

March 2014
Rev. 1 March 17, 2014

WHO ARE WE ?

*WE ARE A PEOPLE WHO HAVE A DESIRE TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS CHURCH

*WE ARE A PEOPLE WHO HAVE MANY DIFFERENT TALENTS

*WE ARE A PEOPLE WHO COME FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE

WE ARE A PEOPLE WHO JUST CANNOT SAY NO WHEN IT IS TIME TO SERVE OTHERS IN THE NAME OF JESUS

*WE ARE UNITED METHODISTS WHO LOVE GOD, LOVE OUR CHURCH, ARE FAITHFUL TO OUR CALLING AND BELIEVE THAT WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE AROUND US THROUGH OUR SERVICE TO THE LORD.

*WE ARE PEOPLE WHO SING, TEACH, PREACH, LISTEN, PRAY, VISIT THE SICK, PROVIDE SHELTER, LOVE, SHARE OUR STORIES, WITNESS TO OTHERS AND -----WELL YOU GET THE PICTURE.

*WE ARE JUST LIKE YOU!!! THAT'S RIGHT, WE ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS WHO SERVE THE CHURCH, EXCEPT WE COMMIT SOME OF OUR TIME TO PERSONAL INSTRUCTION AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS. (SOME OF US RETURN EVERY YEAR FOR THE CLASSES, BECAUSE WE LOVE FELLOWSHIPING AND LEARNING WITH OTHERS WHO ARE LAY SERVANTS).

WE USED TO BE CONSIDERED JUST "**PULPIT SUPPLY**" FOR THE PASTOR WHENEVER THE PASTOR WAS OUT, BUT NOW WE ARE RECOGNIZED FOR OUR OTHER TALENTS AS WELL.

COME ON AND JOIN US – TAKE THE "BASIC "LAY SERVANT COURSE AND FIND OUT WHAT WE ARE ABOUT. (TEENAGERS HAVE THEIR OWN "BASIC "CLASS). IT IS ONLY 10 HOURS OF BASIC CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION AND WILL ALLOW YOU TO GAIN THE STATUS OF A "**LOCAL LAY SERVANT**". (SERVE IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH)

AFTER THE BASIC CLASS,WHEN YOU TAKE AN ADVANCED COURSE (WITHIN THREE YEARS – PREFERABLY THE NEXT CLASS OFFERED THOUGH) YOU WILL RECEIVE THE **CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT** CERTIFICATE. (SERVE IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH AND OTHER AVENUES OF SERVICE IN THE UM CONNECTION) .

IF YOU WANT TO SERVE AS A "**LAY SPEAKER**" YOU WILL NEED TO TAKE ADDITIONAL COURSES APPROVED BY THE ARKANSAS CONFERENCE LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES COMMITTEE. THERE ARE 5 ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC COURSES / CATEGORIES TO BE TAKEN AT THIS LEVEL. THIS ALSO WOULD SIGNAL THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT THAT YOU WOULD POSSIBLY BE WILLING TO TAKE A SHORT APPOINTMENT FOR A PASTOR WHO HAS TO LEAVE THEIR PULPIT FOR AN EXTENDED TIME, OR WHERE A CHURCH DOES NOT HAVE A CURRENT PASTOR AVAILABLE. THESE COURSES COULD BE TAKEN WHILE SERVING IN THIS CAPACITY AS WELL.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE ACTUALLY RECORDED IN THE LAY SERVANT MINISTRY PROGRAM BUT WOULD LIKE TO TAKE SOME OF THE CLASSES, THAT IS OK ALSO. CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT DIRECTOR OR YOUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OFFICE AND JOIN US.

WE HAVE OVER 500 LAY SERVANTS IN THE LSM PROGRAM, AND THAT NUMBER VARIES AS WE SOMETIMES HAVE TO REMOVE PERSONS FROM OUR ROLLS. THIS SADDENS US, BUT BECAUSE OF OUR REQUIREMENTS OF A TRAINING CLASS (OR APPROVED ALTERNATE)AT LEAST EVERY THREE YEARS, WE HAVE TO REMOVE THOSE WHO DO NOT ATTEND. IF YOU DO LET YOUR THREE YEAR PERIOD LAPSE, YOU MUST TAKE THE "BASIC" CLASS AGAIN AND START OVER. PLEASE DO NOT LET THAT HAPPEN- WE WANT AND NEED EACH AND EVERY ONE WHO HAS THE CALLING TO BE A LAY SERVANT!

Peace and God Bless,
Jimmie Boyd