

LAY MINISTRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014

Lay Ministry in the 21st Century is a program of education designed for lay persons to equip and empower them for discipleship within the life of local congregations and in daily living. Begun in 1995 this program is developed and sponsored by the Tri-Penn Conferences of the United Church of Christ - Penn Central Conference, Penn Northeast Conference, and Pennsylvania Southeast Conference.

Lay Ministry in the 21st Century offers a three-tiered program entitled **Called to Respond**. The first tier - **Enriching Discipleship** is a three year program designed for lay enrichment. Individuals completing the fifteen (15) Saturday sessions will receive a Certificate in Church Leadership. Individuals or groups may also choose to attend one or more select sessions. The second tier is a two-year **Advanced Program** consisting of ten (10) Friday evening/Saturday sessions designed for those seeking licensed and commissioned ministry. The Enriching Discipleship program is a prerequisite for entering this level of advanced training. The third tier is an annual **Continuing Education** event for the laity and an annual **Licensed Ministers Convocation**. A **Discernment Retreat** for those seeking understanding and life direction is also being offered each year.

Currently there are thirty-nine (39) persons participating in Lay Ministry in the 21st Century. Eleven (11) are pursuing licensed ministry, three (3) certifications in church leadership, fifteen (15) continuing education, five (5) UCC History and Polity, and five (5) open enrollments.

- The Licensed Ministry program consists of fifteen (15) all-day Saturday classes for the Enriching Discipleship program and ten (10) Friday night/all-day Saturday retreats – all over a five year period. Readings are assigned for each session. Written papers are required reflecting both the reading and class information demonstrating the participant's own understanding and knowledge in that particular subject area.

*Participants seeking to become **Licensed Ministers** are urged to contact appropriate committees of their Association or Conference before beginning these studies. Persons completing this program will not be automatically granted licensure. Additional training and evaluation may be required by their Association or Conference.*

A full list of classes is available at www.lm21c.com. October 1, 2014, Rev. Steven C. Hummel was hired as the new Program Director. Rev. Hummel has implemented “live online broadcast,” as well as online payment for our classes. Rev. Hummel hopes to make classes more available to local churches throughout the Tri-Penn Conferences.

In 2008 Lay Ministry in the 21st Century established the Jane Joyce Scholarship Fund for Lay Ministry. Contributions to this fund may be made to: Penn Northeast Conference. Please indicate that this gift for the Jane Joyce Scholarship Fund.

For more information on Lay Ministry in the 21st Century, contact our Program Director, Rev. Steven C. Hummel, 324 Center Street, Bloomsburg, PA or call 484-239-5578 or email laymin21century@gmail.com.