2019 Lay Servant Ministries Process:

Certified Lay Servants: A certified lay servant is a professing member of a local church or charge or a baptized participant of a recognized United Methodist collegiate ministry or other United Methodist ministry setting who desires to serve the church and who knows and is committed to Scripture and the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of The United Methodist Church. This is a person who has received specific training to witness to the Christian faith through spoken communication, to lead within a church and community, and to provide caring ministry. The certified lay servant serves the local church or charge (or beyond the local church or charge) through his or her witness, leadership, and service, inspiring others to a deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. The certified lay servant, through continued study and training, should prepare to undertake one or more of the following functions, giving primary attention to service within the local church or charge, United Methodist collegiate ministry, or other United Methodist ministry setting: • Provide leadership, assistance, and support to the program emphases of the church or other United Methodist ministry. • Lead meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on lay servant ministries. • Conduct, or assist in conducting, services of worship, preach the Word, or give addresses when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on lay servant ministries. • Work with appropriate committees and teams that provide congregational and community leadership or foster caring ministries. • Assist in the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion upon request by a pastor. • Teach the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of The United Methodist Church. To become a Certified Lay Servant, you must: 1. Obtain recommendation from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church or other United Methodist ministry in which you hold membership. 2. Complete the “Introduction to Lay Ministries: The BASIC Course." 3. Complete an advanced lay servant ministries course. 4. Apply to and have qualifications reviewed by the district committee on lay servant ministries or equivalent structure (See ¶668.3).

To maintain status as a Certified Lay Servant, 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 or equivalent structure, giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay servant. 2. Obtain recommendation for renewal 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 a lay servant ministries advanced course in the last three years. Certified Lay Speakers A certified lay speaker is a certified lay servant (or equivalent as defined by his or her central conference) whose call has been affirmed by the conference committee on lay servant ministries or equivalent structure to serve the church in pulpit supply in accordance and compliance with ¶341.1. 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 ¶341.1. To become a Certified Lay Speaker, you must: 1. Be certified as a lay servant (or equivalent as defined by your central conference). 2. Obtain 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 courses on leading worship, leading prayer, discovering spiritual gifts, preaching, United Methodist heritage and polity, and/ or other courses as determined by the conference committee on lay servant ministries or equivalent structure. 4. Interview with and obtain recommendation from the district committee on lay servant ministries, or equivalent structure, to be submitted to the conference committee on lay servant ministries, or equivalent structure, for approval and certification. To maintain status as a 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 or equivalent structure, 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 a 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, or equivalent structure, and the approval of the conference committee on lay servant ministries, or equivalent structure, for recertification. To become certified as a lay speaker, you must complete a track of study that includes one course from each of the following subject categories: 1. The BASIC Course for Lay Servant Ministries 2. Leading worship  Leading Worship – Taylor Burton-Edwards  Your Ministry of Leading Worship 101 (online) 3. Leading prayer  Leading Public Prayer – Debra R. Tyree  Leading Public Prayer (online) 4. Discovering spiritual gifts  Discover Your Spiritual Gifts – William J. Carter  Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts (online) 5. Preaching  Called to Preach – Dawn Chesser  From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon – Tony Franks and David Carroll 6. United Methodist Heritage  Living Our United Methodist Beliefs – George Hovaness Donigian  Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (online) 7. United Methodist Polity  Life Together in the United Methodist Connection – Beth Galbreath  Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (online) 8. Other courses as may be determined by your annual conference committee on lay servant ministries, or equivalent structure