

Alabama/West Florida Conference UMC Lay Servant Ministries

Certified Lay Minister
<p>As part of a ministry team with supervision and support of a clergyperson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conducts public worship ● Cares for the congregation ● Develops new faith communities ● Preaches the Word ● Leads small groups ● Establishes outreach ministries ● Serves as a class leader ● Engages in specialized ministries after appropriate training such as in parish nursing and church planting ● Assists in program leadership
Requirements for Certification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Certified as Lay Servant, Lay Speaker (or equivalent) ● Spiritual Gifts Advanced Course ● CLM Application online ● CLM Application Request Form which includes pastor and church council or charge conference recommendation ● Completion of a track of study ● Recommendation of DS ● Appropriate screening ● Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries approval after interview and recommendation from District Committee on Ordained Ministry
Requirements for Renewal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Online CLM Renewal Request ● CLM Annual report which includes the pastor and church council or charge recommendation ● Ministry Review ● Lay Servant Ministries advanced course or approved continuing education event annually ● Recommendation of DS ● Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries approval every two years after interview and recommendation from the District Committee on Ordained Ministries

Lay Servant Ministries is a leadership development program in the United Methodist Church focused on educating and empowering people who have responded to the call of God to serve in mission and ministry.

There are three main areas of focus:

Leading- Lay servants are the leaders of the church. Lay servant training will help them facilitate small groups, prayer meetings, mission events, committees and teams.

Caring- Lay servants provide care and support both for the congregation and the church staff. They can be trained in assisting with hospital visits, welcoming guests, new member care, establishing local mercy ministries, prison ministry and other caring ministries both in the church and the community.

Communicating- Lay servants are called to share the Good News of Christ, as are all believers, and this can occur through presenting the Gospel through preaching, teaching or speaking. It can also be done by encouraging others who are suffering, speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves, and most importantly, displaying the life of Christ in all areas of their lives.

What is the role of a Certified Lay Minister? A certified lay minister is a certified lay servant, certified lay missionary, (or equivalent as defined by his or her central conference), who is 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. A certified lay minister is assigned by a district superintendent in accordance with ¶419.2.

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Those who are interested in pursuing certification as a CLM should follow these steps:

1. Become certified as Lay Servant or Lay Speaker and must have taken the advanced course Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts, or an equivalent spiritual gifts course.
2. Speak with the pastor of your local church or your district superintendent about your call to the ministry of CLM.
3. Complete the online form Certified Lay Minister Application.
4. Complete the Certified Lay Minister Application Request form which includes recommendations by pastor and by vote of Church Council or Charge Conference where church membership is held.
5. A mentor will be assigned to walk you through the process as part of your Mutual Ministry Team (MMT). You may begin completing the required course work as soon as the mentor is assigned (Modules 1-4).
6. Complete the application to dCOM (District Committee on Ordained Ministry) which includes recommendation by District Superintendent.
7. Appear for review and approval of dCOM.
8. 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 for referral to the dCOM for examination of persons who have applied in writing to be CLM and to make a recommendation for certification (see ¶666.10). The dCOM will make a recommendation to the conference committee on lay servant ministries for final certification by that committee.
9. After you successfully complete all requirements for certification, you may be assigned by the district superintendent to serve with the pastor of your church, to serve another church, or to serve as part of a ministry team.

There are four modules that make up the required coursework:

1. **Call and Covenant for Ministry.** This module covers understanding of theology and call for ministry, exploring spiritual gifts, and developing a ministry covenant.
2. **The Practice of Ministry.** The four sections of this module cover leading worship, preaching/sharing faith, discipleship ministries, and caring for a congregation.
3. **Organization for Ministry.** This module focuses 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.
4. **Connection for Ministry.** This module explains United Methodist theology, practice, and polity as it relates to the roles of the local congregation, district, conference, and general church.



For more information visit: www.awfumc.org/lsm or contact Heather Howell,
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