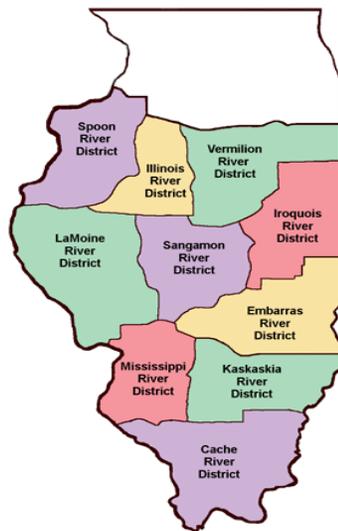




Lay Servant Ministries had its origins in the early organization of the Wesleyan revival in England in the 18th century. With more societies than ordained clergy, John Wesley authorized the use of lay assistants who preached and conducted worship in the absence of clergy. Today there are a wide range of ministries, both in the church and in the world, for lay servants.

The Scriptures and Christian experience point to the importance of proclaiming God's transforming love. Lay servants fill pulpits; lead Bible studies; teach Sunday school; speak at retirement centers, to prisoners and at youth group gatherings; as well as teach and facilitate in other small group settings. Some are involved with crisis ministries or hospital visitation. Others share in caring one-on-one or are involved in a specialized ministry.

Lay Servant Ministries help Christians to claim their spiritual gifts, talents and skills by offering empowering training. This training encourages them to find places to use their God given gifts in ministry while providing them a network of support.



*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession.
You have become this people so that you may speak
of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of
darkness into his amazing light. —1 Peter 2:9*

Contact Us

Jana Waite
Conference Director
Lay Servant Ministries
Illinois Great Rivers Conference

217-351-9386
jlwaite@sbcglobal.net

Visit us on the web:
www.igrc.org/layservant

2018 IGRC Lay Servant Ministries

Lay Servant Ministries

In The United Methodist Church
Illinois Great Rivers Conference

Certified Lay Servant



<https://www.igrc.org/layservant>

Certified Lay Servant

A certified lay servant is a professing member of a local church or charge or a baptized participant of a recognized United Methodist collegiate ministry or other United Methodist ministry setting who desires to serve the church and who knows and is committed to Scripture and the doctrine, heritage, organization and life of The United Methodist Church. This is a person who has received specific training to witness the Christian faith through spoken communication, to lead within a church and community and to provide caring ministry. A certified lay servant serves the local church or charge (or beyond) in ways in which his or her witness, leadership and service inspires others to a deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. A certified lay servant may:

- ◆ Provide leadership, assistance and support to the program emphases of the church
- ◆ Lead meetings for prayer, training, study and discussion
- ◆ Conduct, or assist in conducting, worship services, preach the Word, or give addresses when requested by the pastor, district superintendent or committee on Lay Servant Ministries
- ◆ Work with appropriate committees and teams which provide congregational and community leadership or foster caring ministries
- ◆ Assist in the distribution of the elements of Communion upon request of the pastor
- ◆ Teach the Scriptures, doctrine, organization and ministries of The United Methodist Church

Requirements for Certification

- ◆ Complete Application to Begin as a Certified Lay Servant
- ◆ Obtain the recommendation of the pastor and church council or charge conference of the local church
- ◆ Complete the “Introduction to Lay Ministry: the BASIC Course”
- ◆ Complete an advanced Lay Servant Ministries course
- ◆ Receive approval from the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries



For more information and
for downloadable forms see

www.igrc.org/layservant



Maintaining Certification

Recognition as a certified lay servant may be renewed annually by the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries after the certified lay servant has:

- ◆ Submitted an annual report and renewal application to the charge conference or church council and to the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay servant
- ◆ Obtained recommendation for renewal from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church in which he or she holds membership
- ◆ Completed a Lay Servant Ministries advanced course in the last three (3) years