



Conference Lay Minister Training Program

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Dear Inquirer,

Jay Parr
Chair

I am pleased to know of your interest in the Conference Lay Minister (CLayM) Program. I hope the following information will be helpful as you consider participating.

Ben Silva-Netto
District
Superintendent

The intent of the Conference Lay Minister training program is to provide congregations a volunteer pastor while they invest scarce resources in strengthening the church or in essential outreach. Churches pay an annual participation fee to help support the program. Once a CLayM graduate is assigned to a church, they are recognized as a "Certified Lay Minister" under ¶271 of the *Book of Discipline*.

Gayle Sherman and
Burt Yin
Co-Conference Lay
Leaders

CLayM training is designed for persons who feel called to serve in a pastoral leadership role in the church but for whom circumstances make it impossible to pursue ordination or go to Local Pastor licensing school.

Daune Shatto
Treasurer

Certified Lay Ministers receive no salary or health care benefits but may receive housing, reimbursements for travel, continuing education and utilities.

Kathleen Smith

We have found that the program provides an opportunity for advanced training for lay persons who want to serve their own congregations in leadership capacities. It is also an excellent way to discern your gifts and graces.

There are two ways to take CLayM training. One way is to attend a two week residential training (CLayMAway). This form of training normally takes place at the United Methodist Center in West Sacramento. Classes are intense and begin each morning at 8:00 and continue well into the evening. Training weeks start on Monday with continental breakfast and go through Friday lunch. All meals are provided as part of the training experience.

The second way is to take training via DVD or by webinar. Most of the instruction is done through distance learning, and you will have approximately four months to complete the training. This is called CLayM@Home. There will be two mandatory weekend retreats at the end of each of two sessions.

The cost is \$249.00 for each week or for each session. This pays for training, materials, and food during the week and retreats. Lodging for the training is your responsibility. We encourage you to invite your local church, District Council on Ministries, District or Conference United Methodist Women or Men, Ethnic Caucus or others to help sponsor you financially. This way they will have a vital sense of participation in your ministry.

During the two training, with the guidance and leadership of laity and clergy from across the Annual Conference, we'll explore the following topics:

United Methodist Heritage	United Methodist Polity
Pastoral Care	Preaching
Faith Formation	Deeper Into the Bible
Small Church Ministries	Transformational Leadership
Worship Design and Leadership	Christian Education
Your Spiritual Life	Spirituality and Leadership
	Stewardship

If you serve later as a Certified Lay Minister, the first local church to which you are assigned is to reimburse you for your part of your training cost.

The next scheduled CLayMAway training weeks are:

Monday, November 8 — Friday, November 12, 2010

Monday, January 17 — Friday, January 21, 2011

(January entries are allowed only if the District Superintendent requests an exception.)

There will be a cycle of CLayM@Home training beginning September 1, 2010 and a second cycle beginning January 1, 2011.

Taking the training does not commit you to serve a church. During the training, I talk with participants to find out where each is in relation to receiving an assignment in order to make recommendations to the Cabinet.

Participants in CLayM training are to have completed a Basic Lay Speaker course before attending. If you have not yet done so, contact your District Superintendent's office about upcoming Lay Speaker Training in your District. Your District Superintendent may waive the Lay Speaker training requirement at her or his discretion.

CLayM Training is designed to provide training and resources to help you whether you serve as a Certified Lay Minister on assignment in the future or remain active in your home church. Participants in the program have shared that the experience was meaningful and enriching regardless of the paths they have been called to pursue after completing the training.

Yours in Christ,

Perry W. Polk