**SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

Hello, this is Denny Wissinger, your Central Bay District Co-Lay Leader with a topic I consider important to you as Christians – that topic being “Spiritual Growth.” Having been given the command to make disciples as prescribed in the Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:16-20, you might say to yourself as I once did: “I’m really not equipped to go out and make disciples.” With regard to being equipped you may have heard the expression that God does not call the equipped, but rather equips the called. What are better ways we can become equipped to fulfill the Great Commission and grow spiritually to better serve God and strengthen our support of our churches? They include:

* Study Scripture
* Study commentaries
* Learn from sermons
* Participate in Sunday School
* Participate in Bible Study
* Read devotion books such as the Upper Room and Guideposts
* Have a structured time of prayer and meditation
* Attend spiritual retreats such as the Walk to Emmaus

Another way you can grow spiritually is by taking Lay Servant Ministry Courses. You may ask yourself: Is God calling you

* To discover your spiritual gifts?
* To lead in worship?
* To give a sermon?
* To lead in prayer?
* To lead Bible study?
* To increase your knowledge of John Wesley and Methodism?
* To plan activities for children and youth?
* To help with congregational care?
* To organize a mission trip?
* To encourage generous giving through stewardship?

All of which I just mentioned can be accomplished by taking courses offered both throughout our Central Bay District, and by the Michigan Conference.

 Through the Lay Servant Ministry Programs you can become:
Certified Lay Servants

Certified Lay Speakers

Certified Lay Ministers

Certified Lay Ministers with Specializations

 Through all the courses that are offered we laity are given opportunities to enhance our knowledge and skills for leadership, mission, and ministry as disciples to serve God in the church and in the world around us, and lead others to become disciples.

 For more information, to include course offerings, you can go to the Michigan Conference Website, the District Website, the monthly District Newsletter, or contact one of our District Lay Servant Ministry Co-Leaders. They are Pastor Ray Francis at pastorraymi@gmail.com, or Janice Buckley at buckley7878@charter.net. Additional information would also be publicized by means of other media as determined by the District Lay Servant Ministry Team.

Yours in Christ,

Denny Wissinger

Central Bay District

Co-Lay Leader

denniswissinger@gmail.com