



North Wilkesboro District
1710 Parkwood Drive
Wilkesboro, NC 28697
336-667-5401
www.northwilkesborodistrict.org

February 25, 2010

MEMO: LAY SPEAKERS AND PASTORS

It is that time of year again! The North Wilkesboro District of the United Methodist Church is offering the Lay Speaker Training for all those interested in becoming either a Local Church Lay Speaker or a Certified Lay Speaker.

The following courses will be offered on April 10th and 17th at Wilkesboro U.M.C.

Basic Course:

Mitch Matthews, Conference Director of Lay Speaking, is the teacher for this course. In the new basic course, individuals are encouraged to recognize and employ personal spiritual gifts for the Church in order to use them as God fully intended. Participants are invited to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in discipleship. It offers guidelines for best practices as a church leader and outlines a number of ministries in which lay speakers may assume roles.

Lay Speakers Preach:

Rev. Marietta Smith leads this course. Laypersons who are called upon to preach on occasion, but who are not formally trained as preachers, will find this simple, direct course to be both practical and accessible. It is designed for lay speakers, lay leaders, pastors and student pastors who have not completed formal preaching training, pastors seeking a basic refresher course, others who are called upon to preach in their pastor's absence.

Lay Speakers Discover Spiritual Gifts:

Rev. Cam Conover is the instructor for this course. This course focuses 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.

Lay Pastoral Care Giving:

Rev. Sarah Fouts will help us learn to care for others in both the community of faith and the extended community. Some people seem to have natural gifts, but most of us can learn to improve our caring skills. Lay Pastoral Care Giving offers insights into the life span and into the dynamics of contemporary life to help church leaders reach out with God's love and care to others.

The courses are covered over two consecutive Saturdays from 8:45 am until 2:30 pm. The class fee is \$30 and includes textbook and lunch for both days. Some pre-class reading may be required. Course materials will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment. Attendance at both Saturday sessions is required for completion and/or certification.

In order to function as a lay speaker, each year you must submit to your pastor a "Lay Speaker Annual Report/Request for Continuation." Your pastor will then submit approved applications to the Cluster Charge Conference along with the Charge Conference reports. This report must be filed by each lay speaker every year.

Local Church Lay Speakers are required to take the Basic Course only once. If you desire, you may take any additional Advanced Lay Speaker training courses for your own enrichment. To maintain status as a Certified Lay Speaker, you are required to take an advanced course at least once every three years. The Basic Course is a prerequisite to the Advanced Course. (Note: A Local Church Lay Speaker can speak only in his home church. A Certified Lay Speaker is available for speaking in any church in the district.)

If you have questions, or need further clarification, please contact either Charles Walker (336-468-4008) or Carol Roberts (336-468-2045).

Registration deadline is March 25. Your registration and payment must be received in the district office no later than March 25. Make check payable to NW District Treasurer. Mail registration form and class fee (\$30) to NWD Lay Speaker Training, 1710 Parkwood Drive, Wilkesboro, NC 28697.

✂ -----

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

CHURCH: _____

Select one course

BEGINNERS

Basic Course

ADVANCED COURSES

I completed the Basic Course on _____

Advanced Lay Speakers Preach

Advanced Lay Speakers Discover Their Spiritual Gifts

Advanced Lay Pastoral Care Giving

Office use:

Class fee received on _____

Class materials mailed on _____

Amount Received \$ _____

Cash

Check/Money Order # _____