

Certified Lay Minister Policy
Sacramental Authority
South Carolina Lay Servant Ministries

A Certified Lay Minister is a certified lay servant, certified lay missionary, (or equivalent as defined by his or her central conference) who is 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.” (§ 268 2020/2024 BOD)

“Certified Lay Ministers are laypersons, and as such may not consecrate the elements of communion, perform weddings, receive new members, or perform baptisms. The CLM may perform all of the other duties of a pastoral leader within the ministry setting he or she is assigned. It is important that as a CLM, you consult with your CLM mentor and/or district superintendent to ensure that there are no state laws that would prohibit you from performing any civil ceremonies such as funerals. (Source: 2016 Discipleship Resources, Nashville Tennessee.)

The South Carolina Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministry in accordance with the above paragraphs has adopted the following policies:

1. A Certified Lay Minister may only be assigned to and/or serve a United Methodist Church. This policy follows the same policy as the clergy follow. One shall not serve a non-United Methodist Church in a pastoral relationship and retain certification by The United Methodist Church.
2. A Certified Lay Minister has no sacramental authority and shall not consecrate elements of communion, baptize, or receive members into the church. **An Elder of the United Methodist Church must be present for all sacraments both within the church and outside the church of the assigned CLM.** A CLM should form a relationship with retired elders and/or active elders who would be willing to administer the sacraments at the CLM’s assigned church/charge. **A Certified Lay Minister shall not administer any sacrament at any time in any place without the presence of an Elder (active or retired) of The United Methodist Church. To violate this covenant may result in removal of the CLM certification.**