

What is a Certified Lay Minister?

The 2004 General Conference affirmed the Certification of Certified Lay Ministers in the United Methodist Church.

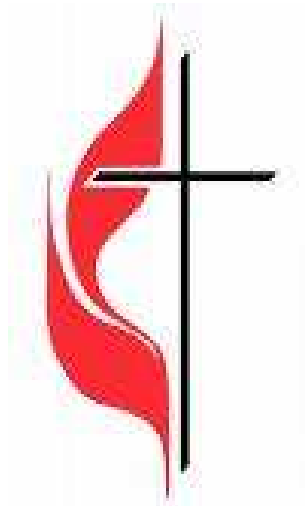
This form of ministry follows the early Methodist tradition of lay preachers and class leaders who served in Christian community.

Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) are vital to the mission and ministry of churches that:

- are small and may be struggling to afford traditional pastoral leadership. CLMs may be assigned for longer pastorates
- have been on multi-point charges
- parishes are sharing clergy leadership
- CLMs may serve as part of a pastoral team
- are increasing continuity of leadership
- are experiencing numeric growth and can benefit from a pastoral team. Larger churches can have a CLM as a pastoral associate.
- are serving multi-cultural or cross-cultural groups by developing indigenous leadership

The Certified Lay Minister...

- shall preach the Word
- provide a care ministry to the congregation
- assist in program leadership
- be a witness in the community for the growth, missional, and connectional thrust of the United Methodist Church



Contact:

clm@gbod.org

PO Box 340003

Nashville, TN 37203

877-899-2780 ext. 7179

Certified Lay Minister



1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Book of Discipline



The Certified Lay Minister may be assigned by the District Superintendent to provide pastoral leadership for a local church as a part of a ministry team under the supervision of a clergyperson.

¶ 272

*The 2004 Book of Discipline
The United Methodist Church*

Steps to Certification

A Certified Lay Speaker or a person with equivalent training as defined by his/her district or conference may be certified as a certified lay minister by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry after he/she has:

Step 1: Local Church Recommendation

Written recommendation of the Pastor and supporting vote of the Church Council or Charge Conference where he/she holds membership. A CLM must demonstrate appreciation of the history, polity, doctrine, worship and liturgy of the United Methodist Church through service in his/her local church.

Step 2: Complete Coursework

Recommended coursework by the General Board of Discipleship and General Board of Higher Education and Ministry including:

- Module I: Covenant for Ministry
- Module II: Practice of Ministry
- Module III: Organization of Ministry
- Module IV: Connection and Ministry

Annual Conferences are encouraged to offer an experiential learning process that combines this coursework with service and mentoring by a supervising clergy member of the Annual Conference. These modules are available for download from Discipleship Resources by going to www.upperroom.org/bookstore.

Step 3: Recommendation by District Superintendent

After completion of appropriate screening and assessment, a person requests a letter of recommendation from his/her District Superintendent.

Step 4: Apply in writing to the District Committee on Ordained Ministry

Recertification

The CLM may be re-certified by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry every 2 years after:

- a successful ministry program
- recommendation from Charge Conference
- completion of Continuing Education
- recommendation of District Superintendent

Pastoral Leadership

A Certified Lay Minister is a unique servant leader different from . . .

- An Elder who is a clergy member of the Annual Conference, ordained for Word, Sacrament and Order, and appointed by the Bishop for itinerate ministry.
- A Local Pastor who is a clergy member of the Annual Conference licensed for pastoral ministry.
- A Lay Speaker who is certified for ministry in the church and community and may serve as temporary pulpit supply.
- A Deacon who is a clergy member of the Annual Conference, ordained for a ministry of Word and Service, and appointed to a non itinerant ministry in the community and the congregation.

A Certified Lay Minister is assigned by the District Superintendent to provide lay pastoral leadership.

CLMs have no clergy rights or benefits. The local church is encouraged to cover appropriate expenses of the CLM as negotiated (mileage, supplies, continuing education).