

LAY LEADERSHIP EDUCATION TEAM

Report for 2022

A Lay Leadership Education Team, authorized by the Conference Consistory, met for the first time on 29 March 2022. The team consists of:

Charles Maxfield, convener

Dawn Blessing

Megan Huesgen

Brenda Semach

Our purpose, as presented to the Conference consistory:

Our lay leadership (elders, deacons, etc) constitute a vital resource for ministry and renewal in our churches. To empower them to carry out this ministry, additional education would be helpful.

1. We held a workshop at Conference meeting on 4 June, to brainstorm on the needs of lay leaders.
2. We re-established the lay leadership support group, which met for the first time on 17 September at St. John's UCC Lansdale in person, for the second time as a hybrid meeting 22 October, and will meet in the future on line.
3. We are planning a Lay Leadership Convocation for 15 April 2023, with workshops on numerous topics.
4. It has been requested that Constance Lezenby and I offer again the course on *Growing Our Spiritual Lives*, this time in the Northwestern part of the Conference.

Information about our events is shared in Conference emails, and in an email mailing to Consistory/Parish Council Presidents. We welcome more persons interested in serving on our team.

Charles Maxfield

10 November 2022

Some Background:

The Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry, before it was transferred to Lancaster Seminary, authorized me to offer a course for church leaders. With Bob Fogal, Geneva Butz, and myself, we offered the course, *Consistory 101*, in the Fall of 2018. As an outgrowth of this course, a group of consistory presidents decided to meet monthly to discuss common concerns. They met until Covid hit.

After consulting with Darryl Stephens, now director of the Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry at Lancaster Theological Seminary, I proposed a course on *Growing Our Spiritual Lives*, to be taught by Constance Lezenby, a spiritual director, and myself. Postponed three times because of Covid, the class met in the Fall of 2021, with three Saturday morning sessions, at Trinity UCC, Telford. I shared our lesson plans with the Spiritual Life Committee, which invited me to lead the *Walking With God* event, 15 October 2022, on the theme of *An Economy of Gratitude*.