

# Laity Message to Local Churches

## From Your Faithful Conference & District Lay Leaders

The Laity consists of all members who are not part of the Clergy.

The Book of Discipline ¶ 127 says: The ministry of the Laity flows from a commitment to Christ's outreaching love. Lay members of The United Methodist Church are, by history and calling, active advocates of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every layperson is called to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20); every layperson is called to be missional.

What is the role of the Laity in the church?

- Laity partner in ministry with clergy in providing leadership development and promoting discipleship across the conference. Laity can serve in many ways such as liturgist, worship leaders, assisting clergy in serving communion, and leading small group ministries.
- Laity have the opportunity to serve on various committees in their local churches and community, in districts and conference committees— especially those with professional skills such as accounting, law, engineering, business, nursing, social work, etc. Laity should approach their pastors, district superintendent, or district lay leaders to express their interests.
- The Board of Laity provides support for the development of local church leaders through Christ Servant Ministries. We offer educational programs to equip and enhance the spiritual development of the Laity: Christ Servant Ministry courses; and Certified Lay Ministry courses. Many laity enroll annually in the Laity Academy and Tools for Ministry events, among other district and regional educational opportunities. The new EPA&GNJ Leadership Academy will offer more courses on the organization and ministry of congregations to benefit laity in both of our conferences.

—Offered by EPA Conference Lay Leader William Thompson Sr.