

The District Directors and myself have several goals that we have set for 2014:

1. Update / refine our Lay Servant Ministries Database in each District and the Conference (this is an ongoing process)
2. Provide training in each district that advances the training requirements set out in the 2012 G.C Legislation (held training in all districts in 2013)
3. Establish our own webpage “linked” to the ARUMC.ORG site . (completed in February 2014 - Resources)
4. Add all of our LSM Forms to the webpage in 2014 (ONGOING PROCESS)
5. Add all of the Lay Servant records to the webpage in 2014 – (by mid 2015)
6. Add pictures of LSM Classes held in each District (by end of 2014 ?)
7. As you can see we still have a lot to prepare for this year. I would hope as we plan our classes this year and beyond that we would be aware of the needs of any who would continue on to be "Lay Speakers " in this new legislation, as well as those who might just want training for local church service.
8. We need to inform our laity that we also want them to come to our classes even if they do not want to be Certified- we love the fellowship of all.
9. We also need to strive to include all of our ethnic brothers and sisters in our training. We do have several courses that are written in ethnic languages, we just need to schedule classes for them.
10. The Directors of the Lay Servant Ministries Program have realized the “challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of us and ask that the Laity and Clergy of the Arkansas Conference support us in doing what the Church calls us to do and I know each of you will assist our District Lay Servant Ministry Directors in doing that.
11. **Due to the requirement of 10 hours of one-on-one classroom type training , and outside reading assignments as needed we have re-visited our “Approved” list of Alternate classes / events per that requirement , and as a result we now have a new list for 2014 as follows:**
12. Remember – you still must take at least one District Classroom type class once every three years, even when taking other Alternate service or online classes. Classroom Fellowship is very important to the LSM Program.

List of 2014 “ Approved “ Alternate Service / Training for Certified Lay Servants

1. All LSM Classes conducted / approved through the District Director
2. UMC recognized courses / events : Walk to Emmaus , Mission u , Disciple Bible Studies , Stephen Ministry , Hendrix College Religious Ed. Programs , Center for Clergy and Laity Excellence
3. Be-A-Disciple and other online courses , to be considered on a case – by – case basis for 2014 (please contact your District or Conference Director before taking these to be able to get credit for the course. (these courses must meet / exceed LSM Program requirements.

We voted and approved at Conference last year a Constitutional “Name Change” for Director of Lay Speaking Ministry to “Director of Lay Servant Ministry. This was required by the General Conference Legislation of 2012. Thanks to each of you for the approval.

Jimmie Boyd

Certified Lay Servant – not a Certified Lay Speaker (as of Jan 1 , 2013) I must take extra training also to be a Lay Speaker , if I choose that track.

