



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: Cathy Trevino, Director
Greenwood District Lay Servant Ministries

SUBJECT: 2023 SPRING LAY SERVANT MINISTRY SCHOOL

The Greenwood District Spring Lay Servant Ministry School is set for March 19 and March 26, 2023. These sessions will be held at First UMC Laurens, 244 W Main St, Laurens, SC 29360.

We will be offering four courses:

- **Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts:**** This course helps participants understand spiritual gifts and how the church can use them to fulfill its mission and ministry. Participants will also learn what it means to be a spiritual leader and will be equipped to lead others in exploring and using their spiritual gifts. Prerequisite – Basic. Registration fee is \$30.00.
- **Living Our Beliefs: (Heritage)**** This is an advanced course and the Basic course is a pre-requisite. Explore a basic explanation of the beliefs and practices of the United Methodist Church as defined in Part II of *The Book of Discipline*. Registration fee is \$30.00.
- **Ministry with the Forgotten** – Pastors and congregations will be better equipped to minister with people affected by dementia, receiving their gifts and responding to their unique needs. They will learn how people with dementia contribute to the community and the church's life and mission, discovering practical ways those contributions can be identified, nurtured, and incorporated into the church's life and ministry. Registration fee is \$30.00
- **Opening ourselves to Grace** - Participant Guide Available as PDF download at [UMCDiscipleship.org /resources/lay-servant-ministries-advanced-courses](http://UMCDiscipleship.org/resources/lay-servant-ministries-advanced-courses)
Opening Ourselves to Grace explores the basic practices of Christian faith and life from a Wesleyan perspective. Registration fee is \$30.00.

** denotes required classes to be considered for Certified Lay Speaker/Minister.

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 3, 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 March 19th. 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 March 19th and 26th. Both sessions must be attended to receive certification. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cathy Trevino, District Director of Lay Servant Ministries at (864-992-2228 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 2022 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 is attached to this email. Please use this one. Also attach the signature page to the report when it is turned in.