

# Ministry of the Laity Message to Local Churches

## From Your Faithful Conference & District Lay Leaders

The Laity consists of all members who are not part of the Clergy.

The Book of Discipline ¶ 127 says: The ministry of the Laity flows from a commitment to Christ's outreaching love. Lay members of The United Methodist Church are, by history and calling, active advocates of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every layperson is called to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20); every layperson is called to be missional.

What is the role of the Laity in the church?

- Laity partner in ministry with clergy in providing leadership development and promoting discipleship across the conference. Laity can serve in many ways such as liturgist, worship leaders, assisting clergy in serving communion, and leading small group ministries.
- Laity have the opportunity to serve on various committees in their local churches and community, in districts and conference committees— especially those with professional skills such as accounting, law, engineering, business, nursing, social work, etc. Laity should approach their pastors, district superintendent, or district lay leaders to express their interests.
- The Board of Laity provides support for the development of local church leaders through the Lay Servant Ministries. We offer three educational programs, through GNJ's Leadership Academy, to equip and enhance the spiritual development of the laity: the Basic Lay Servant class, the Advanced/Certified Lay Servant class, and the Certified Lay Minister course. Also, many of our laity enroll in Mission U, a cooperative leadership development opportunity offered each summer by United Women in Faith and the GNJ Conference. The Leadership Academy will offer more courses on the organization and ministry of the local congregation.
- We celebrate and encourage the Laity to share in innovative local church ministries through our yearly "Lay Ministry Recognition Awards."

*—Offered by GNJ Conference Lay Leader David Yamoah*