

# NEW LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

In 2012 the General Conference of The United Methodist Church approved legislation to change the name of Lay Speaking Ministries to **Lay Servant Ministries**. For several quadrennia various name changes were proposed – none of which adequately described the role of this leadership development program.



The term **servant** was chosen because it best describes what Jesus told his disciples in John 13 after he himself had performed the duties of the lowliest servant. We should be honored to serve as our Lord and Savior did. We are called to live out our discipleship as servants in leadership!



## LOCAL CHURCH AND CERTIFIED LAY SERVANTS

There is no change in the process of becoming a **local church or certified lay servant** from the former lay speaker process. There was, however, a role of **lay speaker** added to the program, which includes specific preparation and accountability processes.



## TIME FRAME FOR COMPLETION OF LAY SPEAKER REQUIREMENTS

To be determined by each annual conference. There is no time frame indicated in the **Book of Discipline**.



## RENEWAL AND RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

The renewal process for **local church lay servants** is unchanged from the former local church lay speaker process. The recertification process for **certified lay servants** also remains the same as that for the former lay speaker process.

**Lay Speakers** must also complete an advanced course once every three years and in addition must interview with the district committee every three years. The district committee will recommend those who qualify for recertification by the annual conference committee.



## CONFERENCE DIRECTOR TITLE CHANGE

The title change from Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries to **Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries** will not take place until after the constitutional change (submitted from General Conference 2012 - which changes the name of this position as a member of the annual conference) is ratified by the annual and central conference sessions in 2013.



## COURSE AVAILABILITY

Courses for discovering spiritual gifts, leading worship, leading prayer, preaching, and United Methodist heritage are already available. United Methodist polity will be available in May 2014.

All courses will be available online with the exception of preaching in order to facilitate the process for certified lay servants to meet the lay speaker requirements. Online courses are available at [www.BeADisciple.com](http://www.BeADisciple.com).

# LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES AND BEYOND

## TITLES AND REQUIREMENTS DEFINED

### Local Church Lay Servant

*Serve primarily in the local congregation*

1. Pastor and church council or charge conference approval
2. Completion of the basic course for lay servants
3. Submission of report and reapplication annually
4. Completion of a refresher course every 3 years

### Lay Speaker

*Certified Lay Servant or person, with equivalent training as defined by his or her district or conference, who provides pulpit supply*

#### **Required course of study:**

*Lay Servant basic course, leading worship, leading prayer, discovering spiritual gifts, preaching, and United Methodist heritage and polity*

1. Pastor and charge conference approval
2. Completion of the basic course for lay servants
3. Completion of required courses for lay speaker
4. Interview with District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) or equivalent
5. Approval by conference committee on LSM or equivalent
6. Submission of report annually
7. Completion of an advanced course every three years
8. Recertification every 3 years (2012 BOD ¶266.6)

### Certified Lay Servant

*Local Church Lay Servants who have taken an advanced course in LSM; serve in the local congregation and beyond*

1. Pastor and church council or charge conference approval
2. Completion of the basic course for lay servants
3. Completion of an advanced course for lay servants
4. Submission of report and reapplication annually
5. Completion of an advanced course every three years

### Certified Lay Minister

*Certified Lay Servant or person, with equivalent training as defined by his or her district or conference, who provides lay servant leadership in a ministry/church as part of a ministry team*

1. Pastor and church council or charge conference approval
2. DS recommendation
3. Demonstrated appreciation of UM history, doctrine, polity, worship and liturgy through service in local church
4. Completion of required course work
5. Application in writing to District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM)
6. Appearance before dCOM for review and approval
7. Recertification biannually (2012 BOD ¶271.3)

For additional information and resources for Lay Servant Ministries, please visit our website at [www.gbod.org](http://www.gbod.org)

