



Cumberland-Hagerstown District
LAY SERVANT ACADEMY



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March 30, 2019

Good Day,

Thank you for registering for **Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (United Methodist Polity)**, an Advanced or Recertification Course as well as for part of the Certified Lay Speaker tract. Your instructor is **Rev. Steve Robison** [H: (301) 791-7148; e-mail: s.robison@myactv.net] please contact him directly if you have any questions about the class.

Required Text for this class: *The Method of Our Mission—United Methodist Polity & Organization* by Lacey C. Warner; ISBN 13: 9781426767173

Required texts may be purchased from:

- Cokesbury (www.cokesbury.com) or phone 1-800-672-1789;
- The General Board of Discipleship (<http://www.gbod.org/>);
- The Upper Room (<http://bookstore.upperroom.org/>) or phone 1-800-972-0433;
- Some texts are available at Amazon.com or local Christian bookstores.

Reading Assignment: This class basically a 10 hour session with a break for sleep and breakfast. The assignment is to read ALL of the required text-- The Method of Our Mission: United Methodist Polity & Organization, by Lacey C. Warner. Make note of questions that arise and we will do our best to address them as we go through the class.

IN ADDITION: Please prepare an "Organization Chart" of how your local congregation is structured —no need for names of persons, just names of the various committees, boards and groups as well as an indication of to whom they are accountable. Be prepared to answer the following questions:

- 1) Why are you structured the way you are?
- 2) What are the positive features of your structure?
- 3) What are the negative features of your structure?
- 4) As a Lay Servant, where are you located in the structure and what does that mean for your ministry?

While it is not "required" it would be good to have a copy of the 2016 DISCIPLINE. As this will be rewritten after the General Conference of 2020 I would suggest that, if possible, you borrow rather than purchase a copy. If you can lay your hands on a copy of the Book of Resolutions that would also be helpful to bring along. If time permits, look through the *Table of Contents* of both and read those sections that interest you making notes of questions, "Aha!!s", and points of interest to you. **NOTE: here is a link to FREE on-line versions of both books.** <https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions>

PLEASE NOTE--To be true to our 10 hour requirement, and be finished by 4 pm, we will have a working lunch on Saturday. It will not really be feasible to go out to lunch so PLEASE BRING your lunch and a beverage.

*****PLEASE BE AWARE***** -- Our task is to better understand the organization and polity of the UMC in its current form (2016 Discipline) and come to a better understanding of how, in that context, the mission and ministry of the UMC is carried out at the Local, District, Jurisdictional and General Church levels. This is NOT a time to debate any issues we may have with that polity, i.e. recent Special General Conference legislation.



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Be certain to file the certificate you receive the last night of class in a safe place. You will need to submit a copy of it with your Annual Report for your local church's fall charge conference meeting.

NOTE: If you wish to become a **Certified Lay Servant [CLS]** you need to complete both the BASIC and one ADVANCED Lay Servant class. Then fill out the "*Certified Lay Servant and Certified Lay Speaker- Application*" attaching certificates from both classes and send the packet for review and approval by the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure (See ¶668.3). For more details on the CLS and to download the application go to:

<https://www.bwcumc.org/ministries/leadership-development/laity-development/>

Best wishes as you continue with your Lay Servant Ministry.

Miss P [Penny] Gaver

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