

As a Christian, you are called to serve!

From the time each of us accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, God's Holy Spirit calls us to serve God's Kingdom. While each of us are called to serve in each of the various dimensions of our lives, there are a variety of ways any one of us might be called to serve:

Where is God calling You?

- to stronger service in your church?
- to greater witness within your family, community or at your place of work?
- to lay pastoral ministry?

The Lay Study Program provides you with an opportunity to explore and discern your call. The program seeks to better equip you to serve God both in the familiar and in new places. It helps you gain skills and knowledge that will help you test and fulfill that call.

The Lay Study Program is a ministry of American Baptist Churches of New York State

If you have questions, contact the Dean of the Lay Study Program:
The Rev. Leon Oaks-Lee
315-637-0023
leon.oakslee@gmail.com

or

Contact our Executive Minister:
The Rev. Dr. James Kelsey
at our Region Office
315-863-7336

The Lay Study Program is made possible by your church's gifts to United Mission Basics, the America for Christ Offering, the Region Offering, and direct gifts to the Region.

Lay Study Program American Baptist Churches of New York State



"We are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to do
good works, which God
prepared in advance
for us to do."
Ephesians 2:10



Lay Study Program Purpose

The purpose of the Lay Study Program is three-fold. It offers an opportunity for:

- **Personal Growth and Enrichment** Anyone is welcome to take one, a few, or all courses offered.
- **Leadership Development** Courses help people to prepare for leadership in the local church.
- **Lay Pastor Training** A course of study that prepares those persons who feel a call to lay pastoral ministry in our Region's churches.

Comments about the Lay Study Program:

"Being taught by pastors (current and retired) was an invaluable experience I have been able to draw on stories and ideas shared ..."

"I cannot tell you the amount of knowledge I have learned from other lay people in the classes. The life experiences they bring have helped my ministry immeasurably."



Courses and Certifications

Required courses for **Certificate in Local Church Leadership Studies**

- Baptist Heritage
- Basic Christian Beliefs
- Christian Ethics
- Church Administration
- Ministry to Individuals
- New Testament
- Old Testament
- Spiritual Development

Additional courses for **Certificate in Advanced Church Leadership Studies**

- Christian Education
- Church History
- Introduction to Christian Counseling
- Ministry Through the Small Church
- Preaching
- Worship

Requirements for **Certificate in Lay Pastoral Studies**

- Earn certificates outlined above.
- Maintain active membership in an ABC/NYS church.
- Consult regularly with a mentor appointed by your Association Lay Study Committee.
- Meet with representatives of the Association Lay Study Committee to plan and successfully complete an approved, supervised field work assignment.

Course Design and Fees

Structure Each course is 20 hours of class time and is designed for 10 two-hour sessions (may vary by class)

Fees The registration fee for each course is \$100.00. A family member living in the same house as a registered student and a person not taking the class for credit (audit) pay half the registration cost. Additional \$10 for online course. Cost of textbooks is in addition to the registration fee.

If a student chooses to withdraw from a course before the third class and notifies the instructor, the student may have their registration fee refunded.

Online Courses Students who take a course online will pay a \$10 additional charge to cover the cost of a technical support person.

Financial Aid The Lynette C. Martin Memorial Fund for Leadership Development equips church leaders for local church ministry. More information and an application: www.abc-nys.org/programs/lynette-martin-fund Also, contact your Association for possible financial assistance.