

A New Year at BeADisciple

Greetings, friend!

2026 is a year of new beginnings for the Institute for Discipleship and BeADisciple.com. We have a new leader in Executive Director Cheryl Rude, who brings 30+ years of experience in leadership and administration to the role. We have a smaller, leaner staff working hard to provide excellent customer service for our current and future learners in addition to supporting our instructors so they can do what they do best – teach! And, we are transitioning our Blackboard learning management system to an updated version that offers an improved and more mobile-friendly learning experience. We anticipate having all of our courses utilizing the new approach this fall.



The things that have NOT changed at BeADisciple include our passionately committed and incredibly talented instructor team. They pride themselves on not just teaching content, but walking alongside learners as they equip and encourage along the way. While our course catalog is thinner, the courses we offer provide essential training and resources that will have leaders in today's churches and communities confidently leading, loving, and serving wherever God calls.

I invite you to take a look at the courses highlighted below and make it a priority in this new year to say yes to personal, professional, and spiritual growth. We're here for you!

Peace,



Lori Richey
Director of Online Education, Institute for Discipleship

AI Policy Promotes Intellectual Growth

BeADisciple courses exist to create rich learning opportunities for church leaders and laity, and we are a community of people who are invested in becoming better Christian disciples. In most academic settings and in many homes, churches, and workplaces around the world, AI use is commonly accepted. While we note the potential value of generative AI in some uses, the Institute for Discipleship is in the business of personal, professional, and spiritual growth and we do not want our learners to offload the development of their critical thinking and writing skills to an algorithm in the name of convenience. For this reason, we ask BeADisciple learners to abstain from the use of generative AI for assignments, posts, and responses in all courses. You can read our full policy on plagiarism and AI use [here](#).

Enroll Now in These New Courses



Let's Talk: What You Need to Know About Lay Ministry (Microcourse) ***February 9 - 13***

This microcourse is for curious laypeople who are interested in serving in their church, describing the “Ls” or roles and responsibilities of lay service. Even if you do not know what you can do, or how you fit in, you will be better informed without making a long-term commitment to a traditional course.

Whether you are a layperson seeking to understand how you fit into the church ministries and missions, or a layperson discerning certification as a Certified Lay Servant Lay Speaker, or Lay Minister, this microcourse will help you understand how lay ministry roles are connected in this call to serve, and the active role laity play in the ministries and missions of the church.

[READ MORE](#)

Creating a Discipleship Growth Plan to See All the People ***February 9 - 22***

In the Great Commission, Jesus told his followers to ‘go and make disciples,’ yet how many churches are concentrating on that goal today? We add programs, stream our services, blend our music, but do we provide intentional discipleship growth opportunities?



This advanced Lay Service Ministries course will help you develop a means to promote intentional discipleship growth in your congregation. We will examine not only the 'what' and 'how' of what we do, but also the all-important 'why.' We will look at what it means to be a disciple, and you will be able to connect the stages of growth of a disciple with the characteristics of a disciple. You will have a roadmap to assess your current offerings in light of intentional discipleship. By the end of the course,

you will have the tools you need to develop an intentional discipleship system to revitalize and grow your congregation.

[READ MORE](#)



Earn. Save. Give. **February 16 - 27**

This course will help those who want to live out John Wesley's way of life by following these three simple rules: Earn. Save. Give. Open to all interested learners, it is an approved Advanced Course for certification as a Certified Lay Speaker and Certified Lay Minister.

You will be encouraged to understand the concepts of hard work and a life of prudent living so that you can be good stewards of God's resources. With the help of an easy-to-read textbook, you'll discover practical ways to earn, save, and give. The principles will help not only with your home budget but also within your church. Along the way you will discover practical wisdom to guide you through these concepts as you continue to grow in the likeness of Christ.

[READ MORE](#)



Campus Ministry: Empowering Congregations to Support Students **March 2 - 13**

God is calling your church to engage with and minister to college and graduate students in your area — is your church ready to create a nurturing environment and support them during this crucial time in their lives?

This course will help you gain a clear and intentional understanding of the needs of college students, the context of your congregation's location and commitment within the landscape of a college or university, and how to partner with established campus ministries. It will help lay servants understand and communicate the key role played by local churches in nourishing the spiritual lives of college students through campus ministries. You also will learn how to create genuine relationships and foster ongoing faith formation, gaining tools to empower your

congregation to create a campus partnership that will make a difference in these students' lives.

READ MORE

Enroll in Upcoming Lay Servant Ministry Courses

Each of these courses has been approved by Discipleship Ministries as an advanced Lay Servant Ministries course, but enrollment is not limited to those needing LSM credit. All learners are welcome.

Beginning Feb. 2:

Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition
Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts

Beginning Feb. 9:

****Creating a Discipleship Growth Plan to See All the People***
Leading Public Prayer

Beginning Feb. 16:

Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies
Called to Preach (Friday Zoom)
Called to Preach (Saturday Zoom)
****Earn. Save. Give.***
Becoming Accountable Disciples

Beginning Feb. 23:

God's Mission, Our Journey
Proclaiming Scripture With a Storytelling Spirit for Lent
Life Together in the United Methodist Connection

Beginning March 2:

****Campus Ministry: Empowering Congregations to Support Students***
Teaching Sacred Tension in Local Congregations
Leading Bible Study: Biblical Interpretation
Living Our United Methodist Beliefs
Teach Adults (Flexible Schedule)

Beginning March 9

Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders
Biblical Storytelling 1

Beginning March 16

Transforming Evangelism
Ministry With People Living With Dementia
Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century

Certified Lay Ministry Courses Continue

If you are seeking certification as a ***Certified Lay Minister*** in the United Methodist church, check out these upcoming dates. Be sure to read the ***CLM page*** for pre-course requirements, which include passwords for the advanced modules.

These CLM Modules begin in February and are enrolling now:

CLM Module 1: Call and Covenant for Ministry (Feb. 23 - March 8)

CLM Module 2: The Practice of Ministry (Feb. 23 - March 15)

CLM Module 3: Organization for Ministry (Feb. 23 - March 8)

CLM Module 4: Connection for Ministry (Feb. 2 - 15)

Wesley Academy Offers Theologically Rich Courses

The Wesley Academy for Advanced Christian Studies — created in partnership with Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. — has created courses and educational materials that are theologically rich and deep. Anyone — lay or clergy — can enroll in any of the courses available from the Wesley Academy, and if desired, can earn a certification in Advanced Christian Studies. For more information, click ***here***.

These Wesley Academy courses begin soon and are enrolling now:

Feb. 9 - April 10: Methodist Identity: Our Story

Feb. 16 - May 1: In God's Time: The Bible and the Future

March 2 - April 17: A Life Worthy of the Gospel

See All Courses Enrolling

BeADisciple.com

Wesley Academy

CLM Modules

LSM Courses



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