

## LAY MINISTRY GOALS

The Iowa School for Lay Ministry provides leadership training to facilitate ministry in and through Iowa United Methodist Churches and Districts. The goals of the Iowa School for Lay Ministry are to provide:

- Trained and motivated laity to contribute to the fulfillment of the mission of the Annual Conference to “prepare leaders of the church for the transformation of the world.”
- Lay persons to serve with ordained clergy in complementary ministries of various kinds.
- Spiritually nurturing experiences for persons wishing to further their faith pilgrimage and explore their Christian vocation.
- Lay leadership to assist with programs and ministries pursuing Christ’s mission.
- Continuing education for laity employed in the local church.
- An affordable, accessible program for persons to discern their calling and prepare for a variety of ministries in their church, district and the Annual Conference. The SLM may also be used as the schooling required by the Discipline to become a Certified Lay Minister.
- A significant, transforming impact on the ministry needs of congregations and communities in the Iowa Annual Conference today and into the future.

## LAY MINISTRIES

Lay ministries take many forms in The United Methodist Church. All flow from baptism, in which Christians are claimed and called as disciples. Church members who feel called to greater leadership or service in, through and beyond the church may attend the School for Lay Ministry.

### **Who is eligible?**

Men and women who...

- express interest and willingness to serve.
- are members of The United Methodist Church.
- are recommended by their Pastor and Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair.
- are members of another denomination.

### **What kind of training?**

High-quality education that ...

- provides a broad knowledge of ministry areas such as evangelism, worship, teaching, leadership and United Methodist beliefs.
- is taught by recognized leaders who give the knowledge and background needed to serve in many fields.
- is an annual commitment of four weekends a year for three consecutive years.

### **What financial costs are involved?**

- Tuition for students in IA Methodist Churches is \$120 per class plus books, travel and housing; \$130 per class plus books, etc. for people in other Conferences or denominations. Students may receive support from:

- ✓ Local churches
- ✓ District funds
- ✓ Scholarships offered by the Board of Laity

## CALLED TO SERVE

The role of lay persons in the ministries of The United Methodist Church is expanding. The missional needs of our congregations require trained laity working together with ordained and licensed clergy.

Participants in the Iowa School for Lay Ministry are prepared to fulfill a wide variety of roles in and beyond local churches—often based on their professional experiences in other disciplines.

Some of the ways graduates of the School for Lay Ministry are serving with ordained clergy in Iowa include ministering with local churches in:

- Leadership capacities
- Volunteer management
- Christian education
- Care-giving ministries
- Program staff positions
- Visitation ministries
- Youth programming
- District ministries and mission
- Outreach and evangelism

### **For more information, contact:**

your District Superintendent  
or  
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### **Our website is:**

[www.iaumc.org/slm](http://www.iaumc.org/slm)

## *3-Year Course Offerings*

- Introduction to Lay Ministry and Spirituality
  - The Role of a Spiritual Leader
  - Covenant Community
  - Complementary Ministry of Laity and Clergy
- Worship
  - Lay Minister as Liturgist
  - Worship that Attracts
- Proclamation and Sharing the Faith
  - Lay Minister as Proclaimer
  - Thematic Worship
- Care and Nurturing
  - Lay Minister as Pastoral Care Giver
  - Consultant Skills (listening, etc)
- Stewardship, Christian Ethics and Conflict
  - Stewardship of all life
  - Moral decision-making
  - Lay Minister as Peace-maker
- Developing Theological Perspectives
  - Basic Christian Theology
  - Theology of John Wesley
- Nurturing through Christian Education
  - Lay Minister as Teacher
  - Christian Teaching/Learning
  - Nurture and Faith Development
- Missions and Social Concerns
  - Lay Minister as Transformational Leader
  - Church as Servant Community
  - Ministry in multi-cultural settings
- Church History
  - Development of Christianity
  - United Methodist Church History
- Church Leadership, Doctrine and Polity
  - Church Administration and Leadership
  - United Methodist Doctrine & Polity
- Methods of Biblical Interpretation
  - Scripture and Wesley's Quadrilateral
  - Methods of Interpreting Scripture
- Strategizing for Growth
  - Lay Minister as Evangelist and Missionary
  - Church Growth and Revitalization
  - Developing Relevant Ministry

## *Are you Being Called by God to...*

### **WORK IN A TEAM MINISTRY...**

- Using your skills in a coordinated fashion with ordained clergy?
- Helping to plan and implement the ministries of your congregation or of a neighboring church?
- Helping to plan strategic ministries in your district?

### **LEAD YOUR CHURCH ...**

- Teaching Bible study classes?
- Proclaiming God's message?
- Developing programs for discipleship and service?

### **VISIT FOR YOUR CHURCH ...**

- Offering care to homebound or hospitalized persons?
- Reaching out to people and families in your community?
- Prison or jail ministries?

### **SERVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY...**

- Witnessing to your faith?
- Sharing the love of Jesus in acts of mercy and justice?
- Engaging in risk taking missions & service?

*Then the Iowa School for Lay Ministry is for you!*

## **Iowa School for Lay Ministry**

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## **Lay Leadership for the 21st Century**



*Presented by the  
School for Lay Ministry  
Commission*

*United Methodist Church  
Iowa Annual Conference  
Board of Laity*

I encourage you to consider participating in the SLM. It is an excellent way to equip yourself for leadership in the UMC

—Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble