



Office of Leadership Development
Dakotas Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

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August 31, 2011

Dear Lay Servant Minister,

Thank you for your continued commitment and the use of your gifts in the area of Lay Servant (Lay Speaking) Ministries. Lay persons are vital to the growth and development of the Church. If the Dakotas Conference is to reach its goal of 1% growth by 2012, we will need you and your calling put to action to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world—all to the glory of God. I truly believe that God will turn our local churches, the Dakotas Conference, and even the denomination around if we will refocus on what it means to BE the church as participants in God's mission to the world. Imagine...if we truly make disciples who in turn make disciples, the possibilities are endless!

NEW THIS YEAR

- Name change from Lay Speaker to **Lay Servant Minister**
- Options for one-day, 7-8 hour training events with pre-class or after-class work
- To receive a Certificate of Completion following a class you must read the course book and complete a one page reflection paper (however if you are not concerned about maintaining "Certified Lay Servant Minister" formerly "Certified Lay Speaker" status you would not need to complete this reflection paper)

You will find the "Lay Servant Minister Annual Report for Year 2011" form attached. Please complete the form with the necessary signatures, **save a copy for yourself and then give the completed form to your District Superintendent at your Charge Conference.**

Schedule of Upcoming 2011/2012 Lay Servant Ministry Training Events:

Sept. 24th at Brandon The Celebration UMC

Oct. 29th at Devils Lake UMC

Oct. 28-29 at Pierre 1st UMC

Nov. 5 at Spearfish UMC

Jan. 21 in the Winner/Gregory area (Details will be announced when finalized)

Feb. 17-19 Retreat at Storm Mountain (Details will be announced when finalized)

REMINDER: To remain a Certified Lay Servant Minister you must complete an approved advanced course once every three years and if you wish to be listed as available for pulpit supply, you must complete an advanced course in “preaching” once every three years.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office (605-996-6552) or Michael McMenemy (michaelmcmenemy@gmail.com).

Blessings,



Jodi L. Cataldo
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NOTE: Please contact Bonnie Carlson, 605-996-6552 or bonnie.carlson@dakotasumc.org if you no longer wish to receive email notices or regular mail notices regarding Lay Servant Ministry events.