



Subcommittee on Lay Ministry

Heartland Conference

Certified Lay Ministry

Frequently Asked Questions

CLM Contact: clm@heartlandgmc.org (Questions and requests)

Webpage: heartlandgmc.org/laity (Information and forms)

QUESTION	RESPONSE
What is a Certified Lay Minister?	A Certified Lay Minister, or CLM, is a lay person who has completed an approved set of courses. The CLM serves the local church and Conference to grow the church community.
Why are there Certified Lay Ministers?	<p>Certified Lay Ministers, or CLMs, fill ministry needs in the church. CLMs may serve in their local church and outside their local church as a volunteer. Here are common ways to serve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fill-in pastor, ● Visiting speaker, ● Short-term pastor, ● Lay Leader (encouraged to be Certified Lay Minister), ● Small group leader (Sunday School, Bible Study group, etc.), ● Ministry Director ● Church Committee Members ● Lay members wishing to serve through the body of Christ
How do I become a Certified Lay Minister?	<p>To become a Certified Lay Minister, the individual needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finish an approved course in lay ministry (CLM Foundations course), ● Take at least one more advanced course in lay ministry, ● Pass a national background check, ● Be recommended by the pastor, the pastor-parish relations committee, and the and the church charge conference, ● Be interviewed and approved by the Annual Conference Board of Ministry. <p>Courses may be completed in any order.</p> <p>Complete and submit CLM application. Include all requested attachments, incomplete applications can not be processed.</p> <p>Reference: GMC Book of Doctrine & Discipline; see Paragraph 502 Certified Lay Ministers</p>

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<p>May I participate in classes if I am not a Certified Lay Minister?</p>	<p>All are invited to take the Lay Ministry courses. To learn more, please read 'The Ministry of the Laity' on the Global Methodist Church website. GMC Book of Doctrine & Discipline; see Paragraph 404 Ministry of the Laity</p>
<p>How do I renew my Certified Lay Minister Certification?</p>	<p>To keep their Certified Lay Minister status, a person must renew it every three years. The certification is renewed by the Annual Conference Board of Ministry.</p> <p>The renewal is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual report completed by Certified Lay Minister which outlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ministry performed during the year, ○ evidence of satisfactory performance. ○ a new submission form will be available with charge conference documents beginning in 2026. ● Endorsement by majority vote of the charge conference each year. ● Written recommendation by the pastor. ● National background checks every three (3) years. ● Completing at least one advanced course in lay ministry in the past three (3) years.
<p>How do I transfer credentials as a Certified Lay Minister from another denomination to Global Methodist Church?</p>	<p>Persons who held active certification in a predecessor denomination will be received as certified lay ministers in the Global Methodist Church (GMC). The individual must have met the requirements of a Certified Lay Minister</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● through coursework in the predecessor denomination, ● Subscribe to the doctrinal standards and Social Witness of the GMC Book of Doctrines & Discipline and agree to abide by its discipline. ● GMC Book of Doctrine & Discipline, see Paragraph 502.2b-c, Paragraph 502.3 <p>If you are transferring from another denomination, then you will want to contact the Conference Office for specifics on your transfer. When emailing please provide the team with any kind of education or documents that you have received for your certification.</p>
<p>What education courses are available for Certified Lay Ministers?</p>	<p>The course offerings are posted on Heartland Conference website Lay Ministry page, heartlandgmc.org/laity . "Foundations of Lay Ministry" Course available in multiple formats including on-line and in-person. Advanced Courses are currently available. If you are interested in courses or need more information, e-mail us at clm@heartlandgmc.org .</p>