



# Certified Lay Minister

## With a Specialization in Congregational Care

The certified lay minister serves to enhance the quality of ministry much like a class leader did in early Methodism through service in the local church, circuit or cooperative parish, or by expanding team ministry in other churches and charges. Certified lay ministers are called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, develop new and existing faith communities, preach the Word, lead small groups, or establish community outreach ministries as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergyperson. The certified lay minister is assigned by the district superintendent.

To become a **Certified Lay Minister (CLM)**, you need to complete the following requirements:

1. Been certified as a lay servant, lay missionary or equivalent (as defined by his or her central conference)
2. Obtain recommendation from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church in which he or she holds membership
3. Complete Modules 1-4 for certified lay ministry, or equivalent as defined by the General Board of Discipleship (or the NPHLM in collaboration with GBOD), and the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure
4. Receive recommendation from district superintendent
5. Have all requirements for certification, including appropriate screening and assessment as defined by the annual conference, reviewed by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, for referral to the District Committee on Ordained Ministry for examination and recommendation of persons who have applied in writing to be certified as lay ministers by conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or its equivalent
6. For renewal of certification every two years thereafter:
  - a. Submit an annual report to charge conference or church council where membership is held and to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure
  - b. Obtain a ministry review every two years by the committee on pastor-parish relations, church council, or charge conference from the congregation of which he or she is a member, or when under assignment, from the ministry setting in which he or she is assigned

To become a **CLM with a Specialization in Congregational Care**, complete the following requirements:

1. Complete the above requirements for certification as a lay minister
2. Complete appropriate background checks, boundaries training and psychological assessment
3. Complete Congregational Care Ministry Seminar through The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection—<https://ccm.blogs.cor.org/> (3-day seminar)
4. Receive a certificate of completion for CCM Seminar from The UMC Church of the Resurrection
5. Submit certificate of recognition to annual conference CLM oversight body and Discipleship Ministries' Office of Laity in Leadership
6. For renewal of accreditation, complete requirements for re-certification as a lay minister and 10 hours of continuing education annually

## CERTIFIED LAY MINISTRY COURSES

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 in team ministry. The required coursework has four modules:

### **MODULE 1: Call and Covenant for Ministry**

Description: Understanding of theology and call for ministry, exploring spiritual gifts, and developing a ministry covenant.

Minimum Time: 30 hours

### **MODULE 2: The Practice of Ministry**

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

Minimum Time: 8 hours per section or 32 total hours

### **MODULE 3: 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

### **MODULE 4: 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

These modules are available only as PDF downloads from the Upper Room Bookstore at <http://bookstore.upperroom.org> and are non-discountable, non-refundable and non-returnable. Some annual conferences offer alternative equivalent training or they allow online education through <http://BeADisciple.com>. Please be sure to check with your annual conference to determine what they will allow as an equivalent.

The coursework (4 modules) can also be used as a group-study with the supervision of a clergyperson and the support of a mutual ministry team (key leaders) of the congregation being served by the CLM. Whatever the format chosen, it should include work/interaction with people in the local congregation being served.

For more information, visit [www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/certified-lay-minister](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/certified-lay-minister)

Or send a message to [laity@umcdiscipleship.org](mailto:laity@umcdiscipleship.org)

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