



Simsbury United Methodist Church
2016 - 2017 Charge Conference Report
Monday, December 5, 2016, 7:30 pm

Lay Leaders & Speakers

By Heather Ryan & Mark Brady
Laypersons

Lay Leader Report

Wayne Lambert and Heather Ryan continue to meet with Pastor Woody on a regular basis (approximately monthly). The Lay Leaders apprise the pastor of the “pulse of the church” – to let him know of anything that members of the congregation have told us about, from compliments to complaints. Pastor Woody always appreciates hearing both the good and the bad, since some members of the congregation might not want to “vent” to the pastor about such matters. Luckily, there are never many complaints! In addition to giving the pastor feedback about how we and others perceive the current goings-on within the congregation, the Lay Leaders also try to serve as a sounding board for any of the pastor’s concerns.

Heather Ryan

Lay Speakers Report

The Lay Speaker/Servant program at SUMC remains active and robust. We continue to help as pulpit supply at West Granby UMC. We continue to help often at the 10:30 service at SUMC. We still lead worship once per month at the Mc Lean Home. Our Laity Sunday presentation, which was based on detailing the history of 6 or 7 beloved hymns was a rousing success. With Woody's guidance and reading selections, we couldn't miss. Some commented they wished it didn't have to end. No less than 20 lay voices and musicians participated admirably and enthusiastically.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Our ranks sadly were trimmed this year by the retirement of long time stalwart, Ed Dudley. A huge thank you to Ed for all his years of faithful service to the Lay Speaker and other church programs, including his and Patty's puppet ministry and financial advice to the Trustees.

Our current member list is: Ross Fritschler, Jane Whelchel, Linda Stroud, Deb Clifford, and Mark Brady with Glenn Knight ready to start training to join the ranks and rotation. Thanks to Woody, Peter, and staff, for keeping us faithfully in the mix. We remain thankful for the opportunity to participate in worship at SUMC.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Brady