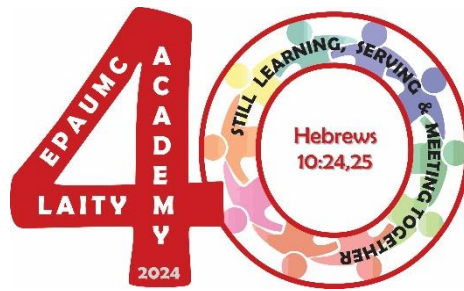


# EPA Laity Academy - Session 2

August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024



## 2024 COURSE CATALOG

The courses offered at the 2024 Laity Academy – Session 2 are divided into the Christ Servant Ministry categories of the BASIC Course, Speaking, Leading, and Caring. This year you may select from 10 courses, including 5 **NEW** classes. [Registration closes July 22<sup>nd</sup>](#) .

### **BASIC**

- BASIC – The Journey Begins

### **SPEAKING**

- After 40 - From Exegesis To Sermon Series **NEW**
- SPEAKING 1: Preaching to be Heard

### **LEADING**

- Biblical Interpretation – The In's And Out's **NEW**
- Coaching Volunteers For Effectiveness **NEW**
- Creation, Evolution, Intelligent Design Theory
- Local Church Leadership Skills And Development **NEW**

### **CARING**

- Developing Christian Peer Mentoring Skills
- Spirituality of Self-Care
- UMCOR Early Response Team In Disaster Relief **NEW**

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## BASIC

### **BASIC COURSE – The Journey Begins**

Ready to explore God's call in your life? Take the first step in the Christ Servant Ministry program with others who have heard that still, small voice calling in the night or are sure they have been hit across the head with a two-by-four.. The Basic Course provides a firm foundational understanding of God's presence in our lives, the meaning and mission of the church, and insight into how and where you can apply the gifts you have and will receive from our Lord. You will learn about the need for servant ministries in our world and what it means to be a servant for Christ. The Basic Course is also the first step towards further development as a Certified Lay Speaker or Certified Lay Minister

Participants in this course must request the recommendation and approval from their Local Church and submit it with their registration. Registrants are required to complete assignments from a Basic Course Manual prior to attending the Laity Academy. There is also an additional \$5 fee for a Basic Course Manual as indicated on the registration form.

#### **SPECIAL NOTES:**

- Students must complete the application to enter the CSM program and submit to Ms. Judy Ehninger prior to the class.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be completed and submitted prior to the class.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Judy Ehninger, Certified Lay Minister

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## SPEAKING

### **AFTER 40: From Exegesis To Sermon Series**

**NEW**

Our EPA LAITY ACADEMY turns 40 this year! What's next? Biblically-speaking, the number forty (40) is a powerful, recurring image of disciplined (sometimes excruciating) preparation for a person or a nation's further, refined service in God's kingdom. 'Something hard now so that we might be prepared for something better. In this class, participants will explore a string of "40 Stories" - from Noah's ark to Jesus' resurrection appearances - looking for primary, preaching themes within each....and being introduced to the increasingly-popular practice of leading a preaching series (numerous weekly messages around a common theme or image).

By the end of the class, participants will:

- Experience the critical biblical exegesis requisite for any meaningful sermon preparation
- Practice the formation of a sermon thesis
- Experiment with the creative development of liturgy which assures a cohesive worship experience
- Be introduced to a narrative preaching style, and;
- Ponder the helpful links which reinforce the power of a preaching series

This course will foster a solid biblical interpretation and creative preaching expressions which will bring integrity and vitality to your worship development .

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be completed and submitted prior to the class.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Rev. Steve Morton, retired UMC elder

## **SPEAKING 1: Preaching to be Heard**

Speaking 1 is the basic course for those who wish to preach or to enhance their speaking abilities. This class will look at the focus of our preaching, share ideas on the development of sermons, and create an opportunity for each participant to develop and present a “mini” sermon to the group. An important part of this experience is the sharing of feedback in a supportive and safe setting so that all who wish to preach can benefit from the group. The expectation is that our time together will be one of joy and excitement.

For CSM participants, this course is recognized as an advanced course in speaking. Successful completion of Speaking 1 is one of the requirements to receive Certified Lay Speaker credentials.

### **SPECIAL NOTES:**

- Class attendance is limited to 12 students.

### **PREREQUISITES:**

- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be completed and submitted prior to the class.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Rev Harold Burkett

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## **LEADING**

### **BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION – The In’s And Out’s**

**NEW**

Explore the world of biblical interpretation using interactive discussion-based activities that illustrate the various ways of biblical interpretation. Explore how the same verse can be interpreted differently based on a historical, ethical/moral, literary, allegorical or critical view. In addition, apply the theological worlds of Paul Jones to biblical interpretation. Apply each of his world’s by discovering how the world of the Sinner, the Crusader, the Adventurer, the Orphan, and the Survivor read the bible. Interpret the same scripture based on each world and discuss how each theological world frames one’s understanding of the Trinity, the Cross and Evangelism.

By the end of the class, participants will be able to:

- Define five theories of biblical instruction their similarities, differences and applications
- Define the five theological worlds of Christian belief as outlined by W. Paul Jones
- Assess which world one gravitates towards in their Christian belief
- Apply how each world interprets scripture differently and discuss the implications and ramifications for evangelism
- Practice interpreting scripture in the five theories and the five worlds
- Describe how each world understands how the Trinity works
- List the importance of the Cross and the Resurrection for each world
- Develop a personal approach to biblical interpretation that honors their world while taking into account the other views

### **PREREQUISITES:**

- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be completed and submitted prior to the class.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Rev David Piltz

## COACHING VOLUNTEERS FOR EFFECTIVENESS

NEW

Coaching is a powerful tool for leading volunteers. As we explore the specific elements of coaching, you'll have the opportunity to observe and practice these skills.

In the assignments and time together, you'll engage a variety of resources considering their best use. You'll also look at the overall coaching process as a framework for flexibility in addressing your ministry's needs. Our work will involve some presentation and lots of learning activities. You'll leave with a planned mapped out for using your new insights.

By the end of class, participants will be able to:

- Define coaching & describe 2 benefits of using this skill;
- Demonstrate 2 coaching techniques;
- Identify 2 leadership/management tools that help in church volunteer settings.
- Name & take home 3 tools for use in coaching volunteers for effectiveness;
- Share a plan for back home application including: Achievable goal, steps, initial timelines, allies/partners in accomplishing the plan, and resources;

All materials will be available to you in electronic form upon registration.

There's an option for a follow-up session with Dave for celebration, troubleshooting... support for mobilizing whatever you need to be successful.

### PREREQUISITES:

- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be completed and submitted prior to the class.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dave Harris, D.Min., ACC

## CREATION, EVOLUTION, INTELLIGENT DESIGN THEORY

The subject of 'origins' remains an ongoing source of high interest, discussion, and inquiry. The topic has far-reaching implications which involve 'big questions'. For example:

- "What is the best explanation for the origin of the cosmos? "
- "What is a reasonable explanation for the origin of life on earth?"
- "Does modern day Homo sapiens share a genetic lineage with ape or ape-like ancestors?"
- "Can modern science inform our understanding of the Genesis record in the Scriptures?"
- "Could 'evolution' be the mechanism through which God created life on earth, including we ourselves?"
- "Is Genesis history, or is it best seen as allegory mixed with metaphor?"

In 1859 Charles Darwin released his well-known book, On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection. This class will explore a fundamental question: "What do we know today that Charles Darwin, in the mid-1800s, did not yet understand?" A question which derives from this one is, "does the significant increase in scientific knowledge since the time of Darwin strengthen or weaken the data base underlying evolutionary theory?"

We will first examine the primary areas of science relevant to these questions: Cytology, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Paleontology, Laws of Thermodynamics, Law of Biogenesis, Universal Law of Cause and Effect, Modern Information Theory. If you do not have a strong background in science, but are interested in having answers to the questions proposed in the first portion of this course description, do not allow that to hinder you from exploring this important subject. If you have a basic understanding of high school biology, this will be a sufficient foundation from which to build. Even though each of these topics can be explored in great depth, our goal is not to engage in 'content overload'. There will be opportunities, built into our curriculum, to answer questions. And there are many supplemental resources available to those who 'would like to go deeper.'

After the primary scientific questions have been considered, we will examine the Biblical Record concerning the subject of 'origins'. Although references to God's role as the Author of Creation are found in both the Old and New Testaments, there will be a specific emphasis in this portion of our class on Jesus' perspective about Creation.

#### **PREREQUISITES & HOMEWORK**

- Student will view a DVD consisting of 6, ten minutes segments which summarize primary content areas evaluating Darwin's Theory using research about which he himself had no knowledge. [approximately 1 hour] The presenters are highly credentialed research scientists active in their fields. A brief worksheet, based on the DVD content will be completed by each registrant prior to our on-site meeting. A packet will be mailed to your home address – USPS - which will contain the DVD, the brief question sheet, and a separate document explaining the fundamental differences between "Creationism" and "Intelligent Design Theory."
- Student will complete a set of questions sent to your email inbox to be returned to the instructor by July 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Completion of both assignments is equivalent to 2 hrs. of instructions and is required for completion of this course.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Steve Myers

## **LOCAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT**

**NEW**

With many churches on the decline, the question always arises: what am I doing that effects the Leadership of my Local Church ? In this course, the participant will understand their Leadership Style. They will discover what is required and how to mold a functioning Church Board (Council) that works for them. They will understand how to identify and recruit the Community to help better run their church leadership. Meeting Basics will be covered as well as some techniques to better lead their church council.

Participants will be introduced to a variety of requirements of the Book of Discipline as well as some practical ways to recruit and structure a Church Board and how to be a Learning Church via Practices/Policies/Organizational Development.

Outside readings and exercises totaling 2 hours will be required prior to the in-person sessions, and participants will be expected to share their findings in both class and break-out sessions. At the end of the class, participants will have the necessary tools to better identify possible new church leaders and lead their church in new ways. Participants who are already members or facilitators of groups will be able to share their experiences with others, as well as learn new ways to use their leadership characteristics at their Local Church.

By the end of the class, participants will be able to :

- Understand what the Book of Discipline Requires for the Local Church Organizational Structure
- Understand the basics on setting up their Local Church's Organizational Structure
- Meeting Basics - Structure/Robert's Rules/Proper Meeting Documentation/Meeting
- Auditing-Surveying
- Mind Mapping - How this relates to the Local Church and it's Community
- How to recruit and develop a Church Board with Balance
- The Required Procedures/Policies of the Local Church
- How to identify your Leadership Type and "Be Who You Be"
- Leadership Roles and Responsibilities in the Local Church

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

- Required Book : "Introduction to Leadership : Concepts and Practice" (2nd Edition) by Peter G. Northouse
- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction to be completed and submitted prior to the class.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Pastor John Lafferty, CLM

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# CARING

## DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN PEER MENTORING SKILLS

Do you have a heart to help others?

This course will encourage those that are in Caring Ministries to develop the skills needed to help encourage and guide others mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Mentoring is a companionship in which two or more persons intentionally come together to seek and respond to God's activity in their lives. Simply telling others where they must go or what they must do won't cut it. The journey must be shared. Guiding requires a mentor's heart.

In this course we will learn what it means to have a mentor's heart. By learning to be a mentor you can learn to offer an important gift in the life of another. We will delve into the Five C's used in counseling: care, compassion, competence, communication, courage, and commitment to learn how to walk alongside another in a time of need.

### PREREQUISITE:

- Students will be emailed an assignment after registration and must be returned to the instructor
- This assignment is equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Susan Adamczyk (formerly Velez), Outpatient Therapist

## SPIRITUALITY OF SELF-CARE IN A BUSY AND OVERBURDENING WORLD

Self-Care is the new buzz phrase of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Every where we see the phrases "Self-Care and "Me-time." Many of us have been properly taught according to the Bible, to put others before ourselves, creating a conundrum of how to live into self-care in an increasingly selfish society while demonstrating the love of Christ by putting others before self. The Spirituality of Self Care Workshop will explore the questions: Is self-care selfish? How do I find time for self-care in an already packed life? Is the instruction for a sabbath still valid? And is a beer and/or chocolate a valid part of self-care? We will posit biblical examples of self-care and how Jesus taught and demonstrated self-care in the midst of challenging life circumstances. Participants will leave with practical steps to insert self-care into their daily routine beginning the process of growing into a well-rounded Christian and self-care practitioner.

### HOMEWORK:

- Instructor will assign homework equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction

**INSTRUCTOR:** Rev. Misty L. Fuller, MDiv

## UMCOR EARLY RESPONSE TEAM IN DISASTER RELIEF

An Early Response Team's **primary purpose** is to stabilize, secure and clean out the homes of disaster-impacted survivors so that no further damage occurs. This early intervention restores hope and empowers survivors to take their next brave steps toward recovery.

Early Response Teams (ERTs) are specially trained to respond during the relief period following disasters by performing specific tasks that address families' immediate needs in order to ready homes for long-term recovery. For many survivors, ERTs' caring Christian presence may be the most important support they receive.

An ERT is neither an emergency response team nor a repair and rebuild team; rather, team members will be trained to assist families to salvage and protect property and to prevent further damage. This intervention may also expedite recovery by allowing individuals and families to “shelter in place” and to maintain connections with community-based services, employment, education and supporting neighbors. ERTs are expected to respond within their own annual conference when requested by the incident coordinator.

By the end of the class, participants will:

- Understand the roles of Early Response Team members and the “team” as a whole
- Understand the concepts of “prevent further damage” and “do no harm”
- Understand the disaster process and where ERTs fit in.
- Understand the Incident Coordination Strategy
- Be able to demonstrate ladder safety
- Be able to demonstrate simple tarping techniques
- Understand the importance of safety in disaster response
- Understand the importance of listening to survivors
- Be credentialed as an UMCOR ERT as coordinated by their annual conference.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

- Young adults are encouraged to take this course; however, they can not receive UMCOR certification until age 18.

**PREREQUISITE:**

- Students will be emailed an assignment after registration equivalent to 2 hrs. of instruction.
- Complete Safe Sanctuary training
- Complete UMCOR background check

**INSTRUCTOR:** Angela Overstreet, UMCOR

