

Lay Servant/Speaker Categories & Requirements

Certified Lay Servant

A certified lay servant serves the local church or charge (and/or beyond) and:

- provides program leadership, assistance, and support.
- leads meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion.
- conducts, or assists in conducting, services of worship, preaches the Word, or gives addresses.
- provides congregational and community leadership and fosters caring ministries.
- assists in the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion.
- teaches the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of The United Methodist Church.

To **become** a **Certified Lay Servant** you must:

1. Obtain recommendation from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church or other United Methodist ministry in which you hold membership.
2. Complete the "Introduction to Lay Ministries: The BASIC Course."
3. Complete an advanced Lay Servant Ministries course.
4. Apply to and have qualifications reviewed by the district committee on lay servant ministries or equivalent structure (See ¶668.3). This is completed by review of your annual report.

To **maintain** status as a **Certified Lay Servant**, you must:

1. Submit an annual report and renewal application (provided with charge conference paperwork) to the charge conference or church council and to the district committee on lay servant ministries or equivalent structure, giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay servant.
2. Obtain recommendation for renewal from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church or other United Methodist ministry in which you hold membership.
3. Complete a lay servant ministries advanced course in the last three years.

Certified Lay Speaker

A certified lay speaker serves by preaching the Word when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on lay servant ministries in accordance and compliance with ¶341.1 of *The Book of Discipline*.

The role of a certified lay speaker is a specific calling for the ministry of pulpit supply.

To **become** a **Certified Lay Speaker** you must:

1. Be certified as a lay servant (taken the basic course and 1 advanced course).
2. Obtain recommendation from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church in which you hold membership.
3. Complete a track of study including courses on leading worship, leading prayer, discovering spiritual gifts, preaching, United Methodist heritage and polity, living our beliefs, and/or other courses as determined by the conference committee on lay servant ministries or equivalent structure.
4. Interview with and obtain recommendation from the district committee on lay servant ministries, or equivalent structure, to be submitted to the conference committee on lay servant ministries, or equivalent structure, for approval and certification.

To **maintain status** as a **Certified Lay Speaker** you must:

1. Submit an annual report and renewal application (provided with charge conference paperwork) to the charge conference or church council and to the district committee on lay servant ministries or equivalent structure, giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay speaker.
2. Obtain recommendation for continued recognition as a certified lay speaker from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church or other United Methodist ministry in which you hold membership.
3. Complete a lay servant ministries advanced course in the last three years.
4. In the last three years, have interviewed with and obtained recommendation for renewal as a certified lay speaker from the district committee on certified lay servant ministries, or equivalent structure, and the approval of the conference committee on lay servant ministries.