

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

I would like to invite you to the 2018 Advanced Lay Speaker Academy to be held at Mayfield First United Methodist Church, 214 S. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Mayfield KY 42066 on August 17 from 6:30-9:00 PM and August 18 from 8:00-4:00. The deadline to register is July 16. *Participants are required to attend both days to receive credit.* The cost per participant is \$15.00 which covers one text and food. There will be two tracks from which to choose.

First, Mr. Andrew Halford will be teaching "A Look at the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church." He will be using the text Justice in Everyday Life by Rev. Neal Christie, and the bestselling novel by Jodi Picoult, Small Great Things. The Purchase District will purchase the Christie book for those who have registered and paid, while participants will be required to purchase the Picoult book. It can be downloaded or purchased from your favorite bookseller. Both will need to be read before the first class meeting.

Our second offering will be "Leading in Prayer," and Rev. Lora Jean Gowan of Broadway United Methodist will be teaching this class. The text she will use is Let the Whole Church Say Amen! A Guide for Those who Pray in Public by Laurence Hull Stookey. Again, The District Office will purchase the books and send them to those have registered and paid, and it will need to be read prior to class.

Please click on this link to register and follow the instructions for payment:

<https://memphis-reg.brtapp.com/PD2018AdvancedLSA>

As a reminder, to **maintain status as a Certified Lay Servant, you must:**

1. Submit an annual report and renewal application to the charge conference or church council and to the district committee on lay servant ministries or equivalent structure, giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay servant.

2. Obtain recommendation for renewal from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of *the local church or other United Methodist ministry in which you hold membership.*

3. Complete a lay servant ministries advanced course in *the last three years.* **If you have not had training since 2015, you will not be recertified unless you take a course this year.**

If you are unable to attend this training, you may access approved training online at BeADisciple.com: [beadisciple.com/layspeakingministries.html](http://beadisciple.com/layspeakingministries.html)

We value you as you continue to live out your calling to serve Jesus Christ in word and deed. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via e-mail, [shall@memphis-umc.org](mailto:shall@memphis-umc.org) or phone, 270.527.8282. For your convenience, I have attached additional information regarding Lay Servant certification.

In Christ,

Samantha Hall

Director of Resource Ministries

Purchase District of The United Methodist Church

**To become a Certified Lay Servant, you must:**

1. Obtain recommendation from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church or other United Methodist ministry in which you hold membership.
2. Complete the "Introduction to Lay Ministries: The BASIC Course."
3. Complete an advanced lay servant ministries course.
4. Apply to and have qualifications reviewed by the district committee on lay servant ministries or equivalent structure (See ¶668.3).

**Certified Lay Servants**

A certified lay servant is a professing member of a local church or charge or a baptized participant of a recognized United Methodist collegiate ministry or other United Methodist ministry setting who desires to serve the church and who knows and is committed to Scripture and the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of The United Methodist Church. This is a person who has received specific training to witness to the Christian faith through spoken communication, to lead within a church and community, and to provide caring ministry. The certified lay servant serves the local church or charge (or beyond the local church or charge) in ways in which his or her witness, leadership, and service inspires others to a deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. The certified lay servant, through continued study and training, should prepare to undertake one or more of the following functions, giving primary attention to service within the local church or

charge, United Methodist collegiate ministry, or other United Methodist ministry setting:

- Provide leadership, assistance, and support to the program emphases of the church or other United Methodist ministry.
- Lead meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on lay servant ministries.
- Conduct, or assist in conducting, services of worship, preach the Word, or give addresses when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on lay servant ministries.
- Work with appropriate committees and teams that provide congregational and community leadership or foster caring ministries.
- Assist in the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion upon request by a pastor.
- Teach the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of The United Methodist Church.