



**Ambassador**  
*Nurturing the life of the Institute*

# Ambassador Update

## April 2025: Aspirational Growth and Change

*Ambassadors nurture the life of the Institute for Discipleship through their prayers, advocacy, and financial support, advancing the Kingdom of God worldwide.*



Front, l. to r.: Bernette Pleas, Lake Oswego, Oregon; JoAnn Hoskins, Indianapolis; Michelle Vann, Valley Center, Kansas; Mary Brooke Casad, Richardson, Texas; Susan Fuquay, Indianapolis. Back, l. to r.: Vic Casad, Richardson, Texas; Eloy Mendoza, Derby, Kansas; chair Stephen Hoskins, Indianapolis; Bruce Birch, Frederick, Maryland; Kyle Woodrow, Liberal, Kansas; Steve Cauble, Wichita. Not present: Kalaba Chali, Wichita.

---

The Institute for Discipleship board met for its annual meeting on the Southwestern College campus April 12.

The board worked on a new three-year strategic plan that will

begin July 1, 2025. The plan has three major areas: enhance our programs, expand our reach, and diversify our finances.

In addition to the board members, the heads of the three major branches of the IFD were involved in delineating the vision and goals of the Institute during the next few years. The mood was upbeat as we considered the emphases and ways we will move forward.

WOW, next April will be the 25th anniversary of the Institute. Keep an eye out for opportunities to celebrate!



Steve Wilke  
Executive Director

P.S. We continue to grow our efforts to support lay persons in ministry. We're grateful to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, which made a video supporting our efforts. Take a look at it [here](#).

---

## **BeADisciple Adapts Flexible Scheduling to Support Laity in Ministry Certification**

In the past year, the Institute has increased its commitment to supporting lay ministry programs in the United Methodist Church.

Discipleship Ministries-approved courses for those seeking or renewing Certified Lay Servant (CLS), Certified Lay Speaker (CLSp), or Certified Lay Minister (CLM) credentials offer a convenient and flexible alternative to in-person coursework..

Director of online education Lori Richey says “By scheduling our most sought-after LSM courses and CLM modules for the whole year, participants can plan well in advance what works best for their needs and schedule. These sought-after courses are now scheduled through the end of the year with the dates published on the CLM and LSM course pages for your calendaring convenience.”

A range of ministry certification programs as well as life and faith enrichment offerings are available at [BeADisciple.com](https://BeADisciple.com).

---

## **Grant to Support Development of Program for Students**

The Institute for Discipleship has been awarded a \$25,000 grant to develop a



faith and service experience for high school students. This grant is from the Fuller Youth Institute and will provide a small group experience on the BeADisciple Study App. The goal of the project is to give high school students a taste of the how the earliest Christians lived out their devotion to Jesus.

Under a leader's guidance, the high school students will meet weekly to identify needs in their communities, discern their abilities, provide volunteer service and reflect on their experience. This will take place in conjunction with daily study of Luke and Acts.

---

## Disciple Study App Offers *Into the Word, Into the World*

The Institute is making a major effort to encourage small group journeys through the Bible this fall. With 12 weeks in the Old Testament and 12 weeks in the New Testament, groups of 6 to 16 participants can walk daily through the Bible with scripture and scholarly background, meet each week for discussion and fellowship, all from their laptop, tablet, or smart phone.

With newly revised content and a new digital format, the much-beloved Disciple Bible Study has been given new life and purpose. We are encouraging everyone we know to lead a group, or join a group, or promote a group this fall. Everything you need is found at the **BeADisciple Study App** webpage.

Visit Ambassador  
Website

Donate

INSTITUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP | 100 College | Winfield, KS 67156 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!