

2016 A Time of Accountability for Lay Servant Ministries and Lay Speakers

Welcome to 2016!

For the past few years, the **Lay Servant Ministry (LSM) District Committee** has been very lenient regarding the **LSM and Lay Speaker** applications and required training, because of the transition into the new **LSM and Lay Speaker** processes. 2016 ends the transition into the new process, and the District Committee will make **LSM and Lay Speakers** more accountable for the required training.

To be a **LSM**, the following criteria must be met:

- A candidate may be recognized as local church lay servant.
- Talk to pastor and fill out profile sheet along with signed application and Pastors recommendation (or Charge Conference).
- Take Basic Course for Lay Servant Ministries.
- File your annual report to your charge conference for continued approval. This must be done every year.
- Every three years local lay servants must complete a refresher course or an approved advance course. Even if you take Advance Courses you may request to remain Local Lay Servant
- Continue working with your Local Church in your servant position.

If you have any questions, please contact Robin Claris at (540) 278-3016 or robinclaris@yahoo.com.

This year ends the **Interim Lay Speaker** category, and there is no grandfathering for Lay Speakers. At your 2016 Charge Conference to be considered a Lay Speaker, the following criteria must be met:

- Must be a current certified Lay Servant.
- Talk to pastor and update your profile sheet along with signed application and Pastors recommendation (or from Charge Conference).

- Take required courses for Lay Speaker.
 - Discovering Spiritual Gifts.
 - Leading Prayer.
 - Preaching.
 - Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (UM Heritage)
 - Leading Worship.
 - Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (UM Polity).
- File your annual report to your charge conference for continued approval. Report must have a sermon evaluation from pastor. Every three years District Director of LSM Committee will interview and evaluate a sermon.
- Every three years lay speakers must complete an approved advance course.
- Continue working for the Church in your servant position, may also work at the district and annual conference level.
- Recertification courses should be different courses each recertification cycle for the candidate to explore all facets of ministry. Keep accurate records of your training.

If you have taken all the necessary courses and would like to set up an interview and sermon evaluation, please contact Robin Claris at (540)278-3016 or RobinClaris@yahoo.com. Certificates will be required for all courses taken.

The Roanoke District offered training in the Spring and Fall of 2015 and will continue to do so this year. The Virginia Conference offers training at the **Lay Servant Academy in Blackstone on February 26-28, 2016**. To see all classes offered and to register go to <http://www.vaumc.org/ncfilerepository/events/2016LayServantAcademy.pdf>. Training is also offered online at BeADisciple.com <http://www.beadisciple.com/>. Not all courses offered on beadisciple.com meet the criteria for Lay Speaker Training.

- *from the Lay Servant Ministry (LSM) Roanoke District Committee*