



The United Methodist Church
GREENWOOD DISTRICT
SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
P. O. BOX 49968
1633 RIVERS STREET
GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA 29649

TO: All Pastors
All Lay Servants

FROM: Susan Roberts, Director
Joie Rogers, Associate Director
Greenwood District Lay Servant Ministries

SUBJECT: 2024 SPRING LAY SERVANT MINISTRY SCHOOL

The Greenwood District Spring Lay Servant Ministry School is set for April 6 and April 7, 2024. These sessions will be held at Edgefield UMC, 309 Norris Street, Edgefield S.C.

We will be offering four courses:

- **Basic-** 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. Registration fee is \$35.00.
 - **Pre requisite for all the advanced courses below: Basic**
 - **Dancing with Words-** Participants in the course will learn what constitutes a good story, discover storytelling styles, learn the techniques of effective storytelling, and practice creating stories from their experiences. Registration fee is \$35.00.
 - **Ageing and Ministry in 21st Century –** This course offers a rich learning experience that includes knowing more about the aging process and the developmental stages of midlife and older adulthood and how we can best shape our ministry. Registration fee is \$35.00
- Sacraments: Means of Grace -** In the new 10-hour advanced course, Sacraments: Means of Grace, Rev. Beth Galbreath crystalizes her unique focus in the online Be A Disciple courses on Baptism and Holy Communion (see page 33), combining her unique approach with the key insights of the late Gayle Carlton Felton in her two books on our sacramental life: *By Water and the Spirit* and *This Holy Mystery*. Registration fee is \$35.00

Participant Guide for *This Holy Ministry* and *By Water and the Sprit* are Available as PDF download at [UMCDiscipleship.org /resources/lay-servant-ministries-advanced-courses](http://UMCDiscipleship.org/resources/lay-servant-ministries-advanced-courses)

The guidelines in the *2016 Book of Discipline* indicate that individuals seeking recognition as Certified Lay Servants or Lay Speakers should take at least one advanced course every three years. If an advanced course is not taken in that time period, then the individual will be required to re-take the Basic Course for continued certification.

The registration form is included with this letter. Please note that the **registration deadline is March 20, 2023. No registrations will be accepted after this date.** The registration information and form will ALSO be available online at the District web page: <http://www.umcsc.org/greenwood>. The link for Lay Servant Ministries on the right-hand side of the page. **Please complete the registration form and mail it with your registration fee to the Greenwood District Office, PO Box 49968, Greenwood, SC 29649.** Please order your books in advance so you will have them for the first session on April 6th. Order information for these Course books is included with this letter and will also be available online: <http://www.umcsc.org/greenwood>. (Please note that registration will also be online on the Conference Website. Information on how to register will go out some time in the next week or so)

We look forward to seeing you on April 6th and 7th. Both sessions must be attended to receive certification. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Susan Roberts, District Director of Lay Servant Ministries at (864-992-8067 or gwdlsmdir@gmail.com) or the district office (gwdist@umcsc.org or 864-223-2650).

Reminder: Once you have taken a Lay Servant course and have become either a Local Lay Servant or a Certified Lay Servant, you are to submit the annual report of the Lay Servant to your 2024 Charge Conference and all subsequent Charge Conferences in order to remain Certified. Anyone seeking to become a Lay Servant must submit his/her application to his/her pastor to be approved by the Charge Conference. All reports and applications must be signed by the pastor and by the District Superintendent. The Lay Servant annual report and application is available line on the Greenwood District web page <http://www.umcsc.org/greenwood> the Report to the Charge Conference