

**LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES** is a leadership development program in The United Methodist Church focused on equipping and empowering laypersons who have responded to the call of God to serve in mission and ministry.

These laypersons are called to live out their own discipleship as servants in leadership through the ministries of leading, caring, and communicating.

Being called to ministry is a serious endeavor. It takes a disciple to make a disciple. Thus we must do all we can to prepare ourselves and others to serve.

For additional information and resources for Lay Servant Ministries please visit our website at [www.UMCdiscipleship.org/laity](http://www.UMCdiscipleship.org/laity) or contact the Office of Laity at [laity@UMCdiscipleship.org](mailto:laity@UMCdiscipleship.org).

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# LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES CALLED BY GOD TO SERVE

The United Methodist Church has established three categories for laypersons in the area of lay servant ministries to develop, prepare, and engage principled Christian leaders for the mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world:

- Certified Lay Servant
- Certified Lay Speaker
- Certified Lay Minister

Certified lay servants who wish to develop their skills further may choose a track to become certified as lay speakers (those who are called specifically to pulpit supply) or as lay ministers (those who are called to long-term, intentional ministry as part of a ministry team).

## Certified Lay Servant

A **certified lay servant** serves the local church or charge (and/or beyond) and:

- provides program leadership, assistance, and support.
- leads meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion.
- conducts, or assists in conducting, services of worship, preaches the Word, or gives addresses.
- provides congregational and community leadership and fosters caring ministries.
- assists in the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion.
- teaches the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of The United Methodist Church.

## Certified Lay Speaker

A **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 ¶1341.1 of *The Book of Discipline*.

The role of a certified lay speaker is a specific calling for the ministry of pulpit supply.

## Certified Lay Minister

A **certified lay minister** serves as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergy person and:

- conducts public worship.
- cares for the congregation.
- develops new faith communities.
- preaches the Word.
- leads small groups.
- establishes outreach ministries.
- serves as a class leader.
- assists in program leadership.
- engages in specialized ministries after appropriate training such as in parish nursing, church planting, men's ministry, children's faith formation, congregational care, and more.