



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 FALL LAY SERVANT MINISTRY SCHOOL

Dear all, Please share this information in your church bulletins and announcements.

The Greenwood District Spring Lay Servant Ministry School is set for September 7 and September 14, 2025. These sessions will be held at Broad Street UMC located at 310 N. Broad St. Clinton, SC 29325

We will be offering four courses:

- Pre requisite for all the advanced courses below: Basic
- Registration fee for all courses is \$35.00

BASIC with Youth Addendum

- *The BASIC Course 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.*
- *Youth Addendum: A youth addendum for The BASIC Course is available for download at: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/introduction-to-lay-ministry-the-basic-course>.*
- *Leading Prayer-* required for Certified Lay Speaker Public Prayer Praying in public can be daunting, but prayer is something one learns. This course on praying in public will help the participant grow in confidence and skill in public prayer and enrich their personal prayer life.

Leading Worship- required for Certified Lay Speaker Leading Worship This course focuses on the ministry of the lay servant who either regularly or occasionally leads a group or congregation in worship.

- Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia Through a Spiritual Lens
- 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. Confronting the deep personal and theological questions created by loving people with dementia, Carder 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.

The guidelines in the 2020/2024 *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 September 1, 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 September 7th. 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 September 7th and 14th. 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 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.