

NY/CT District Lay Speaking FAQs

Q: Why does the NY/CT District run two different Lay Speaker training courses?

A: Because each course has its own benefits and successful history.

Q: How do the courses differ?

A: Taking the **Sunday** Program, you'll take 2 hours of classes each **Sunday** and qualify as a Local Lay Speaker at the end of 6 weeks for a total of 12 hours. Later you'll take another 6-week course to qualify as a Certified Lay Speaker. The **Sunday** Course has a certain amount of reading homework.

The **Saturday** Program is more intensive than the **Sunday** Program making it possible for you to become a Certified Lay Speaker after just 7 classes. The **Saturday** Program runs for 6 hours/day on 6 Saturdays meeting every other week for a total of 36 hours. After taking the **Saturday** Course qualifying you as a Local Lay Speaker in 6 Saturdays you can take just one more 6-hour **Saturday** class to become a Certified Lay Speaker. The **Saturday** class homework consists of preparing sermons to deliver to the class. The class members provide feedback to help you polish your technique.

Q: What's the difference between a Local and a Certified Lay Speaker?

A: The Local Lay Speaker is qualified to lead worship, preach and otherwise minister to the needs of the congregation to which you belong. The Certified Lay Speaker is qualified to lead worship, preach and minister to any congregation in the NY/CT district.

Q: Where will the courses be held?

A: For 2007, the **Saturday** course will be held at Katonah UMC at 5 Bedford Road, Katonah, NY 10536. (914) 232-4094. The **Sunday** course will be held at Grace UMC at 468 Broadway, Newburgh, NY 12550. (845) 561-0176. You can find driving directions to either of these churches through websites like Google, MapQuest.com or Switchboard.com.

Q: Which course should I take?

A: It depends on what works best for you. You may choose the course that fits your schedule best. You may choose the one closer to your home. You may choose the course that fits your learning style best. The choice is up to you.

Q: If I take the Sunday Local Course, can I take the Saturday Certification Course to become certified in one year?

A: No. Once you choose a local course, you cannot switch to the other format to complete the training to become certified. If you select the **Sunday** Course for local training, you must take the **Sunday** Course to become certified. If you take the **Saturday** Course for local training, you must take a **Saturday** Course to become certified.

Q: Why can't I take the Sunday Course for local and the Saturday for certification, or vice versa?

A: The **Saturday** Local Course includes many of the classes covered in the **Sunday** Certification Course. So if you started with the **Sunday** Local Course & switched to the **Saturday** Certification Course, you'd be missing important parts of the training. Similarly, if you selected the **Saturday** Local Course and attended the **Sunday** Certification Course, it would be redundant, because you would have already covered that material in your **Saturday** Local Course. So you **MUST** take the certification training in the same format that you took the local training.

Q: I took the Lay Speaker training before our latest district realignment. How do I know which course I have to take for certification?

A: If you took the local Lay Speaker training at the Lenten School of the old Delaware Hudson District, you should continue your training in the **Sunday** Program. If you took the local Lay Speaker training in the old CT/NY District, you should continue your training in the **Saturday** Program. If you're still confused, call one of the co-chairs of the district Lay Speaking Committee, Deborah Moore (914) 276-7848 or Jim Schoonmaker (845) 569-1269.

Q: I'm a Certified Lay Speaker. I need to take an advanced course to maintain my certification. Which advanced course should I take?

A: Once you're certified, it no longer matters which course format you take for recertification. You may take either the **Saturday** or **Sunday** Courses.

Q: I'm a Certified Lay Speaker. Can I take a course offered by the district or conference that could qualify to maintain my certification that is neither the Saturday or Sunday Program?

A: Yes. Once you're certified, you may take other courses to maintain your certification. However, you must contact one of the co-chairs of the Lay Speaking Committee and get their approval for the course before you take it. Please call Deborah Moore (914) 276-7848 or Jim Schoonmaker (845) 569-1269. If you don't get prior approval, you may be disappointed when it's rejected for recertification.