

From The Director's Desk

It is time for the Spring Classes. The dates for these classes are March 11, 12 and 13. Classes will be held at Cokesbury UMC, located at 4990 Dorchester Road. Cokesbury is located near the corner of Dorchester Road and Montague Avenue.

If you are going to attend, please get your registration in early, this will help us prepare. We have to order books and meals. Remember that you do not have to be a lay speaker to attend classes that do not have a prerequisite.

If you took *Basic Lay Speaking* in September, we recommend that you take Heritage, and then Worship as your next classes.

It is an exciting time in Lay Speaking Ministries and know that it will be a great time of learning, fellowship and growing together for ministry in our churches.

Class Schedule

Friday, March 11th – 6:30pm - 8:45 pm
(gathering in the Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, March 12th – 9:00am -5:00pm
(gathering in the Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, March 13th – 3:00pm (go directly to class)

The classes are as follows:

Basic Lay Speaking This course focuses on the many ways Lay Speakers are called to be in ministry through such things as leading, teaching, serving, proclaiming the Gospel, disciple-making, storytelling, growing through personal spiritual formation and preaching. The book introduces the stated purposes of Lay Speaking Ministries as caring, leading, and communicating.

U.M. Heritage Helps participants gain an understanding of the distinctive traditions and emphasis of the United Methodist Church; such as the history, beliefs, mission and church organization. This course helps us to understand where we as Methodist came from and why we do things the way we do.

Discover Spiritual Gifts The focus is on acquiring a better understanding of the church and its ministry needs; learning what it means to be a minister; doing the work of Christ in the church and in the world; and being more fully equipped to lead others in exploring and using their spiritual gifts.

Accountable Disciples This course focuses on the concept of the household of God, the importance of Scripture as divine revelation, Wesleyan understanding of grace, and the importance of the office of class leader in the development of the Methodist movement. Participants are encouraged to look at their own faith community and see how it is (or is not) a reflection of genuine Christian community.

Servant Leadership The purpose of this course is to (1) Develop and understanding of servant leadership and the types of power that occur between leaders and followers; (2) Acquire the tools and skills necessary for servant leadership; and (3) Increase one's capacity to deal with differences and to handle the conflict that is inevitable when people collaborate.

Lead Bible Study This course is designed to help lay speakers become versed in how to teach and lead Bible study. To explore the different ways to lead a Bible Study and get the student involved in the class.