

Alabama/West Florida Conference UMC Lay Servant Ministries

Certified Lay Speaker
Serves by preaching the Word when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries, in accordance and compliance with ¶341.1.
Requirements for Certification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Certified as a Lay Servant (<i>or equivalent as defined by his/her central conference</i>) ● Pastor and church council or charge conference recommendation ● Completion of a track of study ● Conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries approval after interview with and recommendation from the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries
Requirements for Renewal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 approval every three years after interview with and recommendation from the district committee on Lay Servant 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, teams and more.

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.

Lay Speakers serve the local church by witnessing to the Christian faith through spoken communication, church and community leadership, and caregiving ministries. When certified, the lay speaker may conduct services of worship, preach, and lead study sessions as requested by the pastor or the district superintendent.

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Track of Study for Becoming a Certified Lay Speaker

- Must be certified as a Certified Lay Servant (or equivalent as defined by the conference).
- Must complete one course in the following six Lay Servant Ministries advanced courses categories.
 1. Leading Worship
 - *Leading Worship* – Taylor Burton-Edwards
 - *Your Ministry of Leading Worship 101* (online)
 2. Leading Prayer
 - *Leading Public Prayer* – Debra R. Tyree
 - *Leading Public Prayer* (online)
 3. Discovering Spiritual Gifts
 - *Discover Your Spiritual Gifts* – William J. Carter
 - *Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts* (online)
 4. Preaching
 - *Called to Preach* – Dawn Chesser
 - *From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon* – Tony Franks and David Carroll
 5. United Methodist Heritage
 - *Living Our United Methodist Beliefs* – George Hovaness Donigian
 - *Living Our United Methodist Beliefs* (online)
 6. United Methodist Polity
 - *Life Together in the United Methodist Connection* – Beth Galbreath
 - *Life Together in the United Methodist Connection* (online)

*These courses are offered online through Be A Disciple (<https://beadisciple.com/>) or may be offered in an in-person setting in your area. Please refer to the AWFUMC Conference website for an updated schedule of in-person courses.



For more information visit: www.awfumc.org/lsm or contact Heather Howell, Director of Lay Ministries, AWFUMC hhowellclc@gmail.com