

# Alabama/West Florida Conference UMC Lay Servant Ministries

## Certified Lay Servant

Serves the local church or charge (and/or beyond) and:

- Provides program leadership, assistance, and support
- Leads meetings for prayer, training, study and discussion
- Conducts, or assists in conducting, services of worship, preaches the Word, or gives addresses,
- Provides congregational leadership and fosters caring ministries
- Assists in the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion
- Teaches the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of the United Methodist Church

### Requirements for Certification

- Pastor of church council or charge conference recommendation
- Lay Servant Ministries BASIC course
- Lay Servant Ministries advanced course (*Discover Your Spiritual Gifts* recommended)
- District committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure (See ¶668.3) approval

### Requirements for Renewal

- Annual report and renewal application
- Pastor and church council or charge recommendation
- Lay Servant Ministries advanced course in the last three years
- District committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure (See ¶668.3) approval

**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.

## Track of Study for Becoming a Certified Lay Servant

- Must complete the Lay Servant Ministries Ministry BASIC course. This course must be done in an in-person setting.
- Must complete a Lay Servant Ministries advanced course. *Discover Your Spiritual Gifts* is the recommended course; however, other advanced courses are accepted.



For more information visit: [www.awfumc.org/lsm](http://www.awfumc.org/lsm) or contact Heather Howell, Director of Lay Ministries, AWFUMC [howellclc@gmail.com](mailto:howellclc@gmail.com)