

Frequently Asked Questions

Q How is training offered?

A The Ann Arbor District Lay Servant Ministries Committee offers classes twice a year, Spring and Fall, at different locations. Each class is facilitated on two Saturdays for a total of ten hours of instruction. Many courses have been developed allowing individuals to learn more about United Methodism and areas where they serve. These classes are open to everyone. A person does not need to be pursuing the designation of 'Lay Servant' to take one of the classes. Classes are also available on-line, at Beadisciple.com

Q What is the difference between a Local Lay Servant and a Certified Lay Servant?

A A Local Lay Servant will take the Basic Class and to retain their status will need to take the refresher course once every 3 years. A Certified Lay Servant will complete the Basic course and 1 Advanced course, to retain their status they will need to take at least 1 Advance course every three years

Q I was a Certified Lay Speaker prior to 2012, before the change to Lay Servant. Does this mean I can no longer preach until I complete more coursework?

A No, you may continue to preach when called upon by a pastor. You are now considered a Certified Lay Servant. But . . . there is a requirement to take a class every three years and submit an Annual Report to the Ann Arbor District Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Anne Marie Hanna

The Ann Arbor District Lay Servant Ministries Committee would certainly encourage you to enroll in any of the six required courses to pursue becoming a Certified Lay Speaker, as defined in the 2012 Book of Discipline. These would enrich your knowledge and expand your expertise toward greater effectiveness.

How to become a Local Lay Servant

STEP ONE:

Register for the Basic Class
Get your Pastor's signature

STEP TWO:

Complete the ten-hour Basic Course
in Lay Servant Ministries
(Congratulations---you are now a
Local Lay Servant!)

STEP THREE:

To retain your status, take a
refresher course every 3 years

How to become a Certified Lay Servant

STEP ONE:

Register for a Class and
Get your Pastor's signature

STEP TWO:

Complete the ten-hour Basic Course
in Lay Servant Ministries

STEP THREE:

Complete the ten-hour Advanced
Course in Lay Servant Ministries
(Congratulations---you are now a
Certified Lay Servant!)

STEP FOUR:

To retain your status, take an
advanced course every 3 years

How to Become a Certified Lay Speaker

Step One

- Complete all steps to become a Certified Lay Servant

Step Two

- Complete the six 10-hour required courses.

Step Three

- Complete an application form available from the Ann Arbor District Office and submit it for approval at your annual church conference

Step Four

- Submit application form along with a video of a message
- Interview with the Ann Arbor District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries
- If approved by the Ann Arbor District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries, the application is then sent to the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries for approval as a Lay Speaker

Step Five

- File an annual report at your annual church conference
- Every three years a Certified Lay Speaker must;
 - Complete at least one Advanced Course;
 - Apply for re-certification; and
 - Meet with the Ann Arbor District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries