



## *Lay Academy of the Presbytery of Utica*

*“To identify, recruit, equip, and nurture lay leaders in the Presbytery of Utica.”*

### **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name:

Mailing Address:

City/Zip:

Home Phone:

Work Phone (if calls can be received):

Occupation/Place of Employment:

### **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

Formal Education:

List academic institutions attended and degrees obtained, beginning with high school.

<b>School/Location</b>	<b>Years Attended/Degree Date</b>	<b>Diploma or Degree Areas of Study</b>
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### **CHURCH BACKGROUND**

Year of Baptism:

Year of Confirmation/Public Profession of Faith:

Name of Church where you are an active member:

Date you were received as an active member in current local congregation:

Other churches where you have been a member:

I am a deacon, date of ordination to office: yes/no

I am an elder, date of ordination to office: yes/no

List below your areas of involvement in the mission of the church, both as a participant and as a leader.

<b>Areas of Church Involvement</b>	<b>Participant</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>Leader</b>
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## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

Please attach answers to the following questions. Answer concisely, but fully to the best of your ability.

1. What informal learning experiences will help you in this program? (Travel, conferences, seminars, etc.)?
2. Why are you interested in this program? What motivates you to apply?
3. What aspects of your present church life do you enjoy the most? What aspects are the most frustrating?
4. What does it mean to you to be a Presbyterian?
5. What gifts and skills do you bring to this program?
6. In what areas of your life would you like to grow?
7. What are your current spiritual practices and disciplines?
8. What are some of your interests/hobbies?
9. In what community or volunteer service have you been involved?

## **FAITH STATEMENT**

Please attach a brief statement of your personal faith. Describe what you believe about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and your relationship to them. Include a brief summary of your understanding of the role of Scripture, the Church, and the Sacraments in your life. (Suggested length: one-half to one page -- single-spaced typed)

## **PASTOR/MODERATOR'S ENDORSEMENT**

You should take your completed form and your faith statement to your pastor, or, if your church is without a pastor, to the moderator of your church's Session. The minister will talk with you about your interest in the Lay Academy. Your minister will take your application to the Session, along with a reference which she or he will complete. No application may be considered without the pastor/moderator's and the Session's endorsement.

## **SESSION ENDORSEMENT**

After you have met with the pastor/moderator, request a meeting with the Session of your particular church. They will review your application with you before filling out their endorsement form.

**REFERENCES**

In addition to the minister and the Session, please list 3 additional persons who know you well in a variety of relationships (e.g. another church member, a colleague at work, a teacher, a friend) who will serve as Individual References. Invite these individuals to write a letter on your behalf speaking to the nature of their relationship with you and their understanding of the gifts and graces that make you a good candidate for training for lay ministry. Please list below the persons who will be your Individual References.

**Name Address City/State Phone**

**STATEMENT OF CONSENT**

I am applying for admission to the Authorized Lay Preacher Program of the Presbytery of Utica. If accepted, I hereby commit myself to participate fully in the scheduled activities and assignments to the best of my ability. I understand that successful completion of the Authorized Lay Preacher training course is necessary before I may serve as a Authorized Lay Preacher for the presbytery.

Signature

Date

## SESSION ENDORSEMENT FORM

Primary attention should be given at this time to evaluating the applicant's natural gifts, quality of commitment, strength of motivation, and potential for growth. Each of these issues should be pursued at greater depth on a continuing basis. The Session should note the Lay Academy Steering Committee must rely upon the Session, the Moderator, and the Applicant to exercise good judgment in discerning whether this individual seems to be called by God to consider service as a Authorized Lay Preacher or Commissioned Lay Pastor.

Name of Applicant:

Please respond candidly to the following questions. Adjust spacing or complete answers on additional paper as necessary.

1. What personal qualities are evidence of a vital faith in God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit?
2. How is that faith currently being expressed through the individual's participation in the worship, ministry and mission of this congregation?
3. What evidence do you see of a sense of call?
4. What actual and potential talents for ministry as a Authorized Lay Preacher are evident in this individual?
5. Describe a few situations in the life of your church in which the applicant has demonstrated leadership capacity.
6. How would you rate the applicant's physical health/stamina, emotional well-being, and maturity?
7. Service as an Authorized Lay Preacher requires great maturity of character, self-discipline, reliability, and commitment to the polity of the PC(USA). Please comment upon the applicant's attributes in these areas.

8. Describe the applicant's capacities for effective public speaking and demonstration of pastoral care.
9. The following qualities are especially important in Authorized Lay Preachers. Please check all which you think are demonstrated by this applicant in the life of your church:
- Ability to speak publicly, with a clear voice, and in good English
  - A demonstrated basic knowledge of the content of scripture
  - Reliability
  - Leader in the church
  - Compassion
  - Skills in personal relationships
  - Well-developed listening skills
  - Ability to relate to various age groups
  - Able to keep confidentiality
10. Describe any reservations you might have in endorsing this candidate. (Note: a reservation does not disqualify an individual or indicate they are unsuitable for service. The ALP/CLP Subcommittee, however, must rely upon your honest and candid evaluation.)

**Check one:**

The Session of the Church

- DOES endorse this application for admission to the Lay Academy of the Presbytery of Utica.
- DOES NOT endorse this application for admission to the Lay Academy of the Presbytery of Utica.
- DOES endorse, WITH RESERVATIONS, this application for admission to the Lay Academy of the Presbytery of Utica.  
(List specific reservations here).

Signature of Clerk of Session

Date

## **Pastor/Moderator Endorsement Form**

Primary attention should be given at this time to evaluating the applicant's natural gifts, quality of commitment, strength of motivation, and potential for growth. Each of these issues should be pursued at greater depth on a continuing basis. The Pastor/Moderator should note the Lay Academy Steering Committee must rely upon the Session, the Moderator, and the Applicant to exercise good judgment in discerning whether this individual seems to be called by God to consider service as a Authorized Lay Preacher.

Name of Applicant:

Please respond candidly to the following questions. Adjust spacing or complete answers on additional paper as necessary.

1. What personal qualities are evidence of a vital faith in God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit?
2. How is that faith currently being expressed through the individual's participation in the worship, ministry and mission of this congregation?
3. What evidence do you see of a sense of call?
4. What actual and potential talents for ministry as a Authorized Lay Preacher are evident in this individual?
5. Describe a few situations in the life of your church in which the applicant has demonstrated leadership capacity.
6. How would you rate the applicant's physical health/stamina, emotional well-being, and maturity?
7. Service as an Authorized Lay Preacher requires great maturity of character, self-discipline, reliability, and commitment to the polity of the PC(USA). Please comment upon the applicant's attributes in these areas.

8. Describe the applicant's capacities for effective public speaking and demonstration of pastoral care.
9. The following qualities are especially important in Authorized Lay Preachers. Please check all which you think are demonstrated by this applicant in the life of your church:
- Ability to speak publicly, with a clear voice, and in good English
  - A demonstrated basic knowledge of the content of scripture
  - Reliability
  - Leader in the church
  - Compassion
  - Skills in personal relationships
  - Well-developed listening skills
  - Ability to relate to various age groups
  - Able to keep confidentiality
10. Describe any reservations you might have in endorsing this candidate. (Note: a reservation does not disqualify an individual or indicate they are unsuitable for service. The Lay Academy Steering Committee, however, must rely upon your honest and candid evaluation.)

11. How long have you known the applicant?

Check one:

I, the Pastor/Moderator of the Church

- DOES endorse this application for admission to the Lay Academy of the Presbytery of Utica.
- DOES NOT endorse this application for admission to the Lay Academy of the Presbytery of Utica.
- DOES endorse, WITH RESERVATIONS, this application for admission to the Lay Academy of the Presbytery of Utica.  
(List specific reservations here).

Signature

Date