

Course Agenda

Opening Remarks and Welcome

John Barham, Conference Training Coordinator, Lay Speaking Ministries

Session I—Foundations Chapter I – Tuell Text

Facilitator: Susan Grant, District Director, Lay Speaking Ministries, Metro District

- Historical Origins
- Theological Affirmations
- The Constitution and Doctrinal Statements
- The General Rules, and Social Principles – The *Discipline*

See The *Discipline*, Pars 1-104

Purpose: To grasp the concerns of John Wesley in founding his Societies and how they expanded into what we know today as United Methodism. Review briefly the history of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Church in America with specific references to the 1968 General Conference in Dallas, Texas and the founding of The United Methodist Church. Review briefly the general rules, social principles, the Constitution and the Doctrinal Statements illustrated in The *Discipline*, pointing out the significance of their existence as a part of our church's history.

Session II—The Ministry of All Christians Chapter II – Tuell Text

Facilitator: John A. Bodnar, Conference Director, North Texas Conference Lay Speaking Ministries

An Emerging Ecumenical Consensus

- Lay and Specialized Ministries
- The Unity of Ministry

See The *Discipline*, Pars 120-166

Purpose: Wesleyan Methodism had emerged centered around the laity seeking to expand and practice their spiritual faith. However, as Methodism “aged”, the laity began to be excluded from clergy deliberations that guided the direction of the various denominational agencies. In 1976, Part III of The *Discipline* was added by the General Conference quadrennial commission to study the Ministry of the church. This section of The

Discipline is subtitled “The Mission and Ministry of The church” and focuses on a definition of the church's mission to be a “disciple-making” church as called for in Matthew 28:19-20. The Unity of Ministry places full responsibility on all the visible people of God to accomplish this mission.

Session III—The Local Church Chapter III – Tuell Text

Facilitator: Rev. Reid Fade, Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Winnsboro, Texas

- The Local Church in United Methodism
- A Connection of Local Churches
- Starting New Churches
- The Organization of the Local Church – How they are governed
- Balancing Local and Connectional Mission

See The *Discipline*, Pars 201-270

Purpose: Defining and understanding some

“Methodist” terms. A review the role of “The Local Church” and its relationship with other “Local Churches”, i.e., the concept of *Connectionalism*. Yet, local churches are “independent.” In other words, every local church is fully the church. Understand the way the local church is organized; who's in charge, and why? How do you “balance” such an organization?

Session IV—The Ministry of the Ordained Chapter IV – Tuell Text

Facilitator: Rev. Milton Gutierrez II, Retired

- Called and Set Apart: Order of Elder and Deacon — Qualifications and training
- Relationship with Annual Conference
- The Pastor's Job Description
- Lay Speakers
- Certified Lay Ministers
- Tensions in the Itinerary
- Other Ministerial Relationships and termination procedures

See The *Discipline*, Pars 301-366

Purpose: Review the various levels of ministers authorized within The United Methodist Church. Why do we have so many and why are they delineated as they are? What is the process of “becoming one?” What's required and how does one get started? Once in, is it what you expected? What is the significance of the itinerary and why do we keep it?

Session V—The Superintendency Chapter V – Tuell Text

Facilitator: Dr. Clara Reed, District Superintendent, Metro

District, North Texas Conference

- Superintendency in United Methodism
- Issues in the Episcopal Role
- Election of Bishops
- Episcopal Assignments
- District Superintendency

See The *Discipline*, Pars 401-435

Purpose: Our next few sessions will build on these building blocks of Superintendency and Conferences by defining the boards and agencies that support the conferences and the continuing connection of all United Methodist Churches.

Does “rank” have special privileges within the United Methodist Church? What is the significance of The Superintendency? Why is such a term needed? What is the role of a District Superintendent? How does one get to be one?

What are the on-going issues of being a Bishop in The United Methodist Church? Why would one want to be a Bishop in the first place?

Session VI—The Conferences Chapter VI – Tuell Text

Facilitator: Dr. Joan LaBarr, Retired

- General, Jurisdictional, and Central Conferences
- Annual Conference
- Local Church Charge Conference

See The *Discipline*, Pars 501-666

Purpose: This session defines the building blocks of connection within The United Methodist Church beyond the local church. The connection of all United Methodist Churches defines the key difference from other protestant denominations. Participation in any conference beyond the local church reinforces our unique connection to all other United Methodist Churches.

Session VII—Administrative Order

Facilitator: Mary Brooke Casad, Director The Connectional Table, the UMC

- Structure of General Agencies
- Support Agencies
- Program Agencies

See The *Discipline*, Pars 701-2405

Purpose: To grasp the fact that power and authority within the United Methodist Church is widely dispersed. In 2004, the Council on Ministries, which had functioned since 1972, was replaced by The Connectional Table with its purpose to work toward a sense of unity and coherence and missional focus for the entire UMC.

Session VIII—Church Property Chapter VIII – Tuell Text

Facilitator: Tom Christian, Associate Director of Operations, North Texas Conference

- The Trust Clause and the Local Church
- Compliance with Local Law
- Property of General Conference, Annual Conferences, and Districts

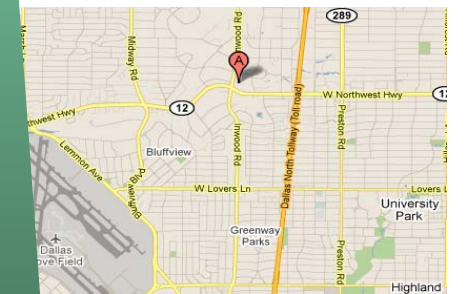
See The *Discipline*, Pars 2501-2552

Purpose: Just who owns the property? What are the legal ramifications of owning church property? The finds of this section of The *Discipline* are surprising to many United Methodists who were raised in other denominations. But there is reason and purpose, and that's what you will investigate in this section.

Session IX—Judicial Administration Chapter IX – Tuell Text

Facilitator: Tom Christian, Associate Director of Operations, North Texas Conference

- Judicial Council Decisions
- Trial Procedures



Lovers Lane United Methodist Church
9200 Inwood Rd | Dallas, TX 75220
info@llumc.org
214.691.4721

Map, Direction and Parking Info:
<http://llumc.org/map>

The Organization and Polity of The United Methodist Church

Advanced Registration must be received by July 17, 2011.

Check one: \$30.00 Fee to include cost of book. \$20.00 Fee if you purchase your own book (ISBN: 978-1-426-70790-2)

Please Print Clearly. Your Certificate will be Printed with this Name.

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____ e-mail address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Church _____ District _____

Lunch Order: YES NO Menu and Cost to be determined

Yes, I am a Lay Speaker. If so, your minister's endorsement is required here to receive certification credit. _____

Mail Fee (check or money order) and registration form to:
Metro District Lay Speaking Ministries, % Susan L. Grant, 511 Kirwood Place, Dallas, Texas 75232

✂ Please cut along this line

The Organization and Polity of The United Methodist Church

The North Texas Conference
Lay Speaking Ministries

presents

An engaging learning experience for the Church's Laity



Date: August 13 & 20, 2011
Gathering: 8:30 AM

Lovers Lane United Methodist Church
9200 Inwood Rd | Dallas, TX 75220
info@llumc.org
214.691.4721

Please do not call the church for information regarding this course.

Contact Person:
Susan Grant — (469) 438-4164
e-mail: susanlgrant@aol.com

Course Overview

This focuses on the organization and structure of United Methodist Church and will be beneficial to you whether or not you have been a life-long member of the United Methodist Church. You will profit from its content as you commit to support The Church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your services.

Since United Methodists serve in many capacities in the local church, this course will be helpful in that it addresses the polity, i.e., the details of administrative procedures, and discipline of the United Methodist Church and provides insight as to the who, what, when, where, and why The Church does things the way it does. It is designed to introduce the participants to *The Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church and its importance in conducting the affairs of The Church.

Advanced registration for this course is recommended for a fee of \$30 (\$20 if you purchase your own book.) Advanced Registration form accompanies this flyer.

NOTE: Lay Speakers must acquire their minister's endorsement on the registration form if certification credit is requested.

Certificates will be provided following the course completion.

Course Purposes

The purposes of this course are:

- To examine the development of United Methodist polity from a historical and theological perspective:
 - To become familiar with the nature and implications of Connectionalism and itinerancy for ministry.
 - To understand the annual conference as the basic organizational unit of The United Methodist Church.
 - To study and understand the covenantal relationship between ministers (lay, diaconal and ordained) in The United Methodist Church.
- To use the Discipline as a working handbook for mission and ministry.
 - To understand the process by which leaders are selected.
 - To gain a knowledge of the selection, deployment, evaluation of clergy.
 - To become familiar with the decision-making process at all levels of the church.
 - To become aware of the required structure and alternative organization of the local church.
 - To examine Connectionalism in relationship to church property.
 - To gain an awareness of the role and functioning of the general

Sponsored by

The North Texas Conference
Lay Speaking
Ministries

John A. Bodnar,
Conference Director

