

Grace Period Extended Through 2021 for Lay Training Requirements

An Update from the BWC's Committee on Lay Servant Ministries

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the grace period for those due to take required Lay Servant courses for certification or recertification has been extended through 2021.

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 in most of 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus, classes 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.*

As we begin 2021, the Conference recognizes that it still may not be possible for all lay members to take the virtual classes.

Therefore, the period of grace begun in 2020 for certification and recertification coursework is extended through the 2021 year.

Please note that this means that all required coursework must be completed in 2022. (If conditions warrant changing that date, the Conference Committee will consider that at that time.)

Members who need this extension of grace should once again upload, in the Annual Report, a document stating that they are using the extension for 2021. All others should upload their certificates of course completion for the classes they took.

If you are accepting the 2021 Statement of Grace, please fill out the bottom portion. Please save and upload this form in your report when asked to upload your most recent certificate.

**Please note that if you took a class in 2021, you do not need to upload a Statement of Grace, please upload your 2021 certificate.*

2021 Statement of Grace

"I, _____ accept the extension of grace for my required course completion for the year 2021." No reason is required.

Please check the one that applies to your situation.

____ I submitted a 2020 Statement of Grace in place of a class certificate in 2020.

____ I do not submit a Statement of Grace in 2020 because my certification was valid in 2020.

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