

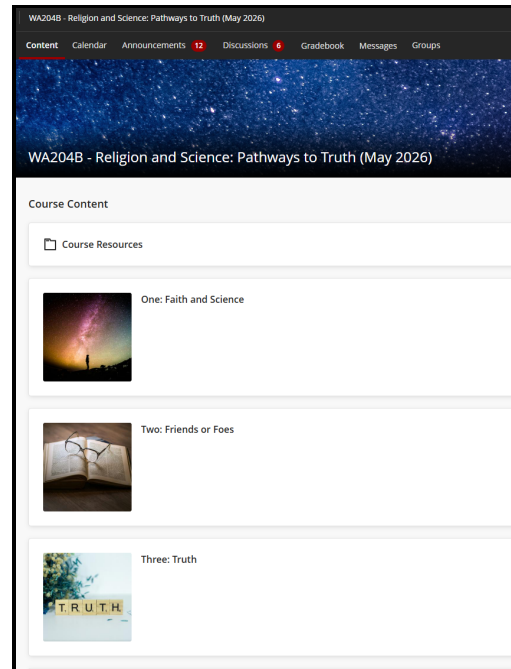


BeADisciple.com
CHRISTIAN ONLINE EDUCATION

August 2026

Earlier this summer, I wrote about the movement of our online courses to a new learning platform, which is essentially what you see when you access your course and how you interact with course material once you're there.

Since BeADisciple was founded back in 2006, our courses have run in Blackboard – first called Blackboard Learning System, then Blackboard Learn. It's amazing to think about the changes in technology since then – some of us might have still been using dial-up internet in 2006 and the Apple iPhone came on scene in 2007.



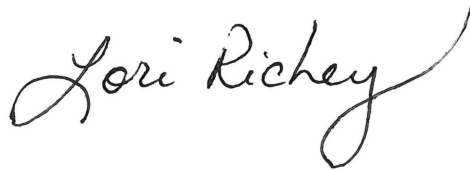
Blackboard Learn has served us well through the years – assisting over 30,000 learners as they grew in faith, gained Biblical, theological, and practical knowledge and skills, and connected with peers while making friends across the country and around the world. That mission will not change – it will just look a little different as we enter the era of Blackboard Ultra!

With just a quick glimpse at one of our updated courses, you'll immediately see that the new interface is fresh, clean, and engaging. The new system is tablet and mobile-friendly and designed to move the user intuitively between components of the course. The tools you know and love – including the discussion feature, which is such a key ingredient for all of our courses – are still included. For those who are accustomed to the original system and need guidance as you adjust to the new format, a robust library of helps is available right in your course as well.

All of our Wesley Academy courses are currently using the new platform along with many of our Lay Servant Ministries courses. The remainder of our courses will make the switch in the next 3 months with all courses operating in the new format by October 2026.

At BeADisciple, we strive to offer our best for God, and for you, each and every day. This update is part of that effort and we are excited to see all the ways that Ultra will be a blessing to you and your learning journey in the years ahead!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Richey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

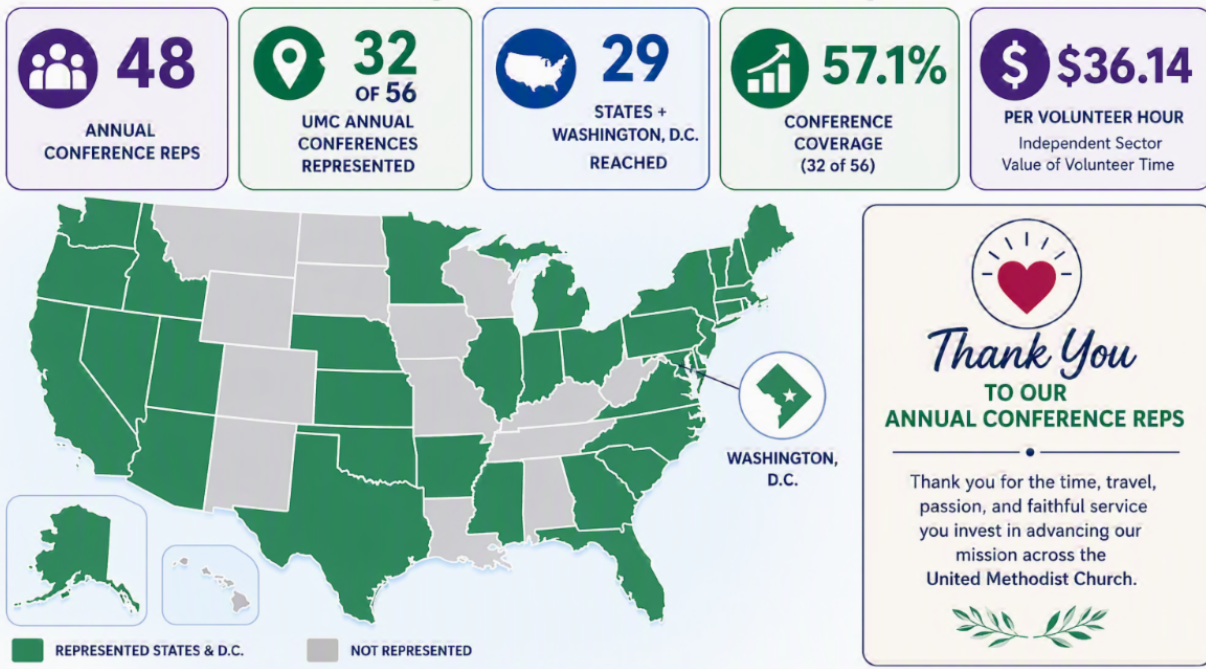
Lori Richey
Director of Online Education, Institute for Discipleship

P.S. If you missed our introductory video in the June newsletter, you can see it [here](#).

***Thanks to You,
BeADisciple Was Seen!***

A NATIONAL PRESENCE

Through Annual Conference Reps



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:

August 3 - September 11: *A Life Worthy of the Gospel*

August 10 - October 16: *N.T. Wright's 'Simply Christian'*

September 14 - November 6: *Journey Through the Psalms*

September 21 - November 13: *Methodist Identity: Our Beliefs*

Enroll in Upcoming Lay Servant Ministry Courses

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 August 3

Called to Preach (Friday Zoom)

Beginning August 10

Life Together in the United Methodist Connection

Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders

Beginning August 17

Becoming Accountable Disciples

Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts

Beginning August 24

Leading Public Prayer for Lay Leaders

Leading Worship (Friday Zoom)

Leading Worship (Saturday Morning Zoom)

Leading Worship (Saturday Afternoon Zoom)

Come to the Waters

Beginning September 14

Fresh Expressions for Being the Church Today

From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon (Friday Zoom)

From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon (Saturday Zoom)

Come to the Table

Beginning September 21

For the Common Good: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts

Teaching Sacred Tension in Local Congregations

Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies

Children of Abraham

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*** (August 3 - 16)

CLM Module 2: ***The Practice of Ministry*** (August 24 - September 13)

CLM Module 3: ***Organization for Ministry*** (August 3 - 16)

CLM Module 4: ***Connection for Ministry*** (August 24 - September 6)

See All Courses Enrolling

BeADisciple.com

Wesley Academy

CLM Modules

LSM Courses



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

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



Try email marketing for free today!