

CLM Training

Certified Lay Minister Course Materials

Discipleship Ministries and The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry have worked together to develop the basic coursework to prepare leaders for this form of ministry. In this case, certification provides a layperson with the training, support, supervision, and accountability needed to lead a congregation that either does not have a traditional clergy appointment or one that is developing team ministry.

Where can a person get the training to become a certified lay minister?

Training may be offered by the conference or district. Those interested are encouraged to check with the district superintendent for available opportunities.

The coursework (4 modules) provided by Discipleship Ministries as downloads (available in the Upper Room Online Bookstore) can also be used as a group-study with the supervision of a clergy person and the support of a mutual ministry team. Whatever the format chosen, it should include work/interaction with people in the local congregation.

The required coursework has four modules:

[Call and Covenant for Ministry](#)

Description: Understanding of theology and call for ministry, exploring spiritual gifts, and developing a ministry covenant. (This module includes the "Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course" and the Lay Servant Ministries Advanced Course, "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts.")

Minimum Time: 30 hours

[The Practice of Ministry](#)

Description: Four Sections which include Leading Worship, Preaching/Sharing Faith, Discipleship Ministries, and Caring for a Congregation.

Minimum Time: 8 hours per section (32 hours total)

[Organization for Ministry](#)

Description: Focus on the leader's task of organizing a congregation for mission and ministry. It provides specific guidance on topics central to a congregation's health.

Minimum Time: 8 hours

[Connection for Ministry](#)

Description: United Methodist theology, practice, and polity are explained with the roles of the local congregation district, conference, and general church.

Minimum Time: 8 hours