speakers *only to those who attend all 5 sessions!***

Course dates are as follows:

- **February 27** - Dementia as a Medical and Theological Challenge (and Opportunity)
- **March 6** - We are More than Our Capacities
- **March 13** - Incarnation and Ministry of Presence
- **March 20** - Dementia, Discipleship, and Grief
- **March 27** - Toward a Dementia-Friendly Church

Participants are welcome to take all 5 or choose which weeks to attend. Those taking this course for Certification credit **must attend all 5 sessions as stated above.*

Sacraments: A Means of Grace

Meets once per week March 3rd-April 16th

Instructors: Joanna Dietz, Richard Speirs, Bert Cloud and Gary Heaton.

Course Description: This course will be led by various Clergy and Laity throughout the season of Lent. Come grow in understanding of what it means to gather around the communion table and be reminded of God's great love for us.

Those interested in this course will choose the instructor and time of choice.

****Participants may not change times once a time has been chosen! For those pursuing certification credit, you must attend all class sessions.**

Required Reading

1. ***This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion*** by Gayle Carlton Felton

<https://store.upperroom.org/product/this-holy-mystery>

2. ***By Water and the Spirit*** by Gayle Carlton Felton

<https://store.upperroom.org/product/by-water-and-the-spirit>

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

Note: 2 hours of class time prior to class should be spent on reading the **required** materials for the class! **This applies only to those who are working towards Lay Servant Certifications or CEU's*

Dates and Times: Choose only one option!

1. *(Weekday and Time TBD)* Instructor: Bert Cloud

2. Wednesdays at 7:00PM Instructor: Richard Speirs *(Begins March 5th)*

3. Fridays at 9:30AM Instructor: Joanna Dietz *(Begins March 7th)*