



Genesee Valley District
Lay Servant Ministries
Committee

Presents

The Fall Training Retreat

Featuring the opportunity to take

“The Basic Lay Servant Course”

or

Advanced Course

“Prayer”

or

Advanced Course

“Transforming Evangelism”

or

Advanced Course

“Heritage”

October 31, November 1, and 2, 2025

(Ten hours are required for course credit. That will include attendance and participation in Sunday worship.)

at

Asbury Camp & Retreat Center
16 Lakeside Avenue
Silver Lake, NY 14549
Office # 585-237-5262

“The Basic Lay Servant Course”

The Basic Lay Servant Course is an overview study and exploration into the many ways Christians may serve our Lord through Lay Servant Ministries. It is the foundation course for Lay Servant Ministries.

Participants are invited to consider 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. It offers guidelines for best practices as a church leader and outlines a number of ministries in which Lay Servants may assume roles.

Whether one decides to proceed in the process to become a Lay Servant or not, this course is excellent for all church laity in leadership positions. Please bring the *Lay Servant Ministries Participant’s Book* by Sandy Zeigler Jackson and Brian Jackson to class. [Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant's Book - Upper Room Books](#)

Instructor: Carmen FS Vianese is a lady disciple, a wife, mom & grandma. She is a Licensed Massage Therapist for Hospice and a recent Retired Certified Occupational Therapist for OPWDD of NYS, working with adults with special needs and abilities for the past 38 years. Carmen is humbled to have the opportunity to serve the members of the UMC through the positions she has held on district, conference, jurisdictional and general boards/agencies. She is the current Chair of the UNY Committee on Episcopacy and the Chair of the Investment & Loan Committee of the Wesleyan Impact Partners (formerly known as the United Methodist Development Fund) and states that, “It is my lay servant ministry training that has grounded me and provided me with the tools that I have needed to serve as successfully as I have. I can clearly state that some of my favorite work has been through Lay Servant Ministries and teaching Lay servant courses over the years, as it allows me an opportunity to connect with and work with laity & clergy around the UMC as we build up & equip servant leaders.”

“Transforming Evangelism”

This course leads participants to learn from John Wesley how to practice relational evangelism. They will discover that evangelism involves not only sharing our faith with others but also welcoming people into a community where they can grow in faith. This is the text you will need for this course: [Transforming Evangelism - Upper Room Books](#) by Henry H. Knight III and F. Douglas Powe, Jr.

Instructor: Rev. Todd Goddard is a retired United Methodist Elder, ordained in 1988, who is now serving the congregations of Canadice and Allens Hill UMC’s. He has led four pilgrimages to Israel, and mission trips to Nicaragua and Guatemala. Rev. Todd is married and has two sons. His personal mission is to glorify God and build God’s kingdom, while his parish objective is to invite others to journey together as disciples of Jesus Christ.

REGISTRATION FORM

Check one:

- “The Basic Lay Servant Course”**
- “Prayer”**
- “Transforming Evangelism”**
- “Heritage”**

Your name

Your home address

Town, State, Zip

Your phone number (cell)

Your email address

Your district (i.e. Genesee Valley, Finger Lakes)

Your home church

Church’s address

Your pastor

Be sure to fill out the other side. 

Please mail your registration by October 20, 2025. Include your check made out to UNY UMC conference. Write GVD LSM Retreat on the memo line, please.

What to bring continued – a night light, if you think you might need it and a house extension cord to recharge your electronics.

Accommodations

Your Name _____

Check one:

stay 2 nights in a 2-4-person room, 4 meals (3 on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday), semi-private bath, course Cost: \$ 200.00.

stay 2 nights in a 1-person room, 4 meals (3 on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday), possible semi-private bath, course Cost: \$ 255.00.
(Limited availability - you will be contacted if your request cannot be honored.)

commuter includes 4 meals (3 on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday), course Cost: \$ 115.00.

Total enclosed: _____

Please make your check payable to:

*****UNY UMC Conference*****

(On the memo line - GVD LSM Retreat)

Mail to: Deborah Clyde

11 Bowen Rd.

Churchville, NY 14428

Special Accommodations

Please list roommate request(s) (You may be in a room with 2, 3, or 4 beds) and/or any special requests or needs:

Please be sure to fill out the other side.

“Heritage”

This course will explore the special gifts of theology, witness, and organization that The United Methodist Church brings to the church universal, how we got where we are today, and how our distinctive emphases are still needed in the 21st-century church.

The text you will be using for this course is: [Wesley and the People Called Methodists : Second Edition book by Richard P. Heitzenrater: 9781426742248](#) . It can be found at [betterworldbooks.com](#).

This course will start off with a **2-hour evening zoom** on Thursday, October 30 and will continue at Asbury Retreat Center on Saturday morning, November 1. If you take this course, you will be considered a commuter. Your three meals on Saturday are included in the cost. If you do want to stay overnight, those arrangements can be made but will require an additional cost.

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Phillip Phaneuf turned 51 this year—with that said, being the youngest of four children, he’s been a public speaker for... (checks notes) 51 years. He’s required to maintain a youthful zest for life in order to keep up with his 12-year-old daughter and his active congregation at North Chili UMC. While he could list a pedigree of higher education achievements to prove he’s a glutton for the adrenaline rush of writing papers with an impending due date, he’d rather be known for practicing being kind, to being more aware of the Spirit’s presence in the person right in front of him, and to practice paying attention in the present moment non-judgmentally and non-anxiously. Phil loves to watch movies with always a theological eye to the story unfolding, is a huge Phillies fan (used to live in Delaware) and dabbles in music and art.

“Prayer”

The focus of this course will be on learning more about common Christian prayer practices and the role of mindfulness and meditation as essential Christian disciplines for individuals, groups and congregations. Participants will have opportunities to practice prayer and meditation and share their experiences with one another. We will also learn how to lead congregational prayer as well as small groups in prayer and meditation. Time permitting, we will offer a prayer time for the other classes using the resources we have developed.

Instructor: Rev. Margaret Scott is of Scottish and Christian background. Her years in the U.S. as pastor and small group leader, as wife and mother, and as an oblate of St. Benedict have all contributed to her own spiritual life and have given her resources she loves to share. She has retired as a United Methodist Elder and is a member of the Covenant UMC.

Who Should Take the Advanced Courses?

Primarily aimed at Lay Servants, these classes are open to anyone (clergy or laity). Lay Servants may use these courses to fulfill the requirement of at least one advanced /refresher course, each three years, to maintain status.

Things to Bring

Sleeping bag or bed linens (pillows and blankets are provided) [If you will need linens, contact Deb Clyde prior to Oct. 20, for cost & arrangements] Course materials. Text needed for the course, a Bible, pens/pencils, paper, highlighter, etc. Please “Lug a Mug” for beverage breaks. Musical instruments and games (as desired), towels, washcloths, personal care items, comfortable, warm clothing, walking shoes, a flashlight, and a snack to share for breaks, cont’d...
****[No meal will be provided Friday evening.]****

When You Get There

Plan to arrive at camp between 5 and 5:45 PM for registration at The Manor on Friday. [**Do not** bring your bags in as you might be staying in another location.] If you are unable to make the registration time, please let Deb Clyde know *prior to that Friday, October 31, 2025*.

Departure will be after the 9:00 AM worship service on Sunday morning.

Problems with this schedule? Please contact Deb Clyde at dclcyde@rochester.rr.com or 585-413-6057 *prior to Thursday, October 30, 2025*.

Scholarships

There are scholarship funds available for those taking the Basic Course. If you need help financing the weekend, please check with your church first. If you still need funds, please contact Deb Clyde (see below).

Questions? Please contact:

Genesee Valley District
Lay Servant Ministries Director:
Deborah Clyde
585-413-6057
Email: dclcyde@rochester.rr.com