

Course of Study School - Expectations for Licensed Local Pastors

Time Line for Licensed Local Pastors:

When a person going into the ministry as a Licensed Local Pastor (LLP) has

- 1) attended the Candidacy Summit, and finished that process,
 - 2) has attended License to Preach School, and finished that process, and
 - 3) received their license, and
 - 4) has been appointed by the Bishop to serve a local congregation,
- they are expected to begin the required 20 courses at an approved Course of Study School, or an Extension School (available if serving less than full time).

Full time LLP have 8 years to finish the required 20 Course of Study courses.

Full time LLP are expected to take 4 courses per year.

They could finish in as little as 5 years.

Part time (1/4, 1/2, 3/4) LLP have 12 years to finish the required 20 COSS courses.

Part time LLP are expected to take a minimum of 2 courses per year.

They could finish in as little as 10 years.

DCOM's may make an exception due to extenuating circumstances (serious health issue in the family...) and extend a LLP's time line, if requested by the LLP.

A LLP may also take more than the minimum courses annually, if approved by the District Superintendent, the Michigan Conference Local Pastor Registrar, and the Director of the Course of Study School, or Extension School.

DCOM's role is to encourage a LLP to stay on target to finish the courses in the expected time. If a LLP gets into a habit of not going to COSS, or registering and then not attending (cancelling), it undermines the whole process of the privilege of serving a local congregation and the denomination as a LLP. When a person registers for a course, and then cancels at the last minute, they have taken up a limited space in class which another LLP may have used or needed. At some schools the professor may lose income since their income is sometimes based on class size.

A LLP should be under appointment by the Bishop, not under assignment by a District Superintendent, before registering for COSS.

Some on-line courses are available but can only make up a percentage of coursework and are directed towards part time bi-vocational LLP's.