

NEW LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

In 2012 the General Conference of The United Methodist Church approved legislation to change the name of Lay Speaking Ministries to **Lay Servant Ministries**. For several quadrennia various name changes were proposed – none of which adequately described the role of this leadership development program.



The term **servant** was chosen because it best describes what Jesus told his disciples in John 13 after he himself had performed the duties of the lowliest servant. We should be honored to serve as our Lord and Savior did. We are called to live out our discipleship as servants in leadership!



LOCAL CHURCH AND CERTIFIED LAY SERVANTS

There is no change in the process of becoming a **local church or certified lay servant** from the former lay speaker process. There was, however, a role of **lay speaker** added to the program, which includes specific preparation and accountability processes.



TIME FRAME FOR COMPLETION OF LAY SPEAKER REQUIREMENTS

To be determined by each annual conference. There is no time frame indicated in the **Book of Discipline**.



RENEWAL AND RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

The renewal process for **local church lay servants** is unchanged from the former local church lay speaker process. The recertification process for **certified lay servants** also remains the same as that for the former lay speaker process.

Lay Speakers must also complete an advanced course once every three years and in addition must interview with the district committee every three years. The district committee will recommend those who qualify for recertification by the annual conference committee.



CONFERENCE DIRECTOR TITLE CHANGE

The title change from Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries to **Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries** will not take place until after the constitutional change (submitted from General Conference 2012 - which changes the name of this position as a member of the annual conference) is ratified by the annual and central conference sessions in 2013.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES AND BEYOND

TITLE:	REQUIREMENTS:
<p>Local Church Lay Servant <i>Serve primarily in the local congregation</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pastor and charge conference approval 2. Complete the Basic Course in LSM 3. File annual report 4. Take a refresher course every 3 years
<p>Certified Lay Servant <i>Local Church Lay Servants who have taken an advanced course in LSM; serve in the local congregation and beyond</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pastor and charge conference approval 2. Take an advanced course after the Basic Course 3. File annual report 4. Complete 1 advanced course every 3 years
<p>Lay Speaker <i>Certified Lay Servants who provide pulpit supply</i></p> <p>Required Courses: <i>Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts, Leading Prayer, Preaching, Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (UM Heritage), Leading Worship, Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (UM Polity)</i></p>	<p><i>(Are Certified Lay Servants)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pastor and charge conference approval 2. Complete the required courses for lay speaker 3. Interview with District Committee on LSM 4. Approved by annual conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries 5. File annual report 6. Every 3 years complete 1 advanced course and interview with District Committee on LSM
<p>Certified Lay Minister <i>Certified Lay Speaker or Servant who is assigned by the District Superintendent to a particular ministry within the district or annual conference</i></p>	<p><i>(Certified Lay Servant-recommended)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pastor and charge conference approval 2. DS approval 3. Apply to District Committee on Ordained Ministry 4. Complete required course work 5. Certified by District Committee on Ordained Ministry 6. Recertify every 2 years

For additional information and resources for Lay Servant Ministries, please visit our website at www.gbod.org

