



# Certified Lay Ministry

THEOLOGY BEHIND

# Certified Lay Ministry

The church's ministry is derived from the ministry of Christ, who bids all people to receive salvation and follow Him as disciples in the way of love. This summons to ministry is to the whole people of God, or Laity (laos) who are "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession," charged to "declare the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness and into His wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9) Baptism initiates this call to ministry, empowered by the Holy Spirit. — **401.1, TBD&D, 2023**

With the exception of the offices of bishop and presiding elder (district superintendent), which are reserved for elders, all Laity and Clergy may serve in various offices. Offices of ministry refer to what followers of Christ do for the general building up of the body of Christ. Offices include, but are not limited to, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, administrators, miracle workers, healers, and helpers (Eph. 4:11-13, and 1 Cor. 12:28). The Holy Spirit works in and through a call to ministry and the subsequent discernment and affirmation of that call by the church. — **401.2, TBD&D, 2023**

One of expression in the Global Methodist Church of the call to ministry of the laity is the Certified Lay Minister (CLM). Some of many things a CLM is called/equipped to do are:

Preaching The Word; Conducting Public Worship; Caring For The Congregation; Developing Faith Communities; Leading Small Groups; And Establishing Community Outreach Ministries as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergy person. Much like a class leader in early Methodism, the certified lay minister enhances the quality of ministry to small-membership churches as part of a circuit or cooperative parish or by expanding team ministry in other churches and charges. As with lay ministry in early Methodism, the Certified Lay Minister expresses his or her gifts as evidence of God's grace.



*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

— **1 Peter 2:9**





*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up and we are called through our baptism to our biblical mandate to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up of the body of Christ through various gifts for service*

**— Ephesians 4:11-12**



Our mission as Certified Lay Ministry staff/leadership network is to serve as channels of God's grace by providing an avenue to explore and share God's gifts through spiritual discernment, training, support, and accountable discipleship to better define what it means to make disciples for the transformation of the world so that all God's people will know Christ and become vital in the Spirit.

Our goal in the Global Methodist Church is to faithfully prepare and equip laity as they bear the responsibility for carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). The Certified Lay Minister is one area of ministry laity may be in ministry to others as individuals and as a part of the church.

As of now the recommendation to the Transitional Leadership Council for the Global Methodist Church from the CLM Task Force are as follows. \*\*

Minimum Hours: 60 (Example: This can comprise of Five (5) hours classroom and Three (3) hours homework/reading/writing)

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# Educational Areas

## FOUNDATIONAL COURSES


- › Global Methodist History, Polity, Theology
- › Pastoral Care and Ethics
- › Mission and Evangelism
- › Understanding the Call; Spiritual Gifts
- › Basic Bible Training Specialized Courses
- › Wesleyan Theology

## SPECIALIZED COURSES

- › Preaching
- › Teaching: Bible Study, Sunday School, Small Group Facilitator
- › Mission Service
- › Spiritual Formation, Discipleship, Catechesis
- › Youth and Children's Ministry
- › Mentoring
- › Leadership and Worship planning
- › New Church Starts
- › Congregational Care
- › Parish Nursing
- › Church Leadership and Administration

*\*\*Or other courses approved by the Annual Conference*



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INITIAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RENEWAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS</b></p>
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>As part of a ministry team with supervision and support of the Presiding Elder and other Clergy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducts or assists in conducting Public Worship</li> <li>• Leads meetings for prayer, study and discussion!</li> <li>• Assists in the distribution of elements of Holy Communion</li> <li>• Cares for the congregation</li> <li>• Develops faith communities!</li> <li>• Preaches</li> <li>• Leads Small Groups</li> <li>• Serves as Leader of Class and Bands</li> <li>• Assist in program leadership!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualifications. Persons desiring to be certified lay ministers must fulfill the following qualifications:</li> <li>• Professing member of a local Global Methodist congregation (or its predecessor) for at least two years.</li> <li>• Satisfactory completion of a course in lay ministry, approved by the Commission on Higher Education and Ministry, covering the church’s doctrine, history, polity, and basic Bible knowledge.</li> <li>• Satisfactory completion of at least one advanced course in lay ministry, approved by the</li> <li>• Commission on Higher Education and Ministry, on an area of ministry (e.g., preaching, worship leading, caring ministry, etc.). Coursework or training in other settings may be counted to meet this requirement at the discretion of the board of ministry.</li> <li>• National background check.</li> <li>• Written recommendation by the pastor and endorsement by majority vote of the pastor parish relations committee and the charge conference.</li> <li>• Interview and approval by the annual conference board of ministry. A public service of commitment recognizing the certification is recommended.</li> </ul>	<p>Renewal of Certification.</p> <p>Certification for lay ministry may be renewed every three years by the annual conference board of ministry based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An annual report to the charge conference and annual conference board of ministry outlining what ministry had been done during the year and giving evidence of satisfactory performance.</li> <li>• Endorsement by majority vote of the charge conference annually.</li> <li>• Written recommendation for renewal by the pastor.</li> <li>• Completion of an additional national background check every three years.</li> <li>• Satisfactory completion of at least one additional advanced course in lay ministry, approved by the Commission on Higher Education and Ministry, in the last three years.</li> </ul>



## Conditions of Service

- A certified lay minister serves as a volunteer, but an honorarium and expenses for pulpit supply or other specialized ministries outside one's own local church are appropriate. A certified lay minister serving as a lay staff member of a church or other ministry should be equitably compensated for their work.
- Certification as a lay minister may be transferred to another annual conference if the person relocates. Subsequent renewal in that new annual conference is in accordance with 402.3.
- Persons who held active certification in a predecessor denomination shall automatically be received as certified lay ministers in the Global Methodist Church, provided that they have met the requirements of 402.2b-c through coursework in the predecessor denomination, subscribe to the doctrinal standards and Social Witness of this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, and agree to abide by its discipline. Subsequent renewal is in accordance with 402.3. Those not meeting the requirements of 402.2b-c are not certified but may work toward certification and are not required to repeat coursework they have already completed.