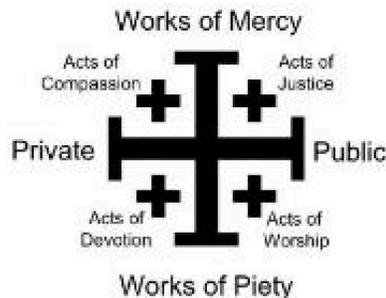




Mission

The Mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The heart of this work happens through local congregations as they love and serve their communities.



Congregational Excellence Team

Vision: The Congregational Excellence Team sees a **future** with **new** and **renewed** United Methodist **communities** that **reflect** and **serve** the people of Kansas and Nebraska **now** and for **future** generations.

Purpose: In pursuit of this vision, the Congregational Excellence Team exists to **inspire** and **empower** ministries in the Great Plains Conference to be **emotionally** and **spiritually healthy communities** following Jesus in God's mission in all the places they **live, work, worship, and play**.

Great Plains Lay Servant Ministries enVisions –

Scripture Basis: “That the person of God is perfectly prepared (maturing) and fully equipped to accomplish every task God calls them to.” (from 2 Timothy 3:17)

Vision: Lay Servants actively lead ministries, share Jesus, and shine the light of Christ to create more disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world.

Mission: To ensure every lay member is equipped to use their unique gifts to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Purpose:

- **Equip** laity to be **collaborative disciples** by:



- o **Clarifying their calling;**
- o **Enhancing their confidence** related to **Mission, Ministry, and Witness;**
- o **Building community** to create a **Kingdom Impact;** and
- o **Defining context** in their respective **mission field.**

Strategies:

- Build Awareness of Lay Servant Ministry
 - o Utilize GPC Marketing and Communications
 - o Enhance DS communications
 - o Build Lay and Clergy Partnership
 - o Leverage October as Lay Servant Ministries Month and/or Laity Sunday
 - Create a special sermon series month or project dedicated to Lay Ministry
 - General Conference - Special Sunday - usually the third Sunday in October - Laity Sunday “to celebrate the ministry of all Christians”
 - Focus on not only filling the pulpit but also on volunteering in other ministries of the church/district.
 - o Continued transition and tracking in Brick River lay member database
 - Key data:
 - Name
 - Contact information
 - Educational background
 - Professional skills
 - Professional roles
 - Volunteer skills
 - Volunteer roles
 - Race, Culture, Ethnicity
 - Track Lay Servant Credentials
- Enhance Educational Offerings
 - o Employ Lay Ministry Advisors/Mentors (employ may = volunteer)
 - Assign advisor to work with Lay Ministry candidates to achieve desired credential
 - Structure educational offering in a proper scope-and-sequence to drive candidates toward desired credential
 - o Create cohort educational model
 - o Utilize on-demand model
 - Leverage Center for Discipleship
 - o Build Lay Ministry Network
 - o Provide scholarships for Lay Ministry candidates to pursue their education.
- Utilize Lay Servants (Lay Servant, Lay Speaker, and Lay Minister) in Impactful Ministries Throughout GPC
 - o Certified Lay Servant Provides leadership, assistance, and support to the program emphases of the church or other United Methodist ministry.
 - Leads meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion when requested



by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

- Conducts, or assists in conducting, services of worship, preaching the Word, or giving addresses when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries.
- Works with appropriate committees and teams which provide congregational and community leadership or foster caring ministries.
- Assists in the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion upon request by a pastor.
- Teaches the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of The United Methodist Church.
- o Certified Lay Speaker
 - Preaches the Word when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries.
- o Certified Lay Minister
 - Enhances the quality of ministry through service in the local church, circuit or cooperative parish, or by expanding team ministry in other churches and charges.



Desired Outcomes:

- Increase number of Lay Servant approved advanced courses x 4 in each District between January 1, 2025 and August 30, 2025.
- Improve Lay Clergy Partnership in Leadership by ensuring every approved advanced course is co-lead by a Lay Servant and a Clergy person in each district between January 1, 2025 and August 30, 2025.
- Testimonies of deeper discipleship of lay servants shared on the 2025 Lay Servant Annual Report.
- Increased shared discipling ministry stories at district gathering between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

Program Logic Model Budgeting

Impact: Connectional Consistency

Team Trust Each Other, Trust Across the Conference, Trust the Process