

District Training Day

February 7, 2026 | Community UMC in VB

\$15/person for lunch and materials

Schedule

- Registration begins at **8:30 AM**
- **9 AM** Welcome and Plenary
- **10-10:15am** break
- **10:15-11:45am** 1st Workshop
- **11:45-12:30pm** Lunch
- **12:30-2:00pm** 2nd workshop
- **2:15-3:15pm** 3rd workshop (Administrative trainings)

1st Workshop Options (10:15am-11:45am)

- Small Church Strategies: Reaching the Community
 - Leader: Victor Drummond
 - Many of our small churches remember a time when the church had more financial and human resources available for ministry. How can we now reach the community and be effective in outreach with less. This workshop will explore ways the small church can be effective in reaching the community being seen as a partner and participant in the life of the community – relevant and connected. The workshop explores how each church can find and follow not what other churches are doing, but find and follow its own niche that will organically weave into the fabric of the community.
- Next-Level Social Media: Trends, Tips, and Practical Tools
 - Leader: Kim Johnson
 - If you already have a social media presence but aren't sure what's working right now, this workshop will help you sort it out. We'll look at current trends, what makes content engaging, and how to use video, stories, and simple analytics without adding more stress to your plate. You'll walk away with new ideas, practical tools, and a few next steps you can begin using right away.
- Long-term Financial Health: Developing a Legacy Giving/Endowment Program
 - Leaders: Gary Chiaverotti and Bob Howard and Randy Duncan
 - There are three general types of Gifts/Donations received by churches and other charities: (1) Regular Giving that supports

annual Operating Budgets, (2) Special Giving that supports (usually) large non-repetitive projects, and (3) Legacy Giving (Bequests and Endowments) which provide funds for many types of future activities and projects. Healthy churches plan for, encourage, and receive all three types. During this class, we will focus on and discuss establishing a Legacy Giving Program, ways to educate your church members about the program, and provide ideas and templates to help start a program and maximize it's effectiveness.

- #beUMC
 - Leader: Beth Givens
 - This workshop will explore the landscape of connectionalism as the United Methodist Church moves into the future. Changes to our denominational structure approved by the 2020-24 General Conference and all Annual Conferences offer new possibilities for the future. We will learn about the structure of the denomination, some of what we might expect in the future, and how the local church fits into all of this as the primary place of disciple-making.

- Ideas to Action: Tools and First Steps for Cooperative Ministry
 - Leader: Kyungsuk Cho
 - Cooperative Parish is not only a strategy for shared mission—it is part of our United Methodist DNA. We already know its value, but the real challenge is discerning where to begin. In this workshop, we will explore practical ways to turn this “old-but-new” expression of our identity into faithful collaborations.

- Leading an Organization/Church Through a Visioning Process
 - Leader: Joel Coleman
 - Why is a vision important? How do you capture your culture? Hear how Joel has led a visioning process at Camp OOTB. Spend time mapping out a visioning process for your church and discover how your mission, vision, goals and discipleship pathway align.

- *Lay Servant Academy: Becoming an Effective Witness for Jesus Christ
 - Leader: Gail Von Mosch
 - Whether you have shared the Gospel many times or are new to witnessing, this course will help you strengthen your own faith and give you practical methods for sharing it with others. We will explore biblical principles on living a life that pleases God and points others to Him. We will dive into practical methods for sharing Jesus Christ with people who are far from Him. We will

learn about the needs of new Christians and how to support them in their new faith. We will look at direct and indirect witnessing in the mission field and delve deeper into how Jesus witnessed to others. By the end of course, you will share a short witnessing story with your classmates. No textbook is required-our Bible will be our guide.

- *NOTE: Those taking a Lay Servant Academy Course will attend that class for the entire day and will not select an afternoon workshop.*

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- *Lay Servant Academy: Polity: an overview of the structure and organization of The United Methodist Church
 - Leader: TBD
 - This Advanced Lay Servant Ministries course explores the structure and theology of The United Methodist Church. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how United Methodist polity reflects our mission and shapes our discipleship, leadership, and service. This course is required for those pursuing roles such as Certified Lay Speaker or Lay Minister.
 - *NOTE: Those taking a Lay Servant Academy Course will attend that class for the entire day and will not select an afternoon workshop.*

Afternoon Sessions

2nd Workshop Options (12:30pm-2:00pm)

- Creating an Intentional Discipleship Pathway
 - Leader: Sarah Locke
 - This workshop will explore how to help people grow into mature disciples of Jesus Christ. As we know: Transformed lives, transform lives. How do we create systems to help people walk from being new believers into a deeply formed life with Christ?

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- Communication & Social Media Basics for Beginners
 - Leader: Kim Johnson
 - For many churches, maintaining a basic online presence can feel overwhelming. Some have no website, while others have one that is long overdue for updates. This workshop offers simple and realistic steps that help people find your church and understand what you offer. We will focus on keeping worship information current, selecting one social media platform you can maintain consistently, and identifying what matters most for clear communication. Participants will leave with a short checklist and a starter plan to help make it easy for people to see who you are,

when you gather, and what they can expect when they walk in the door.

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- **Unlocking Generosity**
 - Leader: Stephanie Kimec Parker
 - Does talking about money make you uncomfortable? If so, you're not alone. In this workshop we'll explore what scripture says about money and generosity and practice talking about money with others.
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- **Leading Change**
 - Leader: Amanda Webber
 - Just like any organization, the church needs to change to better reach people for Christ. Come share ideas and learn about leading change in the local church.
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- **Setting Expectations with SPRC**
 - Leader: Nicholas Grainger
 - (No description provided)
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- **Supporting Scouting in Your Local Church**
 - Leader: Alan Webber
 - Come hear and share ideas for how to support Scouting ministries in your local church. We know there has been confusion in the last few years about Scouting, bring your questions and imagination as these families are already on your property- hear how Scouting can be beneficial to all.

3rd Workshop Options (2:15pm-3:15pm)

These Committee Training Workshops are designed for folks holding these positions in their church.

- Unity training with Jeri
- SPRC training with Beth
- Trustee Training
- Finance Training with Randy Duncan
- Lay leader Training

* Lay Servant Ministry

- Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) is a vital source within the United Methodist Church that equips and empowers lay leaders to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and to share that faith by helping others do the same. LSM courses can be taken by anyone for their own spiritual growth and personal ministry. LSM courses can lead to certification as a Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker, or Certified Lay Minister if the person feels God's call to larger roles in the Church and community. LSM courses are usually 10 hours long, and typically qualify for continuing education credits.
- We will offer **two LSM** courses during Training Day. Those are marked with ***Lay Servant Academy** in the workshop list below. LSM courses will last all day, so you will not make selections for afternoon workshops.
- LSM classes will include **5 hours of training at the Feb. 7 event, and 5 additional hours online**. Other Conference or District Training classes may be shorter and while extremely valuable, do not count towards certification.