

How is a CLM different from other recognized ministers?

A CLM is a unique, recognized lay servant in the UMC intended for missional leadership in churches as part of a team ministry under the supervision of a clergyperson. CLMs are part of the historic continuation of lay leadership in our church resembling earlier Exhorters, Class Leaders, Lay Preachers, and Missioners. CLMs are assigned by the District Superintendent and operate under a system of training, support, supervision and accountability. The following are short descriptions of how a CLM differs from other recognized ministers...

- *Lay Supply*

Lay persons are often appointed as lay supply pastors as an interim measure until a clergyperson can be appointed. Lay supply persons often do not have training, very little supervision and are not usually held to the same system of accountability as a CLM. Lay supply tends to be temporary while a CLM has potential for continued ongoing ministry.

- *An Elder*

An Elder is a clergy member of the annual conference ordained to a lifetime ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order and Service. Under the guaranteed appointment of a Bishop, they usually have completed seminary training. Their sole livelihood comes from a church.

- *A Licensed Local Pastor*

A Licensed Local Pastor is a clergy member of the annual conference providing pastoral leadership in a local congregation. They are appointed by the Bishop for non-itinerant ministry. Their license is tied to their appointment and when not under appointment, the Licensed Local Pastor reverts to a lay status. Their training includes attending a Conference Licensing School and completing the Course of Study program available from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

- *A Certified Lay Speaker*

A Certified Lay Speaker is a Certified Lay Servant who is called and equipped to serve the church in pulpit supply in accordance and compliance with ¶341.1 of Book of Discipline. Their purpose is to complement and support, not replace, pastors. The lay speaker has completed a track of study which includes the "Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course" and advanced courses on leading worship, leading prayer, discovering spiritual gifts, preaching, United Methodist heritage, United Methodist polity, and/or other courses as determined by the annual conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries (or equivalent structure). The Certified Lay Speaker is to complete another advanced course every three years.

- *A Certified Lay Servant*

Certified Lay Servants serve in ministry and mission within the local congregation where they are a member in good standing, or they may serve beyond their local church. They may provide temporary pulpit supply and serve in any way in which their witness, leadership, and service inspires others to a deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. The Certified Lay Servant is to complete an advanced course every three years.