



SHREVEPORT DISTRICT MINISTRY TEAM

invites you to attend the
Fall 2013 Lay Speaking School

Friday, October 11, 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 12, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Benton United Methodist Church,
4615 Palmetto Road, Benton, Louisiana 71006

Course description: This 10-hour course is designed to provide initial and continuing training for laity in leading, caring and communicating in their ministry. Besides the basic course, an advanced course is offered. We will close with worship including a Service of Commitment.

Function and requirements of certified lay speakers: Lay speakers use their witness, leadership and service to inspire others to a deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. This may include interpretation of the Scripture, doctrine, organization and ministries of the church, as identified in (paragraph) 266 of the Discipline. In previous years, the primary function of a lay speaker was to conduct services when a pastor was absent from his or her pulpit. *Today, it encompasses many more opportunities for service within the district and conference.*

Applicants must be active in the support of the local church

The certified lay servant must complete the basic course and an advanced course, then remain certified by taking an advanced course every three years. The certified lay servant may serve in other churches of the conference besides his/her local congregation. Recognition of certified lay servant status must be obtained each year by submitting a written report to the charge conference. The certified lay speaker must complete the basic course and 6 specified advanced courses.

Basic Course:

This Basic Class is the foundation for all of the other texts in the Learning and Leading series for *Lay Servant Ministries*. In this basic course you will be encouraged to recognize and employ personal spiritual gifts for the church in order to use them as God fully intended. Participants will discuss 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. The class will offer guidelines for best practices as a church leader and outlines a number of ministry areas in which you, as a *Lay Servant*, may assume a role. Lay Servants are called to proclaim the gospel in many different ways – in leadership, in supportive roles, and helping others grow in a life giving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Matt Wise, a certified lay servant will be teaching the Basic Course. Matt has a passion for the United Methodist Church and loves to share his knowledge with others. He is a member at Benton United Methodist Church where he serves as the president of the United Methodist Men, the lead teacher for the confirmation class, and the leader of a Wednesday night men's Bible Study class. He taught the Basic course at the Spring Lay servant school and we look forward to having him lead the course again this fall.

Advanced Course: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts (This course is one of the six required courses for Lay Speaker Certification)

This course helps participants understand spiritual gifts and how the church can use them to fulfill its mission and ministry. Participants will also learn what it means to be a spiritual leader and will be equipped to lead others in exploring and using their spiritual gifts. The book used for this course is *Each One a Minister* by William J. Carter. The teacher for this course will be announced at a later time.

Your cost is \$45. Fee includes a Friday evening light meal, Saturday morning breakfast and Saturday lunch as well as the cost of the book for your course. It goes without saying we are all very busy; that's the culture we live in. However, it will be **much** to your advantage to read, or at least review, the Basic Course Text (which will be mailed to you) if you are taking the basic course. Participants in the Advanced Course will receive their book the first day of the school unless the instructor deems that students need to have read through portions before the class begins. In that case the book will be mailed to you.

----- **Cut here and mail the following with your check** -----

APPLICATION
(Deadline: Friday, September 20, 2013)

Please enroll me in (**check one only**):

- _____ **Basic Lay Speaking Course**
_____ **Advanced Lay Speaking Course: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts**

Begins at 5:30 p.m., Friday, October 11, and ends 4:30 p.m., Saturday, October 12
at Benton UMC, 4615 Palmetto Road, Benton LA

I enclose my check or money order payable to “Shreveport District UMC” in the amount of \$45 and my pastor and AdBd/Church Council Chair have signed my application. Those who cannot afford the fee may ask their home church to scholarship them. (Please note: You must attend the entire session to receive certification.)

Name: _____ Church: _____

(Please print)

Your mailing address: _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Hm Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Pastor's signature: _____

Ad Bd/Church Council Chair's signature: _____

Mail applications as early as possible, to **be received no later than September 20**, to:
Shreveport District UMC, P O Box 41188, Shreveport LA 71134-1188



Lay Servant School
Presented by Shreveport District Ministry Team
Karen Wise, Lay Servant District Director
October 11, 2013 – October 12, 2013, Benton UMC