



Complete form before mailing; make a copy and retain it for future use

CANAL DISTRICT LAY SPEAKER PREACHING COURSE

Do **not** use the Lay Speaker general course registration form for Preaching

[Please read all thoroughly and then type or print registration legibly]

For help contact either Ron Rinehart (Training Director) 330 592-2161 — rrinehart@walsh.edu
or Debbie Sloan (Registrar) 330 677-9554 — dlsloan1@aol.com

Registration Deadline: _____ Course dates: _____

Candidate: _____ Nick-name: _____
proper name

Address (in full): _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____
(if can be called at work)

Cell phone: _____ email address: _____

Church: _____ District: _____

Address (in full): _____

Phone: _____ Web or email: _____

Registrant and Pastor — Do not sign below until after reviewing the next page.

I'm fairly sure I am capable of occasionally preaching so, with my pastor's recommendation and/or encouragement, I'm registering to take the preaching course. I will meet all the necessary obligations including the requirements spelled out in both pages of this registration, which my pastor and I have reviewed and discussed. My pastor has agreed to have me preach at our church fairly soon after the completion of the course. She/he will handle the necessary evaluation process (which we understand will be spelled out during the course) for me so that after preaching and being evaluated twice more *may* be placed, and *perhaps* continue on, the Registry. *See info on next page — lay speakers from other than Canal District may not be on the Registry.*

I understand I may decide not to preach, and/or try to be enrolled on the Registry after I have taken the course. I may, however, continue to preach at my local church at the request of my pastor as a "leadership" function.

I understand if the enrollment is less than 8 at the course registration deadline the course will be cancelled and I will need to be alert to District communications which tell when another Preaching Course will be offered and will register earlier than the deadline.

Registrant Signature: _____

I have reviewed and discussed with the registrant the requirements spelled out herein which are applicable to the preaching course. I have shared with him/her my personal requirements for a lay person to fill the pulpit at our church.

I am satisfied that the registrant understands the course requirements, and I believe that he/she appears to have the potential to preach.

I will arrange for the registrant to preach at our church and will handle the evaluation process. Should the registrant wish to continue and, hopefully eventually be placed on the Registry, I will try to assist her/him to find another two opportunities to preach and be evaluated.

Pastor print or type _____ Signature: _____

When completed, this form along with a \$40 check to Canal District Lay Speaking, must be mailed to Debbie Sloan, 4392 Bunker Lane, Stow, Ohio 44224

This page is only information for you and your pastor about some important things. Be sure both of you read and understand it. Do *not* send this page to Debbie Sloan, she only needs the form. The trainers will assume both of you understand the content. Special for those who are *not* in the Canal District: Much of what follows is about the Canal District Registry; that does not apply to you — only-Canal District lay speakers may be placed in the Registry — though you *can* take the course.

The Preaching course must have a minimum of 8 registrants, otherwise it is cancelled. It allows a maximum of 12 participants. Preference will be given to earliest U.S. postmark date and time should the number exceed 12.

The General Board of Discipleship (which sets criteria for Lay Speaking) as of now allows any UM church member to take Lay Speaking Courses with the approval of his or her pastor while not intending to be a lay speaker. NOTE for clergy: Pastors may also order courses from GBOD to be used in the local church. The entire course listing is on the web site of the Board of Discipleship under the sub-heading of Lay Speaking.

Background

A lay speaker's preaching is a *special* part of the "Communicating" section of the three major lay speaker functions created by the General Board of Discipleship. Going back to the early days of the Methodist Church in the U.S., exhorters — later on lay speakers, were allowed to preach but *only* at the request of a local church pastor or that of another Church Officer (example: District Superintendent).

Because many clergy complained that simply being a certified lay speaker did not ensure that the lay speakers could necessarily do preaching decently so the GBOD created a preaching course, *but even then some who took/take it simply didn't/don't have the "knack" for giving sermons*. Occasionally clergy and laity have complained about the preaching of lay speakers who've taken the course. One result is that many clergy only ask a lay speaker to preach if recommended by someone they trust who has experienced the lay speaker's preaching.

The Discipline does not spell out that the trainers of a preaching course can "fail" an enrollee. The District Committee, therefore, built into the preaching course that trainers may evaluate and advise an enrollee about his/her capabilities, which may result in improvement and/or impact the enrollee's desire to preach. In addition, the Committee also requires the pastor ensure the enrollee preaches at the local church shortly after concluding the course, and the sermon delivery and content be evaluated both by the pastor and members of the congregation. The evaluations will assist the lay speaker to improve her/his preaching.

The Committee also has created a Canal District Preaching Registry to which Canal District lay speakers who've taken this course must send 3 evaluations, from their home church and/or preferably 2 elsewhere, if the lay speaker wishes to be on the Registry (encouraged for improvement and recommendations). Only lay speakers who have preached and been evaluated 3 times after the course can be placed on the Registry by the District Committee. Any clergy may then contact the Registry Manager and get the average of a lay speaker's preaching evaluations.

To continue on the Registry after the first 3 years following the course, the lay speaker must continue to preach and occasionally submit evaluations. We encourage non-Canal District lay speakers to use the evaluation process for their own improvement.

*Participants will hear the details of the Registry and how
It works during, and in preparation for, the course.*