

BASIC STUDIES FOR LAY LEADERS AND LAY EDUCATORS

By Dianne Reid

[Basically, similar to Deaconess Course Of Study (but not as intense; with necessary substitutions). Books shall be studied in conjunction with the Holy Scriptures. This would be a 2- or 3-year (level) course. These persons would have access to CEU'S for courses and seminars offered/ approved by the Methodist Protestant Church; 3 hours per year of continuing education would be recommended - once the person has been certified. Committee on district level shall be the Lay Leaders Education Committee.]

The actual course requirements would be in a handbook (not the Discipline); handbook would be from the General Board Of Christian Education, but with approval of the General Conference Executive Committee. The Course would be the minimum requirements for certification.

- FIRST LEVEL: Old Testament Survey (it was suggested that 1 be Milton Shorts' material or with one more option), Old Testament Books Of The Bible, Introduction To English Composition; Spiritual Formation Material (one recommended author is Dr. Sam Bruce); Christian/ Church Ethics, History Of The Methodist Protestant Church, "Condensed Version" Of *Roberts Rules Of Order*, A Unit On Christian Discipleship Material, CEU'S Would Be Considered.
- SECOND LEVEL: New Testament Survey (it was suggested that 1 be Milton Shorts' material or with one more choice), New Testament Books Of The Bible; *A Right Conception* of Sin By Taylor; *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection* By Wesley (several 4 or 5 options recommended for e.g. "Wesleyan Terminology For Laypersons" with person completing 2 or 3); The Methodist Protestant Articles Of Religion; this certification would be termed "Basics In Lay Education". CEU'S would be considered. Person would be designated as a Certified Lay Educator.
- THIRD LEVEL would include recommendations with several options to choose from - study books/seminars, etc. on Christian Church

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History, Prayer, Wesleyan - Arminian Doctrine, *Discipleship In The Home* (Dr. Matt Friedeman), Evangelism & Missions, etc. This certification would be termed “Advanced Lay Education”. CEU’s could help the candidate meet requirements for third year. **This Person would be designated an Advanced Lay Educator.**

- ** It will be necessary to set up a committee to handle those signing up for this course (to be implemented on the state/district level).
To be included in the Discipline: the makeup of committee, procedures, certification, etc. This would be a Standing Committee and would include 2 laypersons and 2 ministers with the chairman being one of the laypersons. A new section would need to be added to the discipline to accommodate this added committee.
- Proper certification issued at the satisfactory completion of the levels /course.
- Names of those completing the course would be printed in the district / conference minutes.