**Grace Period Extended Through 2021 for Lay ​Training Requirements**

An Update from the BWC's Committee on Lay Servant Ministries

​Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the grace period for those due to take required Lay Servant courses for certification or recertification has been extended through 2021.

​All lay members are encouraged to take advantage of the approved advanced **lay servant courses** for recertification offered by the districts. Although live classes were cancelled in most of 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus, classes are now being offered via virtual platforms across the conference. *Members in need of a course should make every effort to take advantage of these offerings.*

As we begin 2021, the Conference recognizes that it still may not be possible for all lay members to take the virtual classes.

**Therefore, the period of grace begun in 2020 for certification and recertification coursework is extended through the 2021 year.**

Please note that this mean​s ​that all required coursework must be completed in 2022. (If conditions warrant changing that date, the Conference Committee will consider that at that time.)

Members who need this extension of grace should once again upload, in the Annual Report, a document stating that they are using the extension for 2021. All others should upload their certificates of course completion for the classes they took.

A sample statement would read : "I,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(insert name)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, accept the extension of grace for my required course completion for the year 2021." No reason is required.

Using this statement should have no effect on the lay member's status during the recertification year.