



## Conference Lay Minister Program

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*Co-Conference Lay  
Leaders*

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*Treasurer*

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*BOOM Liaison*

Sam Fabila  
*Hispanic Ministries*

Kathleen Smith

Dear Inquirer,

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.

The intent of the Conference Lay Minister 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.)

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 become a Local Pastor.

Conference Lay Ministers receive no salary or health care benefits but may receive housing, reimbursements for travel, continuing education and utilities (including basic telephone service).

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, so it is not necessary for a participant to plan to serve as a Conference Lay Minister.

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

Basics of United Methodism	United Methodist Polity
Pastoral Care	Preaching
Faith Formation	Deeper Into the Bible
Small Group Ministries	Evangelism
Worship Design	Christian Education
and Leadership	Spirituality and Leadership
Your Spiritual Life	Community Involvement

CLayM 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 cost for each week is \$249.00. This pays for training, materials, and food during the week. Lodging for the training weeks is your responsibility. There are two motels next door to the Conference Center.

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

The next scheduled training weeks are:

Monday, November 9 — Friday, November 13, 2009

Monday, January 18 — Friday, January 22, 2010

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

Taking the training does not commit you to serve a church. During the training, I meet 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 Conference 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