

**Commission on Laity  
Detroit Annual Conference**

May 2009

Dear Pastor:

If you are *currently* appointed to and serving as *sole* or *senior* pastor of one or more churches in the Detroit Annual Conference, this letter and survey are intended for you.

The Commission on Laity is responsible for fostering awareness of the role of laity and enhancing their ability to partner with clergy in ministry at the local, district and conference levels (Disciple ¶631.3). With this aim in mind we are conducting a survey of pastors and local church lay leaders to establish a base line for developing and evaluating future awareness and training initiatives. Through this survey we seek to enlighten ourselves and others as to the efficacy of the pastor-lay leader partnership. We are attempting to reveal the current situation for what it is without affixing responsibility or assigning blame.

To assist us in this effort, please complete the attached survey **not later than June 1, 2009** and mail it to your District Lay Leader whose name and address appears below. Alternatively, you may bring the completed survey to annual conference with you and deposit in the "Commission on Laity Survey" container in the lobby of Dawson Auditorium.

While we invite you to identify yourselves so that we may contact you for additional information (see below), please be assured that your responses to this survey will be held in confidence and will not be divulged to anyone by name or inference in any written or oral presentation of our findings without your expressed permission.

Lastly, we ask pastors to call this survey to the attention of their local church lay leaders and associate lay leaders and to assist them, as necessary, in obtaining a copy of the lay leader survey from the conference website. Please encourage them to complete and submit the survey in the manner described above. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

In His Service,

Cathy Hazen  
Conference Lay Leader  
Chair, Commission on Laity

District Lay Leaders:

Ann Arbor:	John Wharton, 7409 Steeplechase Ct., Saline MI 48176
Detroit East:	John Hart, 1894 Chatham Dr., Troy MI 48084
Detroit West:	Don Archambeau, 28270 Elmira, Livonia MI 48150
Flint:	Jeff Murdoch, 810 Sunflower Dr., Chesaning MI 48616
Marquette:	Mike Clark, P.O. Box 157, W6828 Elm St., Engadine MI 49827
Port Huron:	Linda Schramm, 244 S. Elk St., Sandusky MI 48471
Saginaw Bay:	Ralph Czerepinski, 4905 Washington St., Midland MI 48642

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If you are willing to discuss your responses to these or other related questions, or if you wish to be contacted by a member of the Commission on Laity, please provide your name and phone number below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_



<b>SECTION C: PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)</b>						
See instructions at the beginning of Section C (previous page).	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
c. Intentional about keeping up with the actions and programs of The United Methodist Church at all levels and sharing that knowledge with the congregation.	5	4	3	2	1	0
d. Intentional about encouraging congregational participation in United Methodist training opportunities.	5	4	3	2	1	0
e. Effective advocates for laity and diligently seek to recognize and celebrate the ministry of the laity.	5	4	3	2	1	0
f. Frequently participates in the serving of communion, baptisms, the induction of new members, and other activities that increase his/her visibility with the congregation.	5	4	3	2	1	0
g. Regular and active participants in meetings of the Charge Conference, Church Council, Finance Committee, Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, and the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee.	5	4	3	2	1	0
h. Takes seriously their obligation to model responsible and faithful discipleship and are intentional about their personal faith development.	5	4	3	2	1	0

<b>SECTION D: SELECTION</b>						
Please circle the numbers on the right that most closely describe the <b>IMPORTANCE</b> or <b>UNIMPORTANCE</b> of the following considerations when choosing individuals to serve as local church Lay Leaders.	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very Unimportant	No Opinion
11. How important are the following considerations when choosing someone to serve as local church Lay Leader?						
a. Qualification as a Certified Lay Speaker	5	4	3	2	1	0
b. Extent of prior service to the local church	5	4	3	2	1	0
c. Commitment to personal faith development	5	4	3	2	1	0
d. Standing within the community	5	4	3	2	1	0
e. Ability to maintain confidences	5	4	3	2	1	0
f. Knowledge of The UM Church, its beliefs and polity	5	4	3	2	1	0
g. Ability to inspire and lead others	5	4	3	2	1	0
h. Honoring long and faithful service	5	4	3	2	1	0
i. Availability to serve as Lay Member to Annual Conference	5	4	3	2	1	0
j. Ability to liaise between competing factions	5	4	3	2	1	0
k. Support for the current pastor's ministry	5	4	3	2	1	0
l. Desire of incumbent to continue serving as Lay Leader	5	4	3	2	1	0
m. Insightfulness	5	4	3	2	1	0
n. Desire to recognize and uplift others	5	4	3	2	1	0
o. Who remains in the pool after filling other more critical positions	5	4	3	2	1	0
p. Other [please specify]:	5	4	3	2	1	0
q. Other [please specify]:	5	4	3	2	1	0

**PLEASE USE THE SPACE BELOW FOR COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK, AS DESIRED.** (We would especially welcome suggestions concerning additional resources or actions that might be taken to increase the effectiveness of individuals serving as local church Lay Leaders.)