

Lay Servant Ministries

What? Why? Who? How? What's New?

Baltimore-Washington Conference

August 25, 2020





Lay Servant Ministries:

A UMC Leadership Development Program

- ▶ Current Program Overview
- ▶ NEW Guidelines & Policies
- ▶ Q & A

Linda Flanagan, BW Conference Director of LSM

Deborah Sims, Frederick District Director of LSM

Carol Travis, Greater Washington District

Director of LSM

The Mission

“The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.”

(2016 BOD—Par. 120)

What? *A Leadership Development Program*

- ▶ **ALL ARE CALLED!**
- ▶ *“It was to this that God called you.”*
(1 Peter 2:21)
- ▶ **Open to ALL laity**
- ▶ **Committed to equipping and empowering laity to answer the call to serve according to spiritual gifts**
- ▶ **Aimed at improving skills and knowledge in order to serve well**

Who ? *Lay Servant Ministries Leaders*

- ▶ Conference Lay Leader: Delores Martin
- ▶ Lay Servant Ministries Program
 - ▶ Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries:
Linda Flanagan
 - ▶ Conference Committee of Lay Servant Ministries
 - ▶ District Directors/Co-Directors of LSM (8)

Why? To Equip & To Certify

EQUIP

- ▶ Equip through Lay Servant course offerings for all
- ▶ Classes offered in each District (contact Director)
- ▶ ALL are invited to enroll in classes.

CERTIFY

- ▶ Become certified to meet standard goals across the UM Connection
- ▶ Certification pathways (3) go deeper into study and practice

Why Become Certified?

- ▶ Certification keeps Lay Servants of all positions updated, refreshed, and renewed for active discipleship
 - ▶ Courses align to latest UMC legislation
 - ▶ Courses are based on current issues and topics as needed
 - ▶ Courses broaden bases of knowledge and understanding
- ▶ Certification maintains a consistent standard of practice and knowledge, much as certification or licensing does in professional careers, across the Conferences.
- ▶ Certification through classes allows for dialogue and exchange of ideas among others across the Conference/districts.

Pillars of Lay Servant Ministries

LEADING

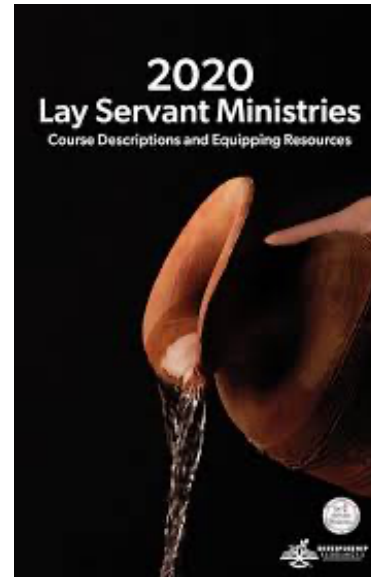
CARING

COMMUNICATING



Approved Coursework from UMC Discipleship Ministries

- ▶ Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries: The Basic Course
- ▶ Spiritual Gifts
- ▶ Preaching
- ▶ United Methodist Heritage
- ▶ United Methodist Polity
- ▶ Conflict Resolution
- ▶ Leading and Planning Worship
- ▶ Pastoral Care
- ▶ Justice in Everyday Life
- ▶ Leading Public Prayer



3 Categories of Certification

- ▶ Certified Lay Servant
- ▶ Certified Lay Speaker
- ▶ Certified Lay Minister



Certified Lay Servants Role (CLS):

- ▶ Provide leadership, assistance, and support
- ▶ Lead meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion
- ▶ Conduct, or assist in conducting, services of worship, preach the Word or give addresses

Lay servants fulfill these responsibilities when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries. (2016 BOD, par. 266)

Certified Lay Servants Role (CLS):

- ▶ Work with appropriate committees and teams which provide congregational and community leadership or foster caring ministries
- ▶ Assist in the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion
- ▶ Teach the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of The UMC

Lay servants fulfill these responsibilities when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries. (2016 BOD, par. 266)

Certified Lay Servant Requirements (CLS)

Be a professing and active member of a local church/charge

1. Obtain recommendation from pastor and Church Council or Church Conference of the local church
2. Complete the “Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course” and an advanced course for Lay Servant Ministries
3. Submit application for certification with course certificates attached directly to the District Director for Lay Servant Ministries for certification.
4. Every year submit an annual report during Church Conference season.

Certified Lay Servant Requirements (CLS)

FOR RECERTIFICATION:

- Submit an annual report yearly and a renewal application every 3 years.
- Obtain recommendations from pastor and Church Council or Church Conference
- Complete an approved advanced Lay Servant course every 3 years and apply for recertification

Certified Lay Speaker (CLSp): Focused Pathway For Those With a Gift and Calling To Communicate



Serves by preaching the Word when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries, in accordance and compliance with of the 2016 Book of Discipline.

Certified Lay Speaker Requirements (CLSp):

- ▶ Obtain certification as Lay Servant
- ▶ Complete a track of study to include: Leading Worship, Leading Prayer, Discovering Spiritual Gifts, Preaching, United Methodist Heritage, United Methodist Polity
- ▶ Submit CLSp application and interview form to the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries to request interview.
- ▶ If recommended by the District Committee, receive approval for certification by the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries

Certified Lay Speaker Requirements (CLSp):

FOR RECERTIFICATION:

- Submit an annual report to the Church Conference
- Obtain pastor and Church Council or Church Conference approval
- Complete an approved advanced Lay Servant Ministries course every 3 years
- Interview with the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries every 3 years for recommendation to Conference Committee for approval

Certified Lay Minister Roles (CLM):

“called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, develop new and existing faith communities, preach the Word, lead small groups, or establish community outreach ministries as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergy person. A certified lay minister is assigned by a district superintendent in accordance with ¶419.2.” (2016 BOD)

Certified Lay Minister Requirements (CLM):

1. Be certified as a Lay Servant
2. Obtain a recommendation from the pastor and Church Council or Church Conference
3. Complete a track of study as defined by Discipleship Ministries and the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

Certified Lay Minister Requirements (CLM):

4. Obtain a recommendation from the District Superintendent
5. Interview with and obtain recommendation from the District Committee on Ordained Ministry
6. Be approved by and receive certification from the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

Certified Lay Minister Requirements (CLM):

To be re-certified, the CLM needs to:

- ▶ Submit an annual report
- ▶ Undergo a ministry review every 2 years
- ▶ Complete an approved advanced LSM course every 2 years

Certified Lay Minister Requirements (CLM):

To be re-certified, the CLM needs to:

- ▶ Obtain a recommendation from the District Superintendent
- ▶ Interview with and receive recommendation from the District Committee on Ministry (DCOM)
- ▶ Be approved by and receive recertification from the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

2020 Updates!

Guidelines for Online CLM Modules

- *BW Conference encourages all CLM students to take the live CLM module classes offered by the Conference.*
- *In cases where that is not possible, students may take the online CLM module classes offered by BeADisciple.com as long as the following guidelines are followed:*
 1. Complete the BW Conference CLM application package **BEFORE** beginning online classes
 2. Meet regularly with a BWC CLM Mentor who will be assigned to the student during all modules
 3. Complete the required Ministry Covenant & Demonstration Project

2020 Updates!

Guidelines for Online CLM Modules

4. Submit a statement of successful completion after each module from the online instructor
5. Complete the Affirmation Form and Next Steps as outlined for all BW Conference CLM students when modules are finished
6. Follow up with DCOM and CCLSM procedures outlined in Book of Discipline

2020 Updates! Grace for Coursework

► *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.*

2020 Updates! Grace for Coursework

- ▶ 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.

2020 Updates! Grace for Coursework

- ▶ 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.

2020 Updates!

Virtual /Online Courses

- ▶ Districts may offer approved Lay Servant Classes taught through Zoom (or other virtual platforms) during this year. These classes are directly led by an instructor present during the class.
- ▶ As always, online official Lay Servant Ministries classes offered by [Beadisciple.com](https://www.beadisciple.com) are acceptable. (Must be labeled “Lay Servant Ministries” in Affiliation column, not “Certified Lay Ministry.”)
- ▶ The BASIC course **MAY** be taught via virtual platform.
- ▶ At this time, the Preaching courses must be taught live in-person.

2020 Updates!

Current Resources

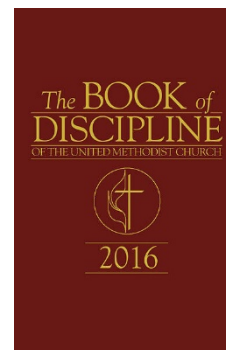
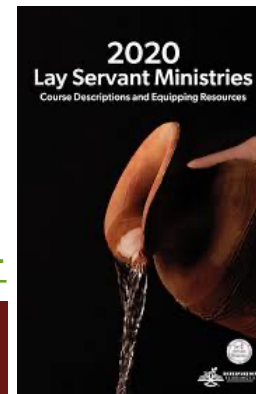
- ▶ 2020 Lay Servant Ministries Catalog

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/lay-servant-ministries-catalog>

- ▶ 2016 Book of Discipline

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>

<https://www.bwcumc.org/ministries/leadership-development/laity-development/>



General Reminder to All:

- ▶ Keep Track of Your Own Records! Submit as Required on Time
 - ▶ As servant leaders, we are called to be accountable and responsible for our training and records. Certified Lay Servants, Certified Lay Speakers, and Certified Lay Ministers must keep track of their training requirements and dates and submit items on time to their District Director/Conference CLM Director.

For more information, contact your
District LSM Director
or Linda Flanagan
Conference Director LSM
waldorffangel@gmail.com

District LSM Directors:

- ▶ Annapolis District: TBA
- ▶ Baltimore Metro: Elizabeth Stemley
- ▶ Baltimore Suburban: TBA
- ▶ Central Maryland: Rodney Fry & Pamela Matthews-Plummer
- ▶ Cumberland-Hagerstown: Wanda Barkdoll
- ▶ Frederick: Patrick McCourt/Deborah Sims
- ▶ Greater Washington: Carol Travis
- ▶ Washington East: Drs. Delila and Gregory Parham

Contact Information at

<https://www.bwcumc.org/ministries/leadership-development/laity-development/>