

# Saginaw Bay District Leadership Training for Church Leaders and Lay Speakers



Sponsored by the Saginaw Bay District Committee on Lay Speaking Ministries

**Dates and Times:** April 14, 21, and 28; May 5 and 12 from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m.

## Choice of sites:

### Pinconning UMC—314 Whyte Street, Pinconning, MI 48650

- Basic Course in Lay Speaking Ministries** (discover your gifts of caring, leading, and communicating) (\$35)
- Leading in Prayer** (advanced) (see course description on reverse side) (\$45)

### Gaylord: First UMC—215 S. Center, Gaylord, MI 49734

- Basic Course in Lay Speaking Ministries** (discover your gifts of caring, leading, and communicating) (\$35)
- Leading in Prayer** (advanced) (see course description on reverse side) (\$45)

**For Lay Speaking credit**     **Not for credit** (Pastoral/congregational approval not required to *audit* courses.)

## Part I. Registrant Information

- I am an active *member of* \_\_\_\_\_ United Methodist Church.
- I understand this will not guarantee a chance to preach, but will prepare me to take on leadership roles in my church.
- I will actively participate in learning sessions.
- I will complete my homework assignments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home mailing address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred email address

## Part II. Pastoral Support

- I have discussed with this member their leadership potential and expectations.
- I understand that completion of this course will be a significant moment for this member, worthy of recognition before the congregation.
- I understand that I am invited to the closing service (last hour of last class session).
- I support this member's application to become or renew their status as a lay speaker.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Part III. Congregational Support

- The church council or the pastor/staff parish committee has discussed with this member their leadership potential and expectations.
- We agree to nurture the spiritual growth of this member and to provide growth opportunities appropriate to their abilities and availability.
- We fully support this member's application to become or to continue as a lay speaker.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

- P/SPRC                       Church council (at least one)

Please complete this registration form (or a copy) and send it with your registration fee of \$35 (Basic) or \$45 (Advanced) payable to "Saginaw Bay District" to:

**Jim Birch, Registrar**  
**1801 W. Manitou Trail**  
**Midland, MI 48640**  
**Phone: 989-832-7485**

**Email: james.birch@editech-mi.com**

**Note:** Registration **deadline** is **April 1, 2012**. After the deadline, fees will increase by \$10. Courses with fewer than six registrants by the deadline are likely to be cancelled.

**Please:** If it is close to the deadline, please notify the registrar by telephone or e-mail that you will be attending.

**Important:** For registrations that arrive after the deadline, we cannot ensure that late registrants will receive course materials in time to complete the assignments for the first session.

**Bring a friend:** Why not invite someone from your church or community to attend and ride with you? We encourage you to make and distribute blank copies of this form to other potential applicants.

# About These Courses

Although Lay Speaking Ministries courses are intended to train lay people to be better leaders in their local church, *anyone* is eligible to take them. Many courses are ideal training for those who chair ministry committees in their local church. Even pastors can benefit from a quick refresher. Those who don't wish to be recognized as lay speakers do not need to obtain signatures from their pastor or their pastor/staff parish committee.

If participants have the support of their congregation and their pastor, applying to the District Committee and completing the basic course can result in recognition as a local church lay speaker. It does not mean people must preach, nor does it guarantee that they will be given that opportunity. Such opportunities would be by mutual agreement with your pastor.

Lay speakers who have completed the basic course can, if affirmed by their congregation and their pastor, become certified lay speakers by completing any one of the advanced courses and applying to the District Committee.

## **Basic Course in Lay Speaking Ministries—\$35 (\$45 after registration deadline)**

“I want to grow as a follower of Jesus and better understand how to use my gifts in ministry.” Have you ever thought something like that? We are all called to proclaim God's wonder and works in the environments in which we work, learn, socialize, recreate, and serve. Answering the spiritual nudges to put faith in action and represent Christ in our daily lives present unique opportunities to serve both God and neighbor. Your service can be as unique as you and your spiritual gifts.

The basic course for Lay Speaking Ministries guides you in discovering and developing your gifts of caring, leading, and communicating and putting them to use. Sessions take you through thoughtful reflection on what it takes to make a congregation an outpost for mission and transformation and the role you can play—whether or not you think public speaking is one of your gifts.

## **Leading in Prayer, Advanced Course—\$45 (\$55 after registration deadline)**

Prayer is such a vital part of the Christian experience that when we become followers of Christ and join the church, often it is assumed that we know how to pray. This is usually incorrect. Prayer is something we learn. It is something that can be taught. As a church leader you may find yourself the one asked to lead prayer in worship services, as well as other settings. This course will help you grow in the discipline of leading prayer.

The text and workbook for the course is titled *Let the Whole Church Say, Amen!*, by Laurence Hull Stookey. Sessions will cover basic forms and patterns of prayer, crafting short collects, using vigorous and lively verbs, shaping litanies and prayers of confession, and developing corporate prayer. There will be plenty of interaction as well as opportunities to practice what you have learned.