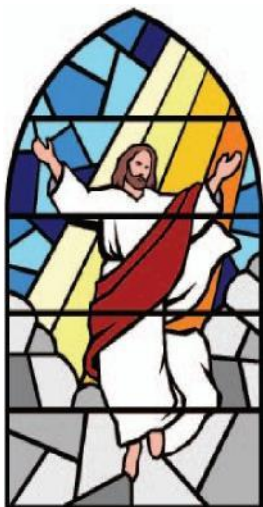


## What does the Certified Lay Minister do?

- preach the Word
- provide a care ministry by shepherding in a local congregation
- assist in program leadership
- be a witness in the community for the growth, missional, and connectional thrust of The United Methodist Church



**The Certified Lay Minister may provide ministry in their own local congregation or seek to be assigned by the District Superintendent to provide leadership by shepherding a small church as a part of a ministry team under the supervision of a clergy person**

*(Facilitating Elder or Supervising Elder).*

## Distinctions of Pastoral Leadership

A Certified Lay Minister is a unique servant leader different from Ordained Clergy

- \* An Elder is a clergy member of the Annual Conference, ordained for Word, Sacrament and Order, and appointed by the Bishop for itinerate ministry.
- \* A Local Pastor is a clergy member of the Annual Conference licensed for pastoral ministry. The Licensed Local Pastor does not itinerate.
- \* A Deacon is a clergy member of the Annual Conference, ordained for a ministry of Word and Service and appointed to a non-itinerant ministry in the community and the congregation.
- \* A Lay Speaker is certified for ministry in the church and community and may serve as temporary pulpit supply.



## EAST DISTRICT OFFICE

**Superintendent:** Rev Chuck Huffman  
**Administrative Assistants:**  
Vetta Quackenbush and Vonnie Johnson

**Address**

120 East Lufkin Ave. Suite B.  
Lufkin, TX 75901

**Office Phone:**  
(936) 699-2213

**Fax:**  
(936) 699-4810

**Website:**

[www.eastdistrictumc.org](http://www.eastdistrictumc.org)

# Certified Lay Minister

A new lay position for  
Leadership in  
The United Methodist Church



*Certified Lay Ministry*  
East District  
Texas Annual Conference

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

## What is a Certified Lay Minister?

The 2008 General Conference affirmed the Certification of Lay Ministers in the United Methodist Church.

This form of ministry follows the early Methodist tradition of lay preachers and class leaders who served in local Christian communities and helped shepherd a congregation instead of a fulltime clergy.

Today, Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) are vital to the mission and ministry of churches that:

- are small and may be struggling to afford traditional pastoral leadership. CLMs may be assigned effectively for longer tenure.
- have been on multi-point charges or parishes sharing clergy leadership. CLMs may serve as part of a servant team, increasing continuity of leadership.
- experience numeric growth and can benefit from a pastoral team. Larger churches can have a CLM as a servant associate.
- serve multi-cultural or cross-cultural groups by developing indigenous leadership.

## What are the steps to being a Certified Lay Minister?

A Certified Lay Speaker or Lay Servant may become a Certified Lay Minister through the District Committee on Ordained Ministry after he/she has:

- Completed Lay Servant Certification
- Written recommendation of your Pastor
- Minutes of supporting vote of Church Council
- Apply to District Office
- Assessment Interview with CLM Committee
- Psychological Evaluation if assigned to a Church

The following can be completed in any order:

- Sexual Ethics Training
- Safe Sanctuary Training
- Background Check
- Module 1- Connection For Ministry:  
The Methodist Connection,  
Essential Beliefs & Faithful Living,  
UM History
- Module 2 - Practice of Ministry:  
Worship, Preaching, Faith  
formation & Discipleship,  
Pastoral/congregational care
- Module 3 - Organization of Ministry:  
Leadership & Administration,  
Understanding Congregational  
Culture

After completion of above, a letter of recommendation from the District Superintendent is needed to request certification from the District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM).



## What About ReCertification?

All Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) are certified through a district's District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM).

The CLM will be recertified every 2 years after successful ministry program and recommendation of Charge Conference from the congregation to which the CLM is assigned (or, if not actively serving, where you are a member).

CLMs have no clergy rights or benefits. The local church is encouraged to cover appropriate expenses of the CLM as negotiated (mileage, supplies, continuing education).