

CATEGORIES OF LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

Titles and Requirements Defined

LOCAL CHURCH LAY SERVANT (South Carolina only)

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 refresher course every three years

CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT (§266 of BOD)

Local church Lay Servant who has 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 advanced course for lay servants
- 4) Submission of report and reapplication annually
- 5) Completion of an advanced course every three years.

CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER (§267 of BOD)

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

- 1) Pastor and charge conference approval
- 2) Completion of the basic course for lay servants
- 3) Completion of required six courses for lay speaker
- 4) Interview with district Committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent
- 5) Approval by conference committee on LSM or equivalent
- 6) Submission of report annually
- 7) Completion of advance course every three years
- 8) Recertification every three years

CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER (§268 of BOD)

Certified Lay Speaker 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 UMC history, doctrine, polity, worship & liturgy through service in local church
- 4) Completion of required six courses and four modules
- 5) Application in writing to District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM)
- 6) Appearance before dCOM for review and approval
- 7) Recertification every two years

Applying for status identified in any of these categories requires the completion of the Lay Servant Ministries Application.