

LAY ACADEMY OF CHURCH EXCELLENCE (LACE) CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Month One

Hour I: Basic LSM—Ministry of the Baptized (Session I of *Basic Course Handbook*) United Methodist Background, Wesleyan Emphases, Connectional Church, The Priesthood of Believers, Exploring God’s Call, Hearing & Responding to God’s Call.

Hour II: Basic LSM--Ministry of the Baptized (Session I of *Basic Course Handbook* and *Gifts of the Spirit* by Kinghorn) Instructor will teach the Biblical concept of spiritual gifts. Instructor will administer the spiritual gifts inventory developed by Chris Harmon and available to the Conference to give students an opportunity to help them discover their spiritual gifts.

Hour III: Basic LSM—Leading (Session 2 of *Basic Course Handbook*) Servant Leadership, Roles in leadership and Concept of Spiritual Leader, Principles of Christian Conferencing and understanding concepts of Consensus and Discernment.

Hour VI: Basic LSM—Leading (Session 2 of *Basic Course Handbook*) Servant Leadership, Roles in leadership and Concept of Spiritual Leader, Principles of Christian Conferencing and understanding concepts of Consensus and Discernment.

Hour V: Basic LSM—Leading (Session 2 of *Basic Course Handbook*) Servant Leadership, Roles in leadership and Concept of Spiritual Leader, Principles of Christian Conferencing and understanding concepts of Consensus and Discernment.

Month Two

Hour I: Basic LSM—Caring (Session Three of *Basic Course Handbook*) Biblical basic for caring ministry, compare and contrast acts of compassion and acts of justice, types of caring ministries, and how to show care for creation.

Hour II: Basic LSM—Caring (Session Three of *Basic Course Handbook*) Biblical basic for caring ministry, compare and contrast acts of compassion and acts of justice, types of caring ministries, and how to show care for creation.

Hour III: Basic LSM—Communicating (Session Four of *Basic Course Handbook*) Importance of communication skills, respectful communication guidelines, mutual invitation, listening skills, and sharing a faith story with another participant.

Hour IV: Basic LSM— Communicating (Session Four of Basic Course Handbook)
Importance of communication skills, respectful communication guidelines, mutual invitation, listening skills, and sharing a faith story with another participant.

Hour V: Basic LSM—Into the World (Session Five of Basic Course Handbook)
Fulfilling the Great Commission, importance of continued study and spiritual growth, hospitality in the church, and tolls for ministry.

Month Three

Hour I: Ministry Presentation/Leadership: The instructor may teach leadership in the church using as the primary text *Christian Reflections on Leadership Challenge* by Kouzes and Posner. This suggested text addresses how to model the way, inspire a shared vision, challenge the process, enable others to act, and encourage the heart. During this hour half of the class will be sharing their individual ministry presentations in a separate class.

Hour II: Ministry Presentation/Leadership: The instructor may teach leadership in the church using as the primary text *Christian Reflections on Leadership Challenge* by Kouzes and Posner. This suggested text addresses how to model the way, inspire a shared vision, challenge the process, enable others to act, and encourage the heart. During this hour half of the class will be sharing their individual ministry presentations in a separate class.

Hour III: Our Methodist Heritage: The suggested text is *The United Methodist Member's Handbook* by George E. Koehler. This lesson provides a quick review of our Methodist heritage and a brief synopsis of our overall approach to theology and why we belong to the whole church universal.

Hour IV: Conflict Management in the Church: Instructor may use as the primary text *Church Conflict: The Hidden Systems Behind the Fights* by Charles H. Cosgrove. This text explains the use of an excellent tool for identifying potential conflicts and how to manage them so as to cause minimal damage to the church. The Lay Leader Manual found on-line on the Conference website also provides additional insight on how to confront people in conflict.

Hour V: Baptism and Communion in the United Methodist Church: Participants will explore baptism and communion in the United Methodist Church. Suggested texts related to baptism are *By Water and the Spirit* and *This Holy Mystery* by Gayle Carlton Felton.

Month Four

Hour I: Church Organization: *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* may be used as a primary text by the instructor in this session focusing on the Church. The District Lay Leader Manual found on-line on the Kentucky Conference website may be used as a resource. *The United Methodist Handbook* by George E. Koehler is another excellent resource.

Hour II: Duties of Church Officers: The instructor will teach duties of the local church officers making reference to the *Discipline* as a resource. The instructor will focus on the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Lay Leadership Committee, and the office of administrative chairperson.

Hour III: Conducting Administrative/Council Board Meetings: This session focuses on the important function of the church administrative board, including how to empower the church council as a vital element of the local church. The instructor may use the suggested text of *Transforming Church Boards into Communities of Spiritual Leaders* by Charles M. Olsen.

Hour IV: Stewardship: The instructor may use the suggested text, *Creating a Climate for Giving* by Donald W. Joiner. Rather than focusing on yearly fund-raisers, this text provides insight on creating a church climate where worshipers give regularly and willingly after seeing that their tithes, gifts, and offerings are making a difference in the world. *Guidelines on Stewardship*, available through Cokesbury, is another excellent resource on stewardship.

Hour V: Kentucky Conference Resources: This course will inform the participants of the UMC resources available to each local church through the Conference website, UMC Official website, Conference library, and other appropriate Conference resources.

Month Five

Hour I: Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations: Learn the five practices of fruitful congregations that include radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. The text for this lesson comes from *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase.

Hour II: Evangelism: The instructor will explore with the participants the most effective ways to communicate the Gospel. Suggested text is *Faith Sharing* by Eddie Fox and George Morris. Also, a workbook is available.

Hour III: Myers-Briggs Spiritual Inventory: The suggested text is *Exploring Your Spirituality with Myers-Briggs* by Malcolm Goldsmith. The instructor will show how people experience God in different ways using their senses. The foundation of this hour is based on the Myers-Briggs personality inventory.

Hour IV: Worship Modalities: The instructor will teach the different ways worship can occur through songs, prayers, liturgical dance, use of PowerPoint presentations, and/or other creative modes of worship. Suggested text is *Transforming Worship* by Tim Carson.

Hour V: Wrap-up, DS Comments, and Communion.