Attention: Certified Lay Servant and Certified Lay Ministry reports will follow the 2016 Book of Discipline instructions this years for Charge Conferences. Only one report is required.

If you are a Certified Lay Servant (CLS) you will turn in the CLS report. If you are a Certified Lay Minister (CLM) you will turn in the CLM report. Please do not turn in both. Need assistance: Contact information for each district director is listed with their report in this newsletter.

Do you have an experience or photos that you wish to share in the LSM newsletter? Please email them to me.

Thanks for all you do,
Donna Johnson, Editor

New E-mail: DonnaJ73995@gmail.com
Cell: 562-544-9919

Annual Conference: June 14-17
Laity Sunday: October 15, 2017 (see page 12 for suggestions)

February 24, 2018—Conference Lay Servant Ministries Event - “Forward Together” —
Sherman Oaks UMC, 14401 Dickens St., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

CERTIFIED LAY MINISTRY
FOUNDATIONS COURSE
September 8-9, 2017, LaTijera / LAK UMC
Registration: Gail Kendall
gkendall@calpacumc.org

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Need help?
Contact your District Lay Servant Director

- LSM Event 2/24/2018 — Save the Date -
- Laity Sunday Info
- Just what is:
  - Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker, Certified Lay Minister
From the desk of: Pat Hogan  
California-Pacific Annual Conference  
Lay Servant Ministries Director

Where Do I Stand Now? Local Lay Servant Changes

There have been changes made to the Lay Servant Ministry program that affect your status as a Local Lay Servant that you should be aware of. You will soon (or already have) received a letter advising you of the change in your position as a Local Lay Servant. This change was affected by the legislation passed at General Conference 2016. That legislation has removed the Local Lay Servant as a category in the Lay Servant Ministries. The Book of Discipline now lists the following four categories of Lay Servants: Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker, Certified Lay Minister; and Lay Missioner. These changes became effective January 1, 2017.

You previously completed the Basic Lay Servant Course and were classified as a Local Lay Servant. You now have the following options. (1) Take an Advanced Lay Servant Course soon and become a Certified Lay Servant. (2) Remain on the list of Local Lay Servants that our Conference Directors Committee will maintain for three years and take a traditional Lay Servant class during that time. (3) Let your District Director of LSM know that you prefer not to continue in the Lay Servant program. District Directors contact email located at the bottom of their reports.

We pray you will take this opportunity to continue as a Lay Servant by taking an Advanced Class and becoming a Certified Lay Servant.

Blessings,

Pat Hogan, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries
Pat.hogan2@verizon.net

Link to Lay Servant Ministry 2016 Report

“Those Pesky Lay Servant Ministry (LSM) Reports— printed one more time for emphasis”

WHY: Yearly all Lay Servants must be confirmed (yes or no) at their local church charge conference

SO: Right now, or next week—add the report to your computer with a 2017 date, fill out what you know (name, address, church, district, mission area) then as you read a book, take a class, return from a mission project, or assist in worship or devotions…track it. Now it’s ready as charge conference times arrives or when you receive a note from your District Director saying he/she does not have your report.

1. Take time to go online and save to a folder or print out the LSM Report (pages 15, 16, 17 of this issue)
2. Remember it not a competition, just a form that will be useful in tracking the many places where we use our talents.
3. Update as you attend a LSM class, read a book, complete a mission project, give a devotion or teach a Bible class, help someone who is ill, etc.
4. Before your charge conference review and update as necessary.
5. Save a copy for yourself, sign it and send it to your church to be included in the charge conference report. Remember to keep a copy for your records and send a copy your District Director of Lay Servant Ministries. (ok if you do not have signatures on these)

That said, your work as Lay Servant Minister is important, and yes, more important than filling out forms, but as you learned in your Basic Course—it’s part of the yearly process to turn in yearly reports to be approved by local charge conferences.

Thanks for your ministry and for your commitment to Lay Servant Ministry.

On May 26, 2017 Gordon Dixon passed from this world into the arms of God.
Gaunnie Hardin Dixon, (former Conference Lay Leader) and Angie McCard you remain in our prayers.
This report covers the period from January 2016 to February 2017. The 2016 General Conference has dropped the tracking of the Local Lay Servant category. Lay Servant Ministries will now only track 1) Certified Lay Servants, 2) Certified Lay Speakers and 3) Certified Lay Ministers.

From the 2016 Annual Reports Charge Conferences approved 1 Certified Lay Minister, 1 Certified Lay Speaker and 29 Certified Lay Servants. There were 60 Local Lay Servants that submitted Annual reports. They were mostly from the Tongan Speaking Fellowships.

Lay Servant Activities.

- January 24, 2016, 3 completed the Basic Class at Wesley UMC.
- January 28, 2016, 9 completed the Basic class held at Kihei UMC on Maui.
- January 31, 2016, 23 completed the Basic Tongan class held at Waianae UMC.
- In February 2016, 5 completed Basic Class taught by the Pastor of Ala Lani UMC on Maui.
- March 19, 2016, 7 people attended a session on how to teach Lay Servant Classes held at Aiea Korean UMC.
- April 2, 2016, 3 completed Basic Class held at Aiea UMC.
- April 27, 2016, 6 completed Preaching class held at Aiea UMC.
- October 29, 2016 The Hawaii Committee on Lay Servant Ministries met. We introduce members to the each other and were informed about the new direction of our ministry as defined by the 2016 General Conference. Committee members are Dorinda Dunlap, Rev. Joe Yun, Patrick Zukemura, Sulia Atuailevao, and Pilimilose Sika.
- October 6 to November 2, 2016, the storytelling advanced Lay Servant class was scheduled. It was cancelled because there were no students.
- In October 2016, 13 people completed the Basic class held at Aldergates taught by 2 certified Lay Servants.
- October 15, 2016, 14 people completed the Basic class held at First Church in October taught by 2 certified Lay Servants.
- November 23, 2016, 9 people completed the Leading Public Prayer Advanced course will be taught in Kona. Part of the class was held online.
- February 4, 2017, 8 people completed the Preaching class being held at First United Methodist church taught by taught by the Pastor with the help from a certified Lay Servant.

February 26, 20 people completed the Basic Class in Tongan taught at the Kahuku United Methodist Church.

Winnie
wingin332@yahoo.com
The 2016 General Conference made some adjustments to the Certified Lay Minister (CLM) program. The 2016 Book of Discipline states that a CLM is a certified lay servant who is called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, develop new and existing faith communities, preach the Word, lead small groups or establish community outreach ministries as part of a ministry team with supervision and support of a clergyperson. A CLM is assigned by a district superintendent.

The business of the 2016 California Pacific Annual Conference listed three persons in the Hawaii District as CLMs. Francis Fukumoto of Trinity UMC, Ana Koli-Hungalu of First UMC Honolulu and Patrick Zukemura of Harris UMC.

Francis is currently assigned to Benchmark, a juvenile sex offender treatment facility, in Pearl City. He initially started with the Rev. Jim White in 2001 to provide a means for growth and spiritual formation to these juveniles from 13 to 18 years of age. A time of worship and fellowship among the clients and staff members of Benchmark is offered every Sunday afternoon. This was even before the CLM program had started. The CLM program gave Francis a means of recognition and creditable credential by the United Methodist Church.

Ana is currently enrolled at the Claremont School of Theology as a certified candidate for ministry. She is attending the United Methodist Church of Colton. She assists Pastor Taike Lolohea (formerly of Trinity UMC in Hawaii) with Holy Communion and preaching. She has also preached and assisted with Holy Communion at First UMC Tongan in Pomona. She is also scheduled to preach at a fellowship in Anaheim on Mother’s Day.

Patrick is currently working with his pastor the Rev. Dr. Cheol Kwak in developing a covenant of ministerial service in the area of mission evangelism which will be presented to his church shortly. He hopes to start his service in July. The Rev. Samuel Nam of Christ UMC English Ministry is Patrick’s mentor. Patrick has preached at Christ UMC English Ministry twice and is scheduled to preach there again on Father’s Day. Patrick participated in the church’s membership class, Alpha program and spiritual gifts workshop.

If you are a Certified Lay Servant in the Hawaii District and is interested in becoming a Certified Lay Minister please contact your local church pastor and the Hawaii District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Se Hee Han. The CLM program for our Annual Conference is being revamped and should be ready in September according to Bishop Grant Hagiya.

Written by Patrick Zukemura, Member of Hawaii District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries

*Used by permission*
East District Lay Servant Ministry at Work

My name is Chelemar Hoskins, and I began my LSM journey in 2007 (wow, ten years ago). I had been working as the Secretary at Victorville United Methodist Church for about six months and saw a trifold brochure in the mail about Lay Speaking Ministries (now Lay Servant Ministries), and I thought it looked interesting. My husband and I went to the Basic Course together and from there, I went on to an Advanced Course to be certified. I have been blessed many times over by attending different advanced courses, helping to teach the Basic Course, and serving on and assisting the District LSM Committee. I have delivered many sermons, prayers, devotional messages, read liturgies, and broadened my knowledge of and love for our denomination. LSM gave me the opportunity to lead in my church, district, and conference, as well as other areas of Christian service. One of the most rewarding blessings has been doing the children’s sermon in many of the services at Victorville UMC and now having my children old enough to understand and participate in them.

February 2017 Conference Lay Servant Event Claremont UMC
West District News

David Johnson, Co-Director
West District Lay Servant Ministries

(this is what you get when you let a child handle your camera)

The West District just completed our Spring LSM School at Santa Monica 1st UMC. We were especially blessed to have Bishop Mary Ann Swenson leading our closing Service of Commitment and Holy Communion. Thanks again to Rev. Dan Lewis and Rev. Frank Wulf for leading the Advanced Classes in preaching and story Telling. I won't tell you who led the Basic Class, but his photo is on the top of the page.

Under the leadership of Dist Comm. member Rick Watts, we have started a Food Collection at each class and are donating the food to the local church Hunger Program. See the Red Barrel in the photos below from the last week of classes.

Next West district Classes will be in October. See you then, Dave

Daveoj1@aol.com

Preaching

Storytelling

Basic
**NORTH DISTRICT NEWS**  Howard Fallman

Email: HowardF@car.org

Howard Fallman has served our Lay Servant Ministries well for the past several years. He was the District Director for the Pasadena District before we blended our districts, and served since then as the North District Director of Lay Servant Ministries. I first met Howard when I attended a Basic Class he was teaching in the Pasadena District and realized what a teaching gift he had. Another year we shared attendance at the Association of Conference Directors of Lay Servant Ministries (ACDLSM). This reflected his further interest in our ministry. Later he became a Certified Lay Servant. His dedication to Lay Servant Ministries and to the North District has been a real blessing.

**WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!**

Thank you Howard, by Pat Hogan

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**South District Lay Servant Ministry**

*Bill Rockwell*
bill.rock41@gmail.com

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**Co-Directors West District**
Paul and Melody Ashley

Paul.Ashley@ca.rr.com
melody.ashley@ca.rr.com
Marcia and I accepted the position of Co-Directors of the East District Lay Ministries program, effective July 1, 2016. In October of 2016, we offered Basic and Advanced classes at two locations. The Advanced classes offered were “Living Out Our United Methodist Beliefs (Heritage)” and “Discover Your Spiritual Gifts.” We were able to recruit some truly gifted instructors, and at the conclusion of those classes we certified nine new Local Church Lay Servants, and we certified or re-certified 17 Certified Lay Servants. This year has been an exciting time as our team of lay servants has grown.

In February 2017, the East District hosted the Annual Conference Lay Servant Event, at Claremont United Methodist Church. The theme, “Building Blocks for Local Church Vitality” featured Keynote Speaker, the Rev. Dr. Jacqui King, Director, Leadership for Congregational Vitality at Discipleship Ministries. Her address entitled “Embrace Vitality,” was informative and exciting and fun! Three very talented Elders and one very talented Deacon lead the four classes: Words and Tunes, led by Rev. Greg Norton; Saying our Prayers, led by Rev. George Crisp; Communicating the Gospel with Effectiveness and Power, led by Rev. Garth Gilliam; and Missional Life Groups, led by Rev. David Palmer. The event was met with much enthusiasm and showed by positive evaluations.

We are currently contemplating having Lay Servant classes in September or October, perhaps to coincide with Lay Ministry classes. Suggestions are a new format, 10 hours in one day, serving lunch and perhaps dinner. More about this will be posted online and in the next LSM Newsletter.

Marcia Galland has resigned for her position as co-Director in the East District as of 6/30/17. I will continue as the District Director, with a committee of about 4 other people. We will miss Marcia, but do understand that we need to cut back when we find ourselves over-extended.

Thank you, Marcia
for your dedication to Lay Servant Ministry and for the time you served as
East District Co-Director

Susan Ross, East District LSM Director
skross91@gmail.com
Laity Sunday — October 15, 2017

by Jodi Cataldo

Discipleship Ministries, Director of Laity in Leadership


See link above for the complete article by Jodi Cataldo, as well as resources for your use on Laity Sunday - (publicity, bulletin inserts, scripture etc.,)

Below excerpt is from Jodi’s article - Hope it gives you inspiration should you be the leader on Laity Sunday.

The disciplinary paragraph 122 of The Book of Discipline may be summarized by the acronym HOPE:

- **Hospitality**—We go into the world in outreach and mission, offering hope through proclamation of the gospel, seeking, welcoming, and gathering as we offer (and receive) **hospitality** to (and from) those not yet in the body.

- **Offer Christ** — We provide opportunities for people to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and Spirit and profession of faith.

- **Purpose** — We nurture people in Christian living to help them find a true sense of **purpose** in life, learning what it means to live out their beliefs through acts of piety and acts of mercy, Christian conferencing, regular participation in the sacrament of Holy Communion, and other means of grace.

- **Engagement** – Through engagement, we again offer and receive hospitality.

On Laity Sunday, we celebrate that we are all called, laity as well as clergy, to go and make disciples. We are called to be the church together in a world so desperately in need of hope.

*Therefore, go!*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT</th>
<th>CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER</th>
<th>CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serves the local church or charge (and/or beyond) and:</td>
<td>Serves by preaching the Word when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries, in accordance and compliance with ¶341.1.</td>
<td>As part of a ministry team with supervision and support of a clergyperson:</td>
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<td>Provides program leadership, assistance, and support</td>
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<td>Conducts public worship</td>
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<td>Leads meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion</td>
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<td>Cares for the congregation</td>
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<td>Conducts, or assists in conducting, services of worship, preaches the Word, or gives addresses</td>
<td></td>
<td>Develops new faith communities</td>
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<td>Provides congregational and community leadership and fosters caring ministries</td>
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<td>Preaches the Word</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assists in the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion</td>
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<td>Leads small groups</td>
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<td>Teaches the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of The United Methodist Church.</td>
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<td>Establishes outreach ministries</td>
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<td>Serves as a class leader</td>
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<td>Engages in specialized ministries after appropriate training such as parish nursing and church planting</td>
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<td>Assists in program leadership</td>
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**REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION:**

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<th>CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastor and church council or charge conference recommendation</td>
<td>Certified as a Lay Servant (or equivalent as defined by his or her central conference)</td>
<td>Certified as a lay servant, lay missionary (or equivalent as defined by his or her central conference)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay Servant Ministries BASIC course</td>
<td>Pastor and church council or charge conference recommendation</td>
<td>Pastor and church council or charge conference recommendation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay Servant Ministries advanced course</td>
<td>Completion of a track of study as defined in ¶267.3c.</td>
<td>Completion of a track of study as defined in ¶268</td>
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<tr>
<td>District committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure (See ¶668.3) approval</td>
<td>Conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries approval after interview with and recommendation from the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries</td>
<td>District Superintendent recommendation</td>
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<td>Appropriate screening &amp; assessment</td>
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<td>Conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries approval after interview with and recommendation from the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries</td>
<td>Conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries approval after interview with and recommendation from the district committee on Ordained Ministry</td>
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**REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL:**

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<th>CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER</th>
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<td>Annual report &amp; renewal application</td>
<td>Annual report &amp; renewal application</td>
<td>Annual report</td>
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<td>Pastor and church council or charge conference recommendation</td>
<td>Pastor and church council or charge conference recommendation</td>
<td>Pastor and church council or charge conference recommendation</td>
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<td>Lay Servant Ministries advanced course in the last three years</td>
<td>Lay Servant Ministries advanced course in the last three years</td>
<td>Ministry review</td>
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<td>District committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure (See ¶668.3) approval</td>
<td>Conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries approval every three years after interview with and recommendation from the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries</td>
<td>Lay Servant Ministries advanced course or approved continuing education event annually</td>
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<td>District Superintendent recommendation</td>
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<td>Conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries approval every two years after interview with and recommendation from the district committee on Ordained Ministry</td>
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<td>Conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries approval every two years after interview with and recommendation from the district committee on Ordained Ministry</td>
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**ADOPTED LEGISLATION AT 2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

For more information visit: [www.UMCdiscipleship.org](http://www.UMCdiscipleship.org)
## I. ABOUT THE LAY SERVANT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<th>CHURCH PHONE</th>
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## II. STATUS OF THE LAY SERVANT

Check the appropriate box below:

- [ ] To begin as a local church Lay Servant
- [ ] For renewal as a local church Lay Servant
- [ ] Certified Lay Servant
- [ ] Lay Speaker

1. What year did you complete your Basic Course?

2. What year did you complete your last Advanced Course?

3. What was the title of your last Advanced Course?

4. Which of the following required Lay Speaking / Learning & Leading Courses have you completed?
   - [ ] Leading Worship
   - [ ] Leading Prayer
   - [ ] Discover Your Spiritual Gifts
   - [ ] Preaching
   - [ ] United Methodist Heritage
   - [ ] United Methodist Polity

5. Date of last review for Lay Speaker Status was:

   Approved?

Upon completion of the required course work, the Lay Speaking candidate will be examined by the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries and recommended to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries for certification.

## III. REQUEST OF THE LAY SERVANT

I request for recommendation of my pastor and my charge conference to begin or renew as a

- [ ] local church Lay Servant
- [ ] Certified Lay Servant
- [ ] Lay Speaker

for the ensuing year.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: ____________________________ DATE: ____________________________
IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE PASTOR

I recommend concurrence with the request of this person to begin or renew as a

- [ ] local church Lay Servant
- [ ] Certified Lay Servant
- [ ] Lay Speaker

for the ensuing year.

SIGNATURE OF PASTOR: ____________________________
DATE: __________

V. RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHARGE CONFERENCE

The charge conference of __________________________ recommends the above-named person to begin or renew as a

- [ ] local church Lay Servant
- [ ] Certified Lay Servant
- [ ] Lay Speaker

for the ensuing year.

SIGNATURE OF DISTRICT SUPT: __________________________
DATE: __________

VI. MINISTRIES OF THE LAY SERVANT

During the past year I have participated in Caring ministries as follows:

- [ ] served as a volunteer in a care-giving institution
- [ ] provided one-on-one caring
- [ ] at a hospital, nursing home, or to a shut-in
- [ ] in membership/evangelism visitation
- [ ] served in caring/outreach projects (food pantry, prison ministry, etc)
- [ ] other caring activities

During the past year I have participated in Leading ministries as follows:

- [ ] served as member of committee, board, commission, council, task force, etc.
- [ ] as a volunteer at a community agency my local church. (at or beyond or at and beyond)
- [ ] in my . (district, conference, jurisdictional, General Church)
- [ ] other leading activities

During the past year I have participated in Communicating ministries as follows:

- [ ] brought message in worship services
- [ ] served as worship leader in services
- [ ] delivered devotional messages
- [ ] taught classes
- [ ] shared my faith story times
- [ ] other speaking activities

During the past year I have participated in additional opportunities for ministry as follows:

_________________________________________________________
VII. PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF THE LAY SERVANT

In what activities have you engaged and/or what books have you read or used during the past year to help you develop your devotional life; improve your understanding of the Bible; improve your understanding of The United Methodist Church; and to improve your skills in caring, leading, communicating and speaking?

VIII. FEEDBACK BY THE LAY SERVANT

Do you feel called to be in service in any area of ministry, either in the church or outside the church, in which you are not currently involved? If yes, please list those areas below.

What additional training or support do you need or would suggest to further your ministry as a Lay Servant?

Give any recommendations you have for improving the Lay Servant Ministries in your District or Conference.

Note: District Directors are encouraged to respond to any comments within this section. (Form 9.4.10)

When complete, please furnish the original copy to your pastor for his/her signature.

Send one copy to your District Office
Send one copy to your District Director Lay Servant Ministries
Be sure and keep a copy for your own records
From your friends at Hollywood United Methodist Church and Fasting2Feed.org
“Going hungry so that others won’t have to”

This year’s Fast to Feed is dedicated to the memory and honor of refugee relief workers everywhere, who give their time, skills, and love in selfless service to others in danger and in need; lighting the darkness and reminding us that we are all brothers and sisters of the same family. May the Light they so share remind us all that it shines in each of us too; ready to light our way that we too might “go and do likewise.”

THIS MEAL given in honor of Adam & Eve Schiff, James Mills, Ray Suarez, Anatoli Shtapenko, Justin Estoque, Zach and Michelle Burnett, Vicki & Katrina Jensen, Linda Slade, Barbara Watts, Alberto, Louise Smith, Yola Dore, Annie Semonico, Frank Rubin, Leslie Jordan, and all who helped and supported this effort over the past week. Also in memory of Nollie Watts, Jim Watts, and Carter Fugate. Their actions remind us that we are ALL brothers and sisters of ONE human family, and that service to those in need is the highest calling of a Loving God.

Lunch and clothing closet every Tuesday 11AM-1PM at Hollywood United Methodist Church 6817 Franklin Avenue (Franklin and Highland Ave) “ALL are also welcome Sundays 11AM for worship!”

Showers and Medical Aid:
Saban Community Clinic
6043 Hollywood Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Free Legal Aid, Emergency Housing Services and Expedited Welfare:
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
1102 Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
(800) 399-4529
For information on other homeless services, call 211
Issues like hunger, homelessness, poverty, oppression, are as old as humanity; and yet they remain with us to this day, perhaps in greater absolute numbers than ever before in human history, even in a country like the United States with all its wealth and even widespread obesity.

Jesus teaches us that EACH person is a child of God, and therefore our sister or brother. Through His life’s ministry of example in word and deed—whether the miracle of loaves and fishes feeding huge crowds, or the story of the good Samaritan coming to the aid of a stranger, the destitute widow donating to others from her own meager resources, weeping with Lazarus’ sister over her brother’s death before resurrecting him, He teaches us in these ways and more to “go and do thou likewise.”

As Lay Ministers, we are commissioned to both participate in others’ efforts AND sometimes to lead in creative ways where we might see an unfilled need—and reminding others that no such deed is too small.

Three such ways that can be EASILY adapted and done by ANYone—including by children—are these:
1) At holiday times, even if YOU’RE having just a couple guests, “buy big/cook big” when preparing your feast; and grab some take-out containers and disposable cutlery. Ask you guests to help make extra meals, and deliver them DIRECTLY to individual homeless persons who may not have made it to a shelter for a meal. (Remember “Good King Wenceslas?”) If possible, perhaps include blankets and socks. Over the years, giving just a dozen extra meals out at both Thanksgiving and Christmas really adds up! (I’ve been doing this since 1995—It is now an integral and cherished part of our holiday tradition! And as a bonus, those who might help you see and experience first-hand what it is to help someone in such a position—and just might decide to “go and do likewise” themselves!

2) Whenever traveling, attending conventions or interacting with hotels or shopping, ask for (or buy) extra travel-size hygiene toiletries like soap, shampoo, toothpaste & brushes, lotion, etc. Homeless service providers never have enough of these, and are always in need of more. Life on the streets is hard and unhealthy enough without even the dignity of being able to keep clean. If you attend conventions, organizations will often help facilitate your collecting donations of these items from other attendees. With a little promotion and some hand-made signs, you’d be amazed at what you might start! Remember: what you are able to so donate to homeless service providers is money that they can then instead keep using for shelter and other services!

3) “FASTING TO FEED”’: THIS one is a little harder—but important in its own ways: By combining the spiritual practice of fasting (skipping one or more meals) as a means of BOTH self-denial/self discipline AND “feeling the pain” of someone going hungry because of poverty/homelessness you learn empathy—something especially important for someone who is used to plenty. And when fasting, still make each meal you skip—exactly what you would have liked to have had—and then hand-delivering it to someone who is hungry/homeless, your rationale is thus: “Because I shall not eat, someone else will be able to,” or “going hungry so others won’t have to.”

Fasting to feed is an intensely personal and spiritual experience. (I do mine for the several days leading up to Easter, and on certain other occasions like MLK Day) Remember therefore to offer a prayer for the person who will receive EACH meal. To step it up a notch further and multiply the benefit to others of your “FAST2FEED,” ask friends or members of your congregation to either join or make a donation to a charity in support of your effort, perhaps donating individual meals in honor of someone special. Again, even this is an easy way to teach youth empathy and importance of service! By this, over the years, just one person’s regular fasts may thus result in hundreds or even thousands of hungry persons being fed; but remember: EACH hungry person fed is an act of compassion for a fellow child of God.

Remember: No act of kindness toward another is too small. And for someone living on the streets, being reminded that they are not forgotten, are worthy of love, may be exactly what that person may need at that moment to get them through a crisis to a better day and hope. Remember too: While you may not be able to feed the whole world…you’ll be solving hunger one meal at a time…and as a lay minister, experiencing what it means to be God’s hands and feet in a world that needs Him more than ever. And working together in ways like these, “wherever two or more are gathered in His Name…there He IS, also!”

So…."Go And Do Likewise!"
Looking back over the past 25 years as a Lay Speaker (now Lay Servant), just thought I’d share a few thoughts.

At first glance, when the class was offered, I said "no way" - especially at that time the class requirement was to write a sermon.

Yes, not only write a sermon, but also we had to present it in class.

So, using the tools given and with the help of Dave who was already a “pro” by the, I wrote, practiced, rewrote and practiced more before deciding the first one was the best.

Everything was going well, until class day….

Rev. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, the Long Beach District Superintendent, had an empty hour on her schedule and ….

Very casually walked into the classroom and sat down to listen.

All the preparation, seemed inadequate but there was not time to do a rewrite, just for the DS.

Now, we had learned our Annual Reports that we were to turn into charge conference, required the signature of the District Superintendent, but never thought she would turn up at Bellflower to listen to women who were hoping to become Basic Lay Speakers (old term)

The pressure was on, so yes, a prayer was **definitely** in order.

Saying the prayer, I then began the sermon and looking back, it was one of the highlights I remember after all these years. Rev. Sharon listened to each sermon and didn’t walk out (yeah).

Actually, finishing that class was the beginning of many classes and life lessons. The **first** was: Lay Speakers (the name at that time) don’t have to preach (well except for that one sermon in the Basic Class. The **second** was: those yearly reports were necessary and weren’t so bad once I learned to keep one open in my computer. **Third:** Not to worry if everything was not neat and complete, but to focus on what impact my life had on others and what I was doing to make the world a better place to work and play.

Can I do something that will end world hunger, maybe not, but I can plan my time so that I will be available to feed those right in my community.

To me a Lay Servant involves commitment, to God and to others. The work of a Lay Servant has taken me in many journeys, some not so comfortable. **Get on the Bus** takes children (at no cost to the inmate or family) to visit their parents who are incarcerated. It hurts, knowing the tears of joy in the morning, will change when the visit is over and the children return to the bus. Marching for justice can at times be uncomfortable, but seeing the waving hand from immigrants who are detained in LA jail, is painful. My commitment is to remember to be a Christ-like person as together each of make a difference in the world, one person at a time.

And then, reflect on the joy! Thanks for all you do, **Donna J. Johnson**
Dear Lay Ministry Academy members and Lay Servants,

We are looking for those who want to volunteer as a teller at Annual Conference. This year it is June 14-17, 2017. We can use all the help we can get even if for a day. In addition, if you know of any other LMA attendees, lay servants or spouses, that can also help, please encourage them. We want to emphasize that there is a job for everyone, regardless of your physical ability. Wear your LMA polo shirt or a yellow shirt when on duty. Please let us know what session(s) or days you can help.

Our duties are to hand out conference approved papers, help with voting as assigned by the Bishop, help visitors on and off the stage and to let the Bishop conference with her staff following the sessions in relative privacy.

We have divided the seating into manageable areas. You may be assigned singly or as a team to a particular area for voting, papers etc. Our own teller seating area will be clearly marked and in the front.

Voting takes place at annual Conference during the plenary sessions. More voting takes place the last 2 days. Voting may be by hand, standing, voice or paper ballots. We will be called to count in close results for standing votes, as well as in handing out and collecting the paper ballots and pencils. You, as a teller are allowed to vote if you are a registered voting member of the conference sent by your church. Please call or email us to let us know when you can work. Don’t forget to invite your spouse.

Our contact information is as follows:
Paul Ashley 562 644-1604 paul.ashley@ca.rr.com
Melody Ashley 562-644-1605 melody.ashley@ca.rr.com

Paul and I are grateful if you will help in this capacity. Thank you in advance and see you. The first session is on Wednesday June 14th, check in with us starting at 7:45 a.m.

Paul and Melody Ashley