

**Do I need to upload a Statement of Grace in place of my most recent certification course certificate?**

**Is your certification expiring in 2020?**

**No.**

**Yes.**

**Did you take a recertification course this year?**

**Yes.**

**No.**

**No need for a *Statement of Grace*. Please upload your most recent certificate.**

**Please upload a *Statement of Grace* in place of your certificate for your most recent recertification class.**

# Statement of Grace

2020 BWC Lay Servant Ministries Statement of Grace  
August 2020

*This statement concerns lay members in the Baltimore-Washington Conference who must take courses to complete their certification or recertification requirements for Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker, or Certified Lay Minister for their 2020 Annual Report. It is the official policy adopted by the Baltimore-Washington Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries as of August 2020 and is applicable in all Districts.*

All lay members are encouraged to take advantage of the approved advanced lay servant courses for recertification offered by the Districts. Although live classes were cancelled beginning in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus, classes have been and are now being offered via virtual platforms across the Conference. Members in need of a course should make every effort to take advantage of these offerings.

The Conference recognizes that it is not possible for all lay members to take the virtual classes. Therefore, a period of grace is extended for certification and recertification coursework for the year 2020, with the understanding that all required coursework must be completed in 2021. (If conditions warrant changing that date, the Conference Committee will consider that at that time.)

Members who are in need of this extension of grace should upload in the Annual Report a document stating that they are using the extension for 2020. All others should upload their certificates of course completion for the classes they took.

A sample statement would read : **“I, \_\_\_\_\_(insert name)\_\_\_\_\_, accept the extension of grace for my required course completion for the year 2020.”** No reason is required.

Using this statement should have no effect on the lay member’s status during the recertification year.