

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Matthew 9:37-28 NIV



Longtime instructor and BeADisciple registrar Beth Galbreath greeted attendees by video at the Institute for Discipleship's 25th anniversary celebration April 10. "In today's contentious world, we are modeling healthy dialogue and creating a safe space for folks from around the world to learn and grow together," Beth told the group.

Greetings, friend!

In an old stone barn in Winfield, Kansas, the squeals of joy, peals of laughter, and swell of conversation added to the 25th anniversary celebration of the Institute for Discipleship on April 10, 2026. Since it began in 2001, the Institute has nurtured and equipped countless people, churches, and communities with on-campus programs at Southwestern College and online Christian education offerings through BeADisciple.com and the BeADisciple Study App. The recent celebration brought together Board members, current and past staff members, instructors, leaders, Bishop's Scholars, and more – many of whom were meeting for the first time in person. You can check out an album of photos from the evening [here](#).

Personally, I'm rather a newbie to the work of the Institute having joined the staff in 2018. But participating in a Disciple Bible Study class at my church over 20 years ago strengthened my faith and set me on a path that included years in youth ministry in addition to my current gig as director here at BeADisciple.com. While each of those things individually seem insignificant in the grand scheme of life, Jesus' words from Matthew 9 tell me they are not. Every moment spent in study, every effort to learn and to share, every opportunity to grow in faith and to spread God's word and God's love to others is time well spent in the harvest field.

From the wheat fields of Kansas to the harvest field in your sphere of influence, I pray that the work of the Institute continues to make a positive impact on our churches, our communities, and our neighbors, through you and through me, for many more years to come.

Peace,



Lori Richey
Director of Online Education, Institute for Discipleship



Join Our New One-Week Course:

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

The "Let's Talk" series is for curious laypeople who are interested in serving in their church, describing the roles and responsibilities of lay service. It is designed to help you 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, Certified Lay Speaker, or Certified Lay Minister, this foundational course 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.

[Visit our Website](#)



New LSM Courses to Debut at BeADisciple

Be among the first to take the online versions enrolling now for July starts!

Justice and Kindness: Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, July 13 - 25.

Fresh Expressions for Being the Church Today, July 20 - 31.

Click on the course titles above for full descriptions and enrollment information.

Are You Going to Annual Conference?

We're still looking for persons willing to share their BeADisciple experience with others who might benefit from a course. If you'll be attending your upcoming Annual Conference gathering this spring or summer, have taken at least one course with us in the last couple years, and are willing to wear an "Ask Me About BeADisciple" button and hand out flyers, we need your help! Please let us know by filling out the form at [this link](#). Once we receive your interest form, you'll receive an invitation to a brief Zoom training session to give a sneak peak of the materials we'll send, along with an opportunity to ask questions.



Many thanks to those who have already agreed to spread the good word about BeADisciple. We appreciate you! Representatives have volunteered from Alabama-West Florida, Alaska, Baltimore Washington, Eastern Pennsylvania, Florida, Great Plains, Horizon Texas, Indiana, Missouri, New York, North Alabama, North Carolina, North Georgia, Oregon-Idaho, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Ohio, Western North Carolina, Western Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

[VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

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 May 4

From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon (Friday Zoom)
From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon (Saturday Zoom)
**Lay Pastoral Caregiving*
Leading Bible Study: Biblical Interpretation

Beginning May 11

For the Common Good: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts
**Earn. Save. Give.*
Opening Ourselves to Grace: Basic Christian Practices

Beginning May 18

Teaching Sacred Tension in Local Congregations
Come to the Waters
Living Our United Methodist Beliefs

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

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

The LSM Basic Course: Connecting and Serving
Leading Public Prayer
Come to the Table

Beginning June 22

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

**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)

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:

May 4 - July 3: Religion and Science: Pathways to Truth

May 11 - July 17: N.T. Wright's Simply Christian

May 18 - June 26: Leading Like Nehemiah

June 1 - July 24: Serious Answers to Hard Questions

June 8 - August 28: Passionately Christian, Compassionately Interreligious

See All Courses Enrolling

BeADisciple.com

Wesley Academy

CLM Modules

LSM Courses



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

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