

Learning Objectives for Advanced Lay Servant Courses

Accountable Discipleship – (pre-requisite for “Class Leaders” course)

By the end of this course, learners will have:

- Learned about Wesleyan spirituality and accountable discipleship, including the concept of God’s household
- Become familiar with the Wesleyan concept of grace
- Examined how the early Methodists created community and considered ways their own faith community can be a reflection of genuine Christian community
- Learned about the role of class leaders in the development of the Methodist movement
- Gained a biblical, theological, and practical understanding of lay ministry
- Become familiar with Covenant Discipleship groups

Class Leaders

The course will:

- Explore the origins of the office of class leader in the Wesleyan Methodist tradition
- Examine the need for recovering the lay pastoral ministry of the class leader for the twenty-first century church
- Describe how the ministry of the certified lay servant intersects with that of the class leader
- Examine the role of Covenant Discipleship groups in the formation of Class Leaders.
- Explore the work of the class leader and the leader’s primary purpose of encouraging members of their class to grow in discipleship guided by the General Rule of Discipleship.

Daily Disciplines

Learners will:

- Become acquainted with the devotional life as practiced by John Wesley and his personal habits for maintaining that life
- Study a variety of spiritual disciplines and begin their practice
- Come to understand the role of spiritual disciplines in coming to know God
- Develop skills for leading other people to grow spiritually through daily disciplines
- Come to affirm the church as a community of believers in which people are loved and nurtured to grow in faith

Evangelism

Learners will:

- Explore the context of evangelism, the role of the congregation and the relationship of hospitality to evangelism
- Explore the biblical models of evangelism
- Identify and reflect on faith stories
- Discuss theological principles related to the ways people come to faith
- Explore ways in which the church can support families as centers of faith development

Justice in Everyday Life

Learners will be able to:

- Explain the relationship of the Social Principles to the Bible and their roots in the Wesleyan tradition as expressed through The United Methodist Church as a “means of grace”
- Describe key positions of the Social Principles addressing The Natural World, The Nurturing Community, The Social Community, The Economic Community, The Political Community, and The World Community and correlate their statements with the lived out practice of ministry for individuals and local churches
- Create a hospitable climate for teaching and practicing the Social Principles

Lay Pastoral Care Giving

Participants will be able to:

- Describe and discuss the concepts of Lay Pastoral Care
- Demonstrate appropriate interactions in a caregiving situation
- Describe life and faith passages
- Discuss the relevancy of sensitivity and supportive environments
- Describe and discuss various situations and conditions they may encounter

Leading Prayer

Learners will:

- Be able to describe various forms of prayer and their applications
- Develop clear content of prayers by analyzing and editing written prayers
- Create prayers for a variety of settings and analyze those of classmates
- Develop skills to preside at free intercessions (prayers of the people)
- Be able to use a basic form of prayer, craft a collect, design a litany and demonstrate abilities to lead corporate prayer

Leading Worship

Learners will:

- Be able to name the four elements of the Basic Pattern of Worship and describe the history of this pattern
- Practice leadership through the four elements of the Basic Pattern; receive and offer supportive feedback on planning and leading them
- Explore and practice leading worship in a variety of settings, other patterns of worship, and multiple forms of prayer

Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (Polity)

Participants will be able to:

- State and describe the uniqueness, purpose, and overall structure of The United Methodist Church, its connectional system and its order of missionary preachers
- Describe the uniqueness and purpose of the episcopacy, the itinerant ministry and appointment processes, the ordering of ministry, and annual conference
- Explain the many ways our connection works together to fulfill its mission from the local church to the global general agencies
- Identify elements of the connection beyond the borders of the annual conference: jurisdictions, General Conference, Judicial Council, and central conferences, as well as other international affiliated churches
- Use new tools for discernment in making decisions in the local church

Older Adult Ministries

Learners will:

- Gain an understanding of the issues and concerns of midlife and older adults including myths and realities of aging and the physiological changes that occur in later years
- Become informed about intentional ministries with midlife and older adults including caregiving and the role of work and retirement in aging
- Acquire skills for developing a comprehensive ministry by, with, and for midlife and older adults addressing faith needs as well as end-of-life issues

Planning Worship

Participants will learn how to:

- Form an effective worship planning team and to develop key practices for planning worship with vitality and integrity
- Work with the Basic Pattern of Worship to demonstrate a cohesive design
- Design effective transitions between the movements of the Basic Pattern
- Evaluate worship planning for services using a variety of analysis tools

Spiritual Gifts

Participants will:

- Discover the nature of spiritual gifts through bible study and reflection
- Relate spiritual gifts to the overall life of the church and to the means of grace
- Discover one's own spiritual gifts and examine their definitions
- Develop a plan to implement the use of spiritual gifts as an element of leader development and deployment in the local church

Stewardship

Participants will:

- Describe their faith journey as a steward for God
- Evaluate their local church's system of operation and stewardship response
- Describe 'repairing the world' as a central issue of stewardship
- Explore the "means of grace" as a concept of stewardship and how one's personal practice of stewardship is a sign of one's discipleship
- Examine concepts of corporate stewardship planning and determine ways their congregations can renew their sense of stewardship

Teaching Adults

Learners will:

- Become acquainted with a variety of teaching/learning skills and techniques
- Examine adult age level characteristics and ways to work with a diverse group of people that honor them and God
- Practice teaching in a safe environment and try new methods that incorporate a variety of learning styles
- Notice and evaluate the varieties of ways persons learn and how many teaching techniques or ideas can be successfully incorporated in an exciting and engaging session
- Increase personal effectiveness by also attending to pre-class responsibilities and preparation

Telling Stories

Participants will:

- Examine storytelling in the Bible and the history and value of telling stories
- Be able to describe what makes a good story
- Examine storytelling as preaching and testimony as storytelling
- Claim the process of learning a story and begin preparing a story
- Acquire and demonstrate tools and techniques for storytelling that engages the audience

United Methodist History

Participants will:

- Gain an understanding of the distinctive traditions and emphases of The United Methodist Church
- Become informed about the journey of the people historically known as Methodists and Evangelical United Brethren, who united in 1968 to form The United Methodist Church
- Become informed about the contributions of the early leaders of these churches – Wesley, Otterbein, Boehm, Albright, and many others
- Develop skills in interpreting United Methodist heritage and emphases to the local church and its members

You Can Preach!

Learners will:

- Examine the role of the sermon in the Service of Worship and see it as a proclamation of the Good News
- Work through the stages in sermon preparation from message topic to final manuscript
- Learn how to assess the congregation's profile as it impacts sermon creation and delivery
- Examine technical issues of grammar, language, word selection, and humor and their impact on delivering the sermon

From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon (Though not a pre-requisite, it is highly recommended the "You Can Preach!" course be taken first.)

Learners will:

- Prepare for different kinds of sermons (exegetical, topical, personal testimony, and children's sermon)
- Hone their preaching skills through practice in front of a group
- Provide oral feedback and written evaluation for other class members
- Receive feedback and evaluation of one's own sermon delivery