

Certified Lay Minister

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In order to enhance the quality of ministry to small membership churches, expand team ministry in churches and in deference to an expression of gifts and evidence of God's grace associated with the lay ministry of early Methodism, the certified lay minister is to be recognized and utilized.

1. The certified lay minister shall preach the Word, provide a care ministry to the congregation, assist in program leadership, and be a witness in the community for the growth, missional and connectional thrust of The United Methodist Church as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergy person.
2. A certified lay servant or a person with equivalent training as defined by his or her district or conference may be certified as a lay minister by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry after he or she has:
 - a) Been recommended by the pastor of the local church where he or she holds membership and by vote of the church council or charge conference.
 - b) Completed courses relevant to his or her assignment including preaching and exegesis, the care of the congregation, and other courses as recommended by the General Board of Discipleship and General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in consultation with leaders in the annual conference, and other appropriate agencies and organizations.
 - c) Demonstrated appreciation of the history, polity, doctrine, worship and liturgy of The United Methodist Church through service in his or her local church.
 - d) Been recommended by the district superintendent after completion of appropriate screening.
 - e) Made application in writing to the District Committee on Ordained Ministry.
 - f) Appeared before the District Committee on Ordained Ministry for review and approval.