Certified Lay Servant

Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church

Growing in your faith

Lay Servant Ministries is one of the significant lay leadership development programs available within the United Methodist connection. Through this system of equipping and empowering, laity have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples. Lay Servant Ministries can be a significant component of any discipleship system providing training in **H**ospitality, **O**ffer Christ, **P**urpose and **E**ngagement.

Becoming a Lay Servant

Classes can be taken in a variety of locations and dates including online. The District Committees on Lay Servant Ministry organizes classes to fit the needs of participants, specific requests for a topic, and to meet certification requirements. Whenever possible, the conference committee encourages the BASIC course and preaching course to be taken in person (within district) to create community connection. BASIC and Preaching can be offered and taken via video conferencing. Some classes (no more than 50%) can be taken through BeADisciple.com (beadisciple.com/lay-servant-ministries). When an individual takes an online class, it is the responsibility of the individual to provide completion/certification information to the district committee.

Lay servant classes generally fall into the following categories: Introduction to Lay Ministry, Spiritual Gifts, United Methodist Heritage, United Methodist Polity, Leading Worship, Leading Prayer, Preaching.

Everyone must take a BASIC course before becoming a Certified Lay Servant. Districts post class offerings online with registration information. Participants may take classes in any location but are responsible to provide their local district with proof of completion.

STEPS TO BECOME A CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT

The Certified Lay Servant is committed to scripture, the doctrine, heritage, organization and life of The United Methodist Church. They have received specific training to witness to the Christian faith through spoken communication, to lead within a church and community, and to provide caring ministry. A Certified Lay Servant must be a professing member of a local church or charge or baptized participant of a recognized United Methodist collegiate ministry.

To become a Certified Lay Servant, you must:

1. Complete the *Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries: The BASIC Course.*
2. Complete an advanced lay servant ministries course.
3. Obtain letter of recommendation from the pastor of which you hold membership.
4. Obtain letter of recommendation from the church council or charge conference of which you hold membership.
5. Submit application (form 1) and have qualifications and recommendations reviewed and approved by the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

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To maintain Certified Lay Ministry status, you must:

1. Submit annual reports and renewal request form (form 4) to the charge conference or church council and to the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay servant.
2. Complete a lay servant ministries advanced course in the last three years.
3. Obtain letter of recommendation for renewal from the pastor
4. Obtain letter of recommendation for renewal from the church council or charge conference of the local church or other UM ministry you hold membership.

Questions should be directed to the Michigan Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Colleen Croxall at ccroxall@emich.edu.

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