

## **Policy for Granting the “Local Church Lay Servant Emeritus” Status**

### **South Carolina Lay Servant Ministries**

**There is no approved designation of “Local Church Lay Servant Emeritus” provided by Discipleship Ministries.** However, in the South Carolina Conference several districts have previously designated lay servants who, due to age and physical health conditions, are no longer able to attend classes, nor serve in the local church as a lay servant, the status of “Local Church Lay Servant Emeritus.”

**It should be understood that this is a district lay servant committee designation and is not a conference approved status. Therefore, because there is no recognition of this status by the Conference Lay Servant Ministries, nor Discipleship Ministries, the designation of “Local Church Lay Servant Emeritus” is not transferable to any other local church, district or conference.**

This designation shall only be granted to Lay Servants presently in good standing who, at the end of a certification cycle, has requested a status change to Lay Servant Emeritus in their respective district. Please note that there is no request for this on the conference forms as it is not a recognized status. This status must be approved by the lay servant’s pastor, district superintendent, and district lay servant committee.

**The designation shall be known as: “Local Church Lay Servant Emeritus.” There shall be no Emeritus designation of Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker, or Certified Lay Minister.**

**The person receiving this status shall no longer be considered an active lay servant, and shall not be considered a certified lay servant, certified lay speaker, or certified lay minister.**

All districts which grant this status shall use the same criteria:

The lay servant requesting the status of “Local Church Lay Servant Emeritus” shall:

- 1. Be in good standing at the time of the application or identification.**
- 2. Have been a Certified Lay Servant at least 7 years.**
- 3. Attained the age of 85, or have a physical or medical disability which would prevent the lay servant from participating in lay servant schools.**
- 4. Remain a United Methodist lay person.**

Once Emeritus status is granted, the *Local Church Lay Servant Emeritus* shall not use the status of Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker, or Certified Lay Minister, and shall not be considered an *active* part of lay servant ministry. **The status is honorary only.**

**Since this status is granted by districts due to the lay servant being unable to continue in an active status, a lay person with this honorary status shall not be eligible to enroll in lay servant classes for credit.**

A district and/or local church may choose how the service of those who are granted this status is honored. Because Lay Servant Emeritus is not a recognized status from Discipleship Ministries, there shall be no conference level recognition of this status.

If the situation of the Local Church Lay Servant Emeritus improves, and the lay person wishes to return to Active Status, the lay person shall enroll in, and successfully complete Basic before enrolling in any advanced classes.