

The West Ohio Conference Certified Lay Ministry program is established to provide trained, certified laity for mission and ministry in and through churches of all sizes.

A Certified Lay Minister (CLM) may serve in the church where he or she regularly worships when it is determined that a team would enhance faithful mission and ministry.

They may also serve in smaller churches, faith communities, and ethnic/culturally diverse ministries where a traditional clergy appointment is not viable.

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Sponsored by the
West Ohio Conference of the
United Methodist Church

Certified Lay Ministry Program

Session 1: CALL & COVENANT FOR MINISTRY

Ministry Retreat at the Maria Stein Retreat Center, February 19-21, 2010
Understanding of theology and call for ministry, exploring spiritual gifts and leadership styles, and developing a ministry covenant.

Session 2: WHY METHODIST?

4 one-day sessions, March 13, 27, April 10, 24, 2010
Exploring Christianity and Christian doctrine, reviewing Wesleyan heritage, United Methodist theology, polity, & organizational structure are explained.

Session 3: DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION

4 one-day sessions, Sept. 11, 25, Oct. 9, 23, 2010
Shaping the call, core process, scripture & Christian education, leadership for a congregation, congregational health, conflict mediation

Session 4: LAY MINISTRY CANDIDATE RETREAT

February 18-20, 2011

Session 5: CONNECTING IN MINISTRY

4 one-day sessions, March 5, 19, April 2, 16, 2011
Leading worship, understanding generations, worship styles, preaching & faith sharing, discipleship ministries, caring for a congregation

Session 6: MINISTRY IN A DIVERSE WORLD

4 one-day sessions, Sept. 10, 24, Oct. 8, 22, 2011
Interfaith dialogue, understanding other religions

Session 7: ACCOUNTABLE DISCIPLESHIP

Ministry Retreat, February 17-19, 2012
Stewardship, transforming the world, personal mission statement, spiritual autobiography, covenant community



Certified Lay Ministry

What is a Certified Lay Minister (CLM)?

A Certified Lay Minister is a qualified United Methodist layperson called to leadership as part of a ministry team under the supervision of a clergy person. This person enters the certification process, which includes training, support, supervision and accountability.



A CLM is a unique, recognized lay servant in The United Methodist Church. This team-based ministry empowers laity for missional leadership in a wide variety of fields and settings—as part of the ministry team in their own local congregation, appointed as a leader in a faith community, perhaps even serving as the pastor of a small membership church.

How is a CLM Different from a Certified Lay Speaker?

A Certified Lay Speaker is a layperson who has completed the basic course in lay speaking ministries plus an additional advanced course. His or her certification may be renewed every three years. Lay speakers are intended to serve in ministry and mission within their own local congregation. *Certified Lay Speakers* may serve within or beyond their local church as part of a team-based ministry. Certified Lay Ministers must complete both the certified lay speaking coursework and additional training before being eligible to be certified as a CLM.

What is the Process to Become a Certified Lay Minister?

Certification is the process recognized in the United Methodist Church to prepare someone for significant service such as leading a congregation that either does not have a traditional clergy appointment or one that is developing team ministry.



To become certified, a person must:

- Be recommended by the pastor and local congregation or charge conference;
- Be in active service in the church and demonstrate an understanding of UM history, polity, and doctrine;
- Complete the recommended coursework for both certified lay ministry and certified lay speaking;
- Be recommended by the district superintendent;
- Apply in writing to the district committee on ministry and be reviewed by the committee.

How is the CLM Placed for Service?

The CLM can be assigned by their home congregation or by the district superintendent. They may be part of a team in prison ministry, in medical clinics, provide care ministry, program leadership, preaching, or other types of witness to the community. They may also serve a small church as part of a ministry team.

A CLM is a layperson serving out of his or her baptism as a disciple of Jesus Christ. CLM's are not expected to be reimbursed as are full or part-time clergy though reimbursement for expenses is appropriate.

Program Schedule:

Certification process is a 3 year program consisting of seven required sessions:

2010	1	February Weekend Retreat
	2	Four one-day Spring Classes
	3	Four one-day Fall Classes
2011	4	February Weekend Retreat
	5	Four one-day Spring Classes
	6	Four one-day Fall Classes
2012	7	February Weekend Retreat

Program Location:

First weekend retreat will be held at Maria Stein Retreat Center. Location of one-day classes will be determined after the class is formed so that they are as convenient as possible to those registered.

Program Cost:

Cost is \$950 payable in three yearly installments (\$375/\$375/\$200) due each year prior to the February weekend retreats.

Application Process:

Applications and information will be online at www.westhioumc.org/CLM

Application deadline is January 22, 2010.

Additional information including complete steps to becoming a Certified Lay Ministry are online at:

www.westhioumc.org/CLM