



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: 2025 SPRING LAY SERVANT MINISTRY SCHOOL

The Greenwood District Spring Lay Servant Ministry School will be held on April 6 and April 13, 2025. These sessions will be held at St. Paul UMC, 102 E. Butler Street, Saluda, S.C. 28138

We will be offering four courses: the fee for each courses is \$35.00.

- **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.

**Prerequisite for all the advanced courses below: Basic**

- **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.
- **Climate Justice** -This course empowers lay participants to engage local churches in creation care and environmental justice. Lay participants will see this work as the appropriate response of disciples of Jesus Christ to the realities of climate change. Using the new revised second edition of *Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action*, this course helps communities grow deeper in their faith through the caring creation of practical and context-specific spiritual practices that mitigate the effects of reckless human consumption.
- **Fresh Expressions of Faith**-In Fresh Expressions of Faith, N.C. conference LSM directors Kim Arnott and Linda Flanagan invite participants to discover the power of "third places" and the ministry of presence. Sharing insights from Kenneth L. Carter and Audrey Warren's book, *Fresh Expressions: A New Kind of Methodist Church for People Not in Church*, these reliable guides help participants rekindle their hearts to engage people beyond church walls with the love and welcome of Jesus Christ. They remind us that "Fresh Expressions" are new communities or extensions of current ones that become new forms of life in Jesus Christ through prayer and the movement of the Holy Spirit. Beginning where discipleship always starts (relationships), participants will grasp how genuine, authentic gatherings meet people

where they are and can become means of grace for both those disconnected from church and those who long to see others made whole by grace.

Lay servants who are 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 it 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, 2025**. 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 **Greenwood District webpage and on the Conference webpage.**)

We look forward to seeing you on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:gwdlsmdir@gmail.com)) or the district office ([gwdist@umcsc.org](mailto: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 2025 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