

Certified Lay Speaker (CLS)



Process for becoming a Certified Lay Speaker

A certified lay speaker is a certified lay servant whose call has been affirmed by the Michigan conference committee on lay servant ministries to serve the church in pulpit supply in accordance and compliance with the United Methodist Discipline ¶1341.1.

The 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 ¶1341.1.



Steps to Become a Certified Lay Speaker (CLS) Michigan Conference of The UMC | 2019

1. Be currently certified as a lay servant.
2. Obtain written 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 one course from each of the following subject categories:
 - a. The BASIC Course for Lay Servant Ministries. **CANNOT BE TAKEN ON-LINE**
 - b. Leading worship: Leading Worship, Taylor Burton-Edwards or Your Ministry of Leading Worship 101 (online).
 - c. Leading prayer: Leading in Prayer, Mary O. Benedict or Leading Public Prayer (online).
 - d. Discovering Spiritual Gifts: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts, William J. Carter or Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts (online).
 - e. Preaching: Called to Preach, Dawn Chesser. **CANNOT BE TAKEN ON-LINE**
 - f. United Methodist Heritage: Living Our United Methodist Beliefs, George Hovaness Donigian or Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (online).
 - g. United Methodist Polity: Life Together in the United Methodist Connection, Beth Galbreath or Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (online).
 - h. Additional classes in these categories as they are available from Discipleship Resources.**NO MORE THAN HALF OF THESE CLASSES MAY BE TAKEN ON-LINE**
4. Interview with and obtain recommendation from the district committee on lay servant ministries, to be submitted to the conference committee on lay servant ministries, for approval and certification.
5. Submit a written copy of a sermon along with audio/video of the delivery. Include three sermon evaluations. Include your current charge conference annual report.

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To maintain status as a Michigan Conference Certified Lay Speaker, you must:

1. Submit an annual report and renewal application to the charge conference or church council and to the district committee on lay servant ministries, 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 at least one 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 lay servant ministries, and the approval of the conference committee on lay servant ministries, for recertification.

Questions should be directed to the Michigan Conference Co-Directors of Lay Servant Ministries.

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LAY SPEAKER APPLICATION

Part 1: INFORMATION ON THE CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT APPLYING TO BE/RENEW AS A LAY SPEAKER

Name: _____

Best phone: _____

Address: _____

Member of _____ UMC

Church Address: _____

Church Phone: _____ Pastor: _____

Part 2: STATUS OF THE LAY SERVANT

I am applying to: ☐ Become a Lay Speaker **OR** ☐ Renew as a Lay Speaker

Year completed basic course: _____ Year became a certified Lay Servant: _____

I have completed the required Advanced Courses: (Indicate classroom or on-line class and **year completed**)

☐ Classroom ☐ Online | Leading Worship/Planning Worship _____

☐ Classroom ☐ Online | Preaching/Storytelling _____

☐ Classroom ☐ Online | United Methodist Heritage _____

☐ Classroom ☐ Online | Leading Prayer _____

☐ Classroom ☐ Online | Spiritual Gifts _____

☐ Classroom ☐ Online | United Methodist Polity _____

List any additional classes taken:

INCLUDE A WRITTEN AND AUDIO/VIDEO COPY OF ONE SERMON AND THREE EVALUATIONS

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Part 3: REQUEST OF THE CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT/LAY SPEAKER

I request the recommendation of my pastor, my church council, my district lay servant ministries committee and the Michigan Conference Lay Servant Ministries committee to begin/renew as a Lay Speaker.

Date _____ Signature _____

Part 4: RECOMMENDATION OF THE PASTOR

I have met with this person and support his/her request to begin/renew as a Certified Lay Speaker.

Date _____ Signature _____

Part 5: RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The church council/charge conference of _____ United Methodist Church recommends the above individual to begin/renew as a Certified Lay Speaker.

Date _____ Signature _____, Church Council Chair

Part 6: ACTION BY THE _____ DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

☐ The District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries has met with this individual, heard their oral presentation and reviewed their application for consideration to become/renew as a Certified Lay Speaker and **recommends** him/her to the Michigan Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries for Certification.

OR

☐ The District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries has met with this individual, heard their oral presentation and reviewed their application for consideration to become/renew as a Certified Lay Speaker and **DOES NOT recommend** him/her to the Michigan Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries for Certification.

Date _____ Signature _____, District LSM Director

Part 7: ACTION BY THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

☐ The applicant has been **approved** as a Certified Lay Speaker for the 3 conference years _____

OR

☐ The applicant **has not been** approved as a Certified Lay Speaker.

Date _____ Signature _____, Conference Director of LSM

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CONGREGATIONAL EVALUATION OF A LAY SPEAKER

We prayerfully request your comments concerning the sermon delivered by one of our district's lay speakers. Your response will help in developing training and maintaining quality lay speakers. Your identity will remain confidential.

Name of the Lay Speaker: _____

Was the sermon well developed and delivered?

Other comments:

Would you recommend this Lay Speaker? Yes No

Name of Church: _____

City: _____

Your name: _____

Your position in the church: _____

DISTRICT EVALUATION OF A LAY SPEAKER SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

These questions may be supplemented, revised or amplified at the committee's discretion. The intent is not to operate an inquisition but, rather, to learn more about the candidate seeking Lay Speaker Certification. Please provide a summary of the candidate's responses with the package you forward to the conference committee.

1. Why do you want to be a Lay Speaker?
2. What is your plan on how you will use your Lay Speaking?
3. What priority/time do you commit to prayer and study?
4. Why Lay Speaking instead of the clergy ministry?
5. Do you feel led to any specific ministry?
6. How do you know God is alive today?
7. What "Gifts of the Spirit" do you have and how do you use them?
8. Do you credit any particular person for influencing you in your Christianity/Spiritual development/faith journey?