

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES AND BEYOND

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There have been a lot of questions regarding Lay servant certification requirements and the difference between local lay servant, certified lay servant, lay speaker, and lay minister. Some of the requirements have changed over the last few years. Below is the title of each ministry and the requirements needed to become and/or continue to serve in these lay ministries.

-Titles and Requirements ---

## LOCAL CHURCH LAY SERVANT

*Serve primarily in the local congregation.*

1. Pastor and church council or charge conference approval
2. Completion of the basic course for lay servants
3. Submission of report and reapplication annually
4. Completion of a refresher course every 3 Years

## CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT

*Local Church Lay Servants who have taken an advanced course in LSM; serve in the local congregation and beyond.*

1. Pastor and church council or charge conference approval
2. Completion of the basic course for lay servants
3. Completion of an advanced course for lay servants
4. Submission of report and reapplication annually
5. Completion of an advanced course every three years

## LAY SPEAKER

*Certified Lay Servant or person, with equivalent training as defined by his or her district or conference, who provides pulpit supply.*

*Required course of study:*

*Lay Servant basic course, leading worship, leading prayer, discovering spiritual gifts, preaching, United Methodist heritage, and United Methodist polity.*

*Lay speaker requirements (continued)*

1. Pastor and charge conference approval
2. Completion of the basic course for lay servants
3. Completion of required courses for lay Speaker (six advanced courses)
4. Interview with District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) or equivalent
5. Approval by conference committee on LSM or equivalent
6. Submission of report annually
7. Completion of an advanced course every three years
8. Recertification every 3 years (2012 BOD ¶266.6)

## CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER

*Certified Lay Servant or person, with equivalent training as defined by his or her district or conference, who provides lay servant leadership in a ministry/church as part of a ministry team.*

1. Pastor and church council or charge conference approval
2. DS recommendation
3. Demonstrated appreciation of UM history, doctrine, polity, worship and liturgy through service in local church
4. Completion of required course work
5. Application in writing to District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM)
6. Appearance before dCOM for review and approval
7. Recertification biannually (2012 BOD ¶271.3)