

Steps to Becoming a Certified Lay Minister
Central Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church

1) Entrance Requirements

- a) status of certified lay speaker and recommendation of district superintendent
- b) state police and child abuse clearance checks completed
- c) psychological assessment completed
- d) boundaries and safe sanctuary training completed
- e) complete an orientation to the certified lay minister program (provided by BOOM)
 - Topics for orientation: roles in ministry
 - role of self-care
 - role of leadership
 - mutual team ministry (covenant and expectations)

Upon completion of the entrance requirements, a person may be appointed to serve a church or charge as a candidate for certified lay ministry.

2) Program requirements

- a) Complete the following courses at Leadership University
 - i.) preaching and exegesis
 - ii.) Christian education
 - iii.) care of the congregation
 - iv.) United Methodist polity
 - v.) conflict resolution and congregational dynamics
 - vi.) leading and planning worship
- b) Two courses must be completed each year until the above requirements are fulfilled. Failure to complete the educational requirement in any given year will result in the participant being dropped from the program.
- c) Develop a covenant for mutual team ministry with a supervising elder and the members of the pastor-parish relations committee and participate in the ministry covenant developed

Upon completion of the program requirements, recommendation of the local church being served and the supervising elder, and approval of the district committee on ministry, the candidate may become a certified lay minister.

3) Continuing requirements

- a) Complete at least one additional course each year through one of the following sources: leadership university, lay seminary, advanced lay speakers course
 - i.) possible topics: UM history faith sharing
 - UM theology ministry with children
 - sacraments advanced preaching
 - youth ministry courses in Bible etc.
- b) yearly interview with and approval from the district committee on ministry based on recommendations from the church being served and the supervising elder.
- c) attend and participate in annual conference as an “at large” lay member

Failure to complete the continuing requirements will result in the certified lay minister being dropped from the program.