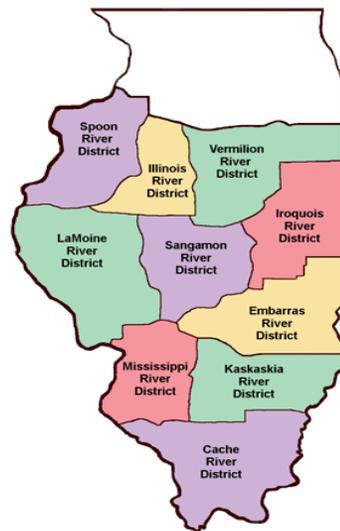




Lay Servant Ministries had its origins in the early organization of the Wesleyan revival in England in the 18th century. With more societies than ordained clergy, John Wesley authorized the use of lay assistants who preached and conducted worship in the absence of clergy. Today there are a wide range 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](http://www.igrc.org/layservant)

2019 IGRC Lay Servant Ministries

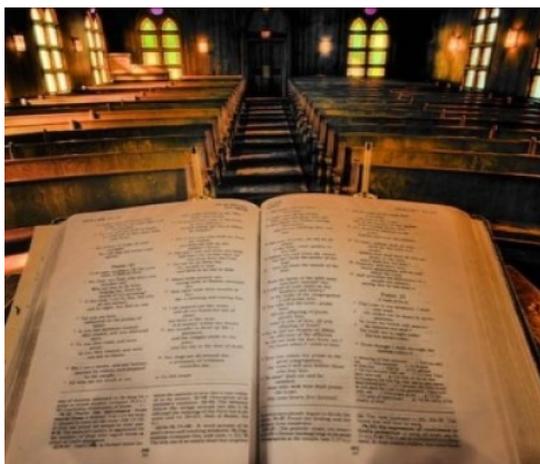
# Lay Servant Ministries

In The United Methodist Church  
Illinois Great Rivers Conference

## Certified Lay Speaker



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



## Certified Lay Speaker

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A certified lay speaker is a certified lay servant (or equivalent as defined by his or her central conference) whose call has been affirmed by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure to serve the church in pulpit supply in accordance and compliance with ¶341.1 in the *2016 Book of Discipline*.

The certified lay speaker serves by preaching the Word when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries in accordance and compliance with ¶341.1 in the *2016 Book of Discipline*.

For more information and  
for downloadable forms see

[www.igrc.org/layservant](http://www.igrc.org/layservant)

## Requirements for Certification

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- ◆ Be a certified lay servant
- ◆ Apply to become a certified lay speaker
- ◆ Be recommended by the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church in which he or she holds membership
- ◆ Complete a track of study (within a 6-year period from the time of application\*) of the following advanced Lay Servant Ministries courses
  - ◇ Leading Worship
  - ◇ Public Prayer
  - ◇ Discover Your Spiritual Gifts
  - ◇ Preaching (Called to Preach! *or* From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon)
  - ◇ Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (United Methodist heritage)
  - ◇ Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (United Methodist polity)
- ◆ Interview with and obtain recommendation from the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries
- ◆ Receive approval and certification from the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries

\*If a prescribed course was taken in the last 3 years before application to the program, it will count toward meeting this requirement. Consult with your district director of Lay Servant Ministries for additional details.



## Maintaining Certification

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Recognition as a certified lay speaker may be renewed annually by the conference 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 the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, giving evidence of satisfactory performance
- ◆ Obtained recommendation for continued recognition 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
- ◆ In the last three (3) years interviewed with and obtained recommendation from the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries and the approval of the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries