

## **The Laity Minute**

**June 2019**

Hello, everyone! I hope this newsletter reaches you in good health and spirits.

As you know, there are numerous opportunities to participate within the United Methodist Church. Whether you choose to attend a meeting, serve on a committee, support a mission, or participate in a district event, the UMC offers ways you can deepen your faith and strengthen your soul. However, does it seem occasionally that our time doesn't allow us to attend as we would like? In reality, schedules get full and life happens. So, how can we still be a part of the church on our own time?

One solution I would like to offer is <https://www.beadisciple.com/>. This is an online Christian education site that offers a vast number of online courses. It is "a community of people who are invested in becoming better Christian disciples." The basis of each course is based on United Methodism. Some of the courses offered are Serving by Design Leadership Course, Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts, Crossing the Bridge: Life After Loss, Using Technology in the Church, and many others. The courses are taught by laity and clergy from all over the country. The class length varies from one week to several weeks depending on the course. The cost of the courses vary, but are quite reasonable.

"Wait," you say! "I have never taken an online course and there is no way I would be able to do this." Oh yes you can! Having taken many of these courses, I can tell you that it is easy after a tiny learning curve. If you can turn on your computer, iPad or phone, then you can take these online courses. To be honest, most of my classmates have been age 50 and up! I have met some amazing folks during my time in these classes. They are inspiring and fun with whom to engage. You'd be surprised how well you get to know your classmates even if you never meet them face-to-face. If you would like to know more about BeADisciple.com, let me know! I would be glad to answer any questions you have.

The UMC has always been open to learning more, seeking knowledge, and making the world a better place. Our foremothers and forefathers sure did, right?! So, in a world which can seem busy or rushed, why not expand your Methodism on your time in your space? I'm sure glad I did.

Peace!