

BOARD OF LAITY - INDIANA CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

Due to report timing requirements, the 2024 Annual Report covers the period April 2023 through end of March 2024.

Attendees and Responsibilities

The Indiana United Methodist Church Conference Board of Laity consists of the Conference Lay Leader, the Associate Conference Lay Leader, the Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, the District Lay Leaders, the President of the United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women), the President of the United Methodist Men, the Conference Scouting Coordinator, and the District Directors of Lay Servant Ministry. This group also serves as the Conference Committee of Lay Servant Ministries. As a note, these members are unpaid volunteers.

The Board receives staff support from Joel Troxel (Associate Director of Leadership Development) and Shannon Stringer (Director of Leadership Development). Their support is in addition to their other staff responsibilities.

The Board of Laity is chaired by the Conference Lay Leader. The Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries is chaired by the Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries.

A list of the current board members is included later in this report. The Board is designed to ensure laity representation from across the conference as well as representation from various laity leaders.

The 2016 *Book of Discipline* (Paragraph 631) is clear that the Board of Lay shall have responsibility for the following:

- foster an awareness of the role of the laity,
- develop the advocacy role for laity,
- increase the participation of laity in the life of the church,
- encourage laypersons in the general ministry of the church,
- develop and promote programs to cultivate an adequate understanding of the theological and biblical basis for lay life and work,
- develop and promote stewardship of time, talent, and possessions,
- provide for the training of lay members to Annual Conference,
- provide support and direction for such lay programs as lay speaking, the observance of Laity Sunday, and the work of lay leaders on the local and district levels,
- organize a conference committee on lay speaking ministries.

A simple "bottom line." Our assignment is to support churches and laity as they engage in life-giving relationships for Jesus Christ in their mission fields.

Board of Laity Membership

The Board meets monthly apart from December (Christmas holiday) and July (vacation month). The meetings are typically 2-4 hours in length. Many of the meetings are held virtually. This is done to respect the time of our members from across the state.

1 Regular session meetings have two sections: Board of Laity and Conference Committee on Lay Servant
2 Ministries. A standing Board of Laity meeting agenda item is to temporarily adjourn as the Board of Laity
3 and convene as the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries (no change in attendees). After the
4 work of this section is completed, the Board of Laity reconvenes. This report includes both sections. The
5 President of the United Women in Faith and President of the United Methodist Men provide reports of their
6 own. Their information is not included here.

7
8 Betty Dillingham, District Lay Leader, Southwest District
9 Robert Myers, District Lay Leader, East District
10 Carol Price, District Lay Leader, North Central District
11 Cindy Schrader, District Lay Leader, Northwest District
12 Lisa Trigg, District Lay Leader, West District
13 Dan Weirich, District Lay Leader, Northeast District
14 Janet Werle, District Lay Leader, South District
15 EG White, District Lay Leader, Southeast District
16 Denise Parker, District Lay Leader, North District

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18 Kathy Dickman, District Dir LSM, Southeast District
19 Lynn Nelson, District Dir LSM, North Central District
20 Kurt Schoch, District Dir LSM, Central District
21 Tricia Williams, District Dir LSM, East District
22 Ginger Booker, District Dir LSM, Northeast District
23 Gary O'Neill, District Dir LSM, Southwest District
24 Lynn Nelson, District Dir LSM, Northwest District

25
26 Barb Holcomb, Ad Hoc member
27 Steven Driver, Camping Coordinator
28 Shannon Priddy, Conference Lay Leader
29 Kim Arnott, LSM Conference Director
30 Stant Clark, President, United Methodist Men
31 LaDonna Weber, President, United Women in Faith

32 *Shannon Stringer and Joel Troxell from Leadership Development are also members of the Board. They
33 provide support from the conference office. They are non-voting members.

34 35 **Breakthrough Prayer**

36 One of the changes made to the Board of Laity in 2024 was to situate the Breakthrough Prayer Initiative as
37 a subcommittee under the oversight of the Board of Laity. This arrangement has allowed for the continuation
38 of planning and implementation of prayer initiatives for 2024. In addition to the Board of Laity writing and
39 praying their own Breakthrough Prayer, some of these initiatives are:

- 40 • An online, Conference-wide virtual prayer gathering that meets from 12 noon to 12:30 every other
41 Monday.
 - 42 • Two 28-day Dynamite Prayer events in the summer and fall of 2024 utilizing social media for
43 participants to pray for one another, connect, and share stories of God answering prayer.
- 44

1 For more information about this, or any of the initiatives of the Board of Laity, contact
2 Shannon.priddy@inumc.org

4 **Lay Servant Ministries**

5 From Kim Arnott, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries. Lay Servant Ministries is one of the most
6 significant lay leadership development programs in our United Methodist connection. Lay Servant Ministries
7 equips and empowers lay persons as they grow in their discipleship, who then go out into the world and
8 witness to others. Listen to what our *Book of Discipline* says: "The United Methodist Church has the
9 responsibility of training and enabling the laity – the whole body of its membership – to enter into mission
10 and to minister and witness in the name of Jesus Christ." And that is what becoming involved in Lay Servant
11 Ministries is all about – helping each of us to participate in mission, ministry, and witness.

12
13 Those who have become certified in the Lay Servant Ministries program since our last report at the 2023
14 Annual Conference:

15 ALLAN SCHAEFFNER
16 STEPHEN BRADLEY
17 LISA NIELSEN
18 VIKKI WATKINS
19 CURT SIDENER
20 DENISE MCDONALD
21 LISA PENTECOST

22
23 The following individuals have completed all coursework and met all requirements for certification as a
24 Certified Lay Speaker in the United Methodist Church.

25 Allan Schaeffner
26 Stephen Bradley
27 Lisa Nielsen
28 Vikki Watkins
29 Curt Sidener
30 Denise McDonald
31 Lisa Pentecost

32
33 The following individuals have completed all coursework and met all requirements for certification as a
34 Certified Lay Minister in the United Methodist Church. They have been interviewed and recommended by
35 their District Committee on Ministry, approved by the Conference Board of Laity, and are currently serving
36 in various ways throughout the conference.

37 Rosa Brehm
38 Rose McMichael
39 Gina Riendeau (Re-Certification)
40 Annie Headon (Re-Certification)