

Christ Servant Ministry Programs

Speaking Ministries:

Provide opportunities to learn speaking skills for a variety of settings such as...

- †... leading worship and how to prepare effective messages,
- †... sharing our faith journey with people outside of formal worship,
- †... understanding that good speakers are good listeners.

At the 2012 General Conference the role of **Certified Lay Speaker** was created to continue the long-standing Methodist practice of providing opportunities to learn specialized speaking skills for use in the pulpit.

Leading Ministries:

Introduce individuals to experiences that reinforce:

- †... recognizing that leadership styles need to be altered to fit the situation,
- †... partnering with others to build faith and worship as a part of a lifestyle and not an extra curricular activity,
- †... learning how to deal justly with racism and sexism and other issues that threaten to separate us from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Caring Ministries:

Provide training experiences that promote:

- †... visiting the sick and elderly to bring them the message of Christ's love,
- †... ministering to those who are in prison or are victims of addiction,
- †... learning how to deal justly with racism and sexism and other issues that threaten to separate us from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In 2017 the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference took steps toward the creation of training modules that lead to recognition as a **Certified Lay Caregiver**.

Christ Servant Ministers are trained Laity dedicated to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world by...

*... Leading,
... Caring,
... and Speaking*

God calls each of us to proclaim his presence and power in all that we are and all that we do. Jesus final command was... *Go make disciples of all nations!* Is God calling you to be a **Christ Servant Minister**? Do you regularly...

- *Listen to others suffering with personal crises...*
- *Teach a Sunday School Class or lead a small group...*
- *Serve as a liturgist or help in the Worship Service...*
- *Visit in nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, or your neighbors...*

Then you are already responding to God's calling in the ways of a **Christ Servant Minister** and may wish to learn more about helping others grow in a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ by participating in training sponsored by the **Christ Servant Ministries** program.

For more information, visit us at...

www.ChristServantMinistries.net

or call...

The United Methodist Church
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Office
610-666-9090
800-828-9093



*... opportunities that promote
serving, training, and recognition
of those who lead, speak, and
care about their brothers and
sisters in Christ*

The Christ Servant Ministry program is unique to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of United Methodists and develops and promotes opportunities that encourage the serving, training, and recognition of laity who lead, speak, and care about others. In other UM conferences this program is called Lay Servant Ministries



Lay Methodists have a long tradition of serving. When early circuit riders left to attend to other churches, laity would handle things on their own. Members of the congregation filled the pulpit and were known as exhorters. In the 1940's, the term changed to Lay Speaker. Many across the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference felt the name Lay Speaker did not fully express all service areas of Lay Ministry and after many meetings and much discussion, the 1997 Annual Conference passed legislation to use the words *Christ Servant Minister* to describe the various roles of the Laity.

Christ Servant Ministers follow the rules and guidelines for *Certified Lay Servant* as stated in the 2024 *Book of Discipline* and are recognized by the conference in areas they have been trained (Leading, Caring, and Speaking). These lay servants minister with and to groups of United Methodist Christians, as well as other communities in Eastern Pennsylvania and are dedicated to spreading the Good News. *Christ Servant Ministers* share the Living Christ with a world that hungers to hear the message of salvation and renewal through faith in a Risen Lord

The Journey Begins...

To begin the *Christ Servant Minister* journey request the recommendation and approval of your Local Church and complete a 10-hour introductory course. During the initial 10-hour training, the student learns about the need for servant ministries in our world and what it means to be a servant for Christ.

Your life may be the only Bible some people ever read...

Next Steps...

Inspired by the lessons and message contained in the introductory course, many desire to continue in the *Christ Servant Minister* program. This means that this person needs to complete an additional 10 hours of training beyond the introductory course.

When the additional 10 hours are completed, they are recognized as *Christ Servant Ministers*. In addition to completing an annual report, they are expected to expand their learning by participating in a minimum of 10 hours of study every three years. In this way they are better equipped for an active role in the mission and work of the Church.

A Christ Servant Minister...

†...provides leadership, assistance, and support,
†... reaches out to others with love in their times of personal crisis,
†... conducts, or assists in conducting, services of worship, and preaching the Word.

The Continuing Journey...

At the 2004 General Conference, a lay position for pastoral leadership was created. As defined in the 2016 Discipline, the *Certified Lay Minister* is called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, develop new and existing faith communities, preach the Word, participate in ministry and is supervised and supported by a clergy person.

After serving as a Christ Servant Minister (or a similar role as determined by the Conference) for two years or more, some are called to pastoral leadership. To be recognized as a *Certified Lay Minister* one must complete the track of study defined by General Board of Discipleship and the Conference Committee on Christ Servant Ministry (CCOCSM) and receive a recommendation from the District Committee on Ordained Ministry. Although CLMs may be assigned by District Superintendents to provide lay pastoral leadership, they have no clergy rights or benefits.

The Certified Lay Minister...

†... preaches the Word,
†... provides a care ministry to a congregation,
†... assists in program leadership,
†... leads small groups, or establishes community outreach ministries,
†... is a witness for the growth, mission, and connectal ministry of The United Methodist Church.

