

## 1 **Lay Servant Ministries**

2 Lay Servant Ministries is the premier lay leadership development program available within the United  
3 Methodist connection. Lay Servants grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples  
4 through their leadership and witness.

5  
6 Lay Servants serve within their local church and beyond in ways that inspire other laity to deepen their  
7 commitment to Christ and yield more effective discipleship, including the interpretation of Scripture,  
8 doctrine, organization, and ministries of the Church. They lead, assist, and support the programs of the  
9 church; assume leadership roles; lead prayer meetings; facilitate small groups and Bible studies; teach  
10 Sunday School; conduct congregational and community life; and foster caregiving ministries. They are  
11 leaders who serve through leading, caring, and communicating ministries in their local church and beyond.

12  
13 As we move forward in 2023, we look back at the changes we have made due to the pandemic and see  
14 God's hand at work. We are now on the other side and districts have brought back "in-person" classes  
15 while continuing to offer courses via Zoom and also offering them hybrid (offered in-person and via Zoom  
16 at the same time). This continues to be a blessing within our Conference and beyond! The number of  
17 courses offered in 2022 was about the same as the previous year. We fully expect that offering courses  
18 by Zoom will continue to be a common practice in the Conference. God is Good!

19  
20 As of the end of 2022, Upper New York Annual Conference has over 500 active Lay Servants, 55 Lay  
21 Speakers and 105 Certified Lay Ministers. Among these numbers are 10 newly affirmed Lay Speakers:

- 22
- 23 • Genesee Valley District: Julie Buehler, Margaret (Maggie) Graham
- 24 • Mohawk District: Lisa Bobak, Bethann Miller, William Prior, Albert Wilson
- 25 • Mountain View District: Larry Crandell, Peter O'Neill, Susan Silhan
- 26 • Oneonta District: Mary Doors
- 27

28 We also affirmed 7 new Certified Lay Ministers:

- 29
- 30 • Adirondack District: Julie Borden, Jane Decoteau, Paula McMahon
- 31 • Albany District: Howie Parslow
- 32 • Crossroads District: Judy Shepard, James Sokolowski
- 33 • Oneonta District: Nancy Lee Harrington
- 34

35 Lay Servants are equipped and empowered to serve as disciples of Jesus Christ through a myriad of  
36 ministries including - VIM, Small Group Leaders, Trustees, SPRC members, Sunday School Teachers,  
37 Visitation Coordinators, Prayer Leaders, Pulpit Fill, ... and the list goes on.

38 The UNY Conference Lay Servant Ministry Team also approved 1 new Alternate Advanced courses that  
39 may be used as credit for 10-hour advanced courses. The course is *A Disciples Path*

40  
41 We are dedicated disciples of Jesus Christ committed to serving in whatever ways we are called in the  
42 Upper New York Conference. Praise be to God!

- 1 District Directors:
- 2 • Adirondack – Bruce Hazard and Jacqueline Kim
  - 3 • Albany – Darlene Suto
  - 4 • Binghamton – TBD
  - 5 • Cornerstone – Cora Martin
  - 6 • Crossroads – Darlene Dennis and Robert Mueller
  - 7 • Finger Lakes – TBD
  - 8 • Genesee Valley – Deb Clyde
  - 9 • Mohawk – Ken Guilfoyle
  - 10 • Mountain View – Sue Silhan and Ernest Warren
  - 11 • Niagara Frontier – Tracy Hagler
  - 12 • Northern Flow – Donna Fitchett
  - 13 • Oneonta – Cathy Honrath
  - 14 • At-Large Member – Elisabeth Kisselstein

15

16 I would not be able to do all that I do without the wonderful team beside me. Thank you to the awesome  
17 District Directors for your dedication and hard work.

18

19 Though COVID is still with us, I am glad to see we are now on the other side of the health emergency. I  
20 look forward to seeing how God continues to work in our “new normal”. I pray that He continues to show  
21 us new ways to minister and new ways to teach those in leadership.

22

23 May God continue to inspire the Laity in our Conference.

24 May God continue to work in us.

25 May God continue to lead us in our time of waiting and expectation.

26 May God fill you with peace and comfort as we continue to move forward to healing – physically,  
27 emotionally and spiritually.

28 May God be with us all as we continue in ministry together.

29

30 Respectfully Submitted,

31 Linda M. Barczykowski

32 Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries