



Helping your church to grow

There is a lot of talk about each of our churches becoming a “vital congregation.” We all want to be healthy and strong, but many of us are confused about why we aren’t growing as we once did. We know we need to do something, but we don’t know what it is, and we don’t even know how to find out.

The Paducah District wants to help your church grow. There are many challenges facing the District in the next decade, and we believe equipping strong, effective, gifted leadership is the key to growth and vitality. To develop this leadership an Academy is being formed to begin in January of 2014.

The Generative Leadership Academy was developed to help deeply committed Christians, eager to serve, find direction and guidance for the changing world we live in. The Academy’s goal is to help develop local church leaders who will train and inspire more leaders who will work together for church vitality.



Generative - (Adjective)
Capable of producing or creating.

Leadership - (Noun)
The position or function of a leader, a person who guides or directs a group.

Academy - (Noun)
A school for training in a particular skill or profession.

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Paducah District
United Methodist Church

Developing Leaders to Renew the Church

2014 Generative Leadership Academy

for clergy and laity



The 2014 Academy will meet on:

January 17-18

May 2-3

August 8-9

October 24-25

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Vital Congregations have Gifted, Empowered & Equipped Lay Leadership



A year ago, Bishop McAlilly was appointed to the Memphis Conference and reminded us that God isn't finished with the United Methodist Church!

There are significant challenges ahead for the UMC. Our membership numbers have been in decline for more than 50 years. We have less people professing Jesus as Lord each year, and as our population grows older, our local churches grow smaller. Fewer people are carrying the burden for building and ministry costs, and the vision for reaching those in our communities who are not in church is not the priority it once was. That all seems like bad news!

But there is good news! The Memphis Conference is doing the hard work of redefining our purpose and call, and each District is at work developing a mission strategy to help develop leadership that will radically transform local congregations to reclaim our vision and our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Part of that strategy is the development of the Generative Leadership Academy (GLA). The purpose of the GLA is to train generative lay and clergy leaders who will partner in revitalizing the local church to make disciples of Jesus Christ so that communities are transformed.

GLA is a year-long commitment with quarterly meetings. Each quarter, participants spend 24 hours at Kenlake State Park learning about four different elements of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. These are:

- ◆ Meeting God — the foundation for disciples
- ◆ Piety – the practice of being with God
- ◆ Mercy – God's love in action
- ◆ Spiritual Gifts – Living into God's call

Beginning with registration at 5:00 p.m. on Fridays we will explore these elements in a variety of ways:

- ◇ Worship
- ◇ Presentations
- ◇ Small Groups
- ◇ Fellowship



GLA graduates will have a better understanding of Wesleyan discipleship. There will be a stronger connection between the churches in the Paducah District, and participants will identify their spiritual gifts and explore God's call.

GLA is designed to develop leaders who will work to help the local church become vital and fruitful in reaching the world for Jesus Christ. As each church lives into being a missional outpost for the Gospel, generative leaders will be the key to making this change possible. Change is a challenge to everyone, being confident in sharing our call as followers of Jesus Christ will help the local church make the change possible.

Who should come to the Generative Leadership Academy?

Pastors and lay leaders who want to help lead their local church into the future with a mission and a vision. A desire to grow and serve are the only requirements.



Where will the Academy meet? The Lodge at Kenlake State Park, located on Kentucky Lake with a beautiful view, great food, and lovely rooms.

What are the dates? January 17 & 18, May 2 & 3, August 8 & 9, and October 24 & 25, 2014.

What will it cost? \$100 per church for the registration fee. Participant fees are as follows: "Resident" cost (overnighters) for the year is \$350 per person, based on double occupancy or \$410 per person for a private room. Commuter cost for the year is \$150. An installment of \$75 per person is required upon registration. Payments can be made in installments to the Paducah District Office.

Who will be leading? Three sessions each Academy weekend with leadership from the General Board, the Memphis Conference and our local churches.

How will this benefit the local church? After each session, leaders will have tools to take back to the local church to share. Each leader will have a small group to help discuss ways to implement what they are learning for their congregation.