



BeADisciple.com
CHRISTIAN ONLINE EDUCATION

June 2026

Greetings, friend!

As spring turns to summer, we're in a season of transformation here at BeADisciple! Blackboard, the learning management system used to deliver our online courses, is moving to an updated version called Blackboard Ultra, and we're transitioning our courses to the new platform over the next few months.

Your course experience with Blackboard Ultra will be clean, intuitive, and mobile-friendly for those that desire that option. Navigation help and user tutorials will be within easy reach in your course and you'll be finding your way around in no time.



Michael Beardslee, the Institute for Discipleship's administrator of Advanced Christian Studies and LMS (Learning Management System), is our in-house Blackboard expert and has been overseeing the transition. Michael says learners in courses who have made the switch are delighted with Ultra, saying it's better organized, faster, and significantly more responsive than the earlier Blackboard version. Pages are sleeker and better designed, he adds.

Our Wesley Academy courses are already running in Ultra to glowing reviews from learners, with very few requests for support or direction. Over the next few months, we'll continue the transition process and by the end of the year all courses will feature the new platform.

As part of our continued effort to offer quality Christian online education, we look forward to seeing you in an upcoming course with a whole new look, soon!

Peace,

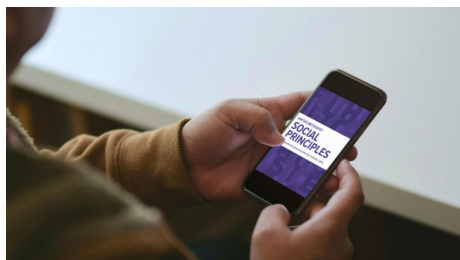


Lori Richey
Director of Online Education, Institute for Discipleship

P.S. Check out our introductory video where you can see and hear more about this exciting change!



Two New Courses to Begin in July



Justice and Kindness: Social Principles of the United Methodist Church

From the beginnings of the Wesleys' movement, Methodists have focused on advocating and doing justice and mercy in public life as well as in personal holiness. But times and social settings change, so how do United Methodists in the 21st century obey

Micah 6:8: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God?"

Justice and Kindness: Social Principles of the United Methodist Church surveys the new statement of social principles adopted by General Conference 2020/2024. The document was composed with the participation of clergy and laity in every annual conference across the globe, drafted after listening sessions and surveys, studied and repeatedly revised, and finally adopted with large margins at GC in April 2024, after its 12-year development. It is designed to be theologically grounded, succinct, focused enough to be useful locally, and general enough to be relevant for congregations around the world.



Fresh Expressions for Being the Church Today

This *Fresh Expressions* course is designed for church leaders who want to learn new skills for being the Body of Christ in the 21st century. The two-week course will explore what it means to form new faith expressions in the places where people already are, dive into the scriptural connections of the Fresh

Expressions movement, and plan how to begin a Fresh Expression.

Together with the instructor, the textbook by Kenneth Carter and Audrey Warren, and congregations in Indiana, Florida, Pennsylvania, and beyond, learners will see Fresh Expressions come to life!

Visit our Website

Online Education: Beth Galbreath is a fan!



At last month's celebration of the Institute for Discipleship's 25th anniversary of founding, one of BeADisciple's most popular instructors spoke by video. We thought you'd enjoy what Beth (who is also registrar for online courses) had to say about her experience with online learning.

You Are Invited!



**BeADisciple
Study App**

A series of no-cost webinars has been scheduled between now and Aug. 20 to introduce interested persons to the BeADisciple Study App. As someone familiar with BeADisciple.com online courses, you will see how the app could provide a transformational group experience for your small group.

With all materials and added features available online through the app, group members complete daily assignments and discuss what they are learning face-to-face using Zoom. You also will get a sneak peek of our newest study app offering, a Henri Nouwen classic as well as our Disciple Bible Study series.

All webinars cover the same topic and format—the only difference is the time, so you can choose what best fits your schedule.

To participate:

- View available dates and times
- Select the session that works for you
- Register through the website by using the button below.

[View Available Times and Register Here](#)

Enroll in Upcoming Lay Servant Ministry Courses

Although the following course and microcourses do not lead to advanced LSM credit, persons interested in Lay Servant Ministry certification are encouraged to enroll in one of the new exploratory offerings:

June 8 - ***Let's Talk: Ministering Through Your Spiritual Gifts (Microcourse)***

July 13 - ***Let's Talk: Using Your Gifts to Discern God's Call (Microcourse)***

August 10 - ***Let's Talk: Growing as Disciples Through the Lay Servant Ministries Program***

Each of the following 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 June 1

****Creating a Discipleship Growth Plan to See All the People
Ministry With People Living With Dementia
Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts***

Beginning June 8

Life Together in the United Methodist Connection

Patterned by Grace: How Worship Shapes Us

Called to Preach (Friday Zoom)

Called to Preach (Saturday Zoom)

Proclaiming Scripture With a Storytelling Spirit for Summer - Acts

Beginning June 15

Leading Public Prayer

Come to the Table

Beginning June 22

****Campus Ministry: Empowering Congregations to Support Students***

Transforming Evangelism

Beginning July 13

For the Common Good: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts

Leading Worship (Friday Zoom)

Leading Worship (Saturday Zoom)

****Justice and Kindness: Social Principles of the United Methodist Church***

Beginning July 20

****Fresh Expressions for Being the Church Today***

Biblical Storytelling I

Beginning July 27

Embracing Personal Prayer

****NEW in 2026***

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 are enrolling now:

CLM Module 1: Call and Covenant for Ministry (June 15 - 28)

CLM Module 2: The Practice of Ministry (July 6 - 26)

CLM Module 3: Organization for Ministry (June 15 - 28)

CLM Module 4: Connection for Ministry (July 6 - 19)

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:

June 1 - July 24: Serious Answers to Hard Questions

June 8 - August 28: Passionately Christian, Compassionately Interreligious

June 15 - August 7: Women Speak of God

See All Courses Enrolling

BeADisciple.com

Wesley Academy

CLM Modules

LSM Courses



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