



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



YOUR CALL IS YOUR PATH

MINISTRY IN THE UMC

GBHEM.org



LAITY

WE ARE ALL CALLED TO MINISTRY.

There is immense potential to create a future guided by vision and filled with action among the 99.2% laity within the church. To renew our commitment to love one another. To take action and promote change. To help others in your church be those who think critically, love authentically, and serve passionately.

As laity, consider the next faithful steps you will pursue with your families, congregations, and communities. While a call to leadership is significant, we remember the Spirit's presence in guiding and equipping us all for faithful ministry.

But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you – from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted. — I Peter 2:9, The Message

All Church Members

CALL: Help share God's love and lead church's ministries through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness

IN THE CHURCH:

- Pray for and mentor young people as part of their faith formation
- Participating in a covenant discipleship group with others in the congregation
- Identify and utilize one's spiritual gifts to support and serve others

IN THE COMMUNITY:

- Showing compassion to neighbors in need
- Acting with integrity in the workplace
- Helping others embody the love of Christ through advocacy and outreach
- Joining with or leading a team for disaster response or other missional endeavors

Lay Servant Ministry

CALL: Serve the local church to inspire the laity to a deeper commitment to Christ

IN THE CHURCH:

- Lead worship services, to include the reading of scripture and offering of prayers
- Teach other laity through the Lay Servant Ministry program

IN THE COMMUNITY:

- Creates systems of discipleship that build new relationships beyond the local church
- Establishes programs geared toward evangelism and spreading God's love to the community
- Collaborate with district leadership to assist with United Methodist training, study, and theological reflection

Deaconness and Home Missioner

CALL: Consecrated and commissioned to a lifelong, full-time vocational ministry of love, justice, and service

IN THE CHURCH:

- Through church-related vocations, initiating and sustaining ministries to support vulnerable populations
- Establishing peace with justice ministries as an extension of a church's ongoing mission and outreach programs

IN THE COMMUNITY:

- Teaching in the public school system, enabling young people to succeed in future endeavors
- Attending to the needs within the prison system, including prayer and Bible study
- Alleviate the pain of homelessness through established connections with social services

Certified Lay Minister

CALL: Provides congregational leadership as part of a ministry team under the supervision of a clergy person

IN THE CHURCH:

- Caring for those within the congregation in a specialized area
- Plans and leads worship in the local church, including preaching, as needed within the setting

IN THE COMMUNITY:

- Establish community outreach ministries deriving from ongoing initiatives within the church
- Develop new and existing faith communities



LAITY & CLERGY WITNESSES TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

Lay preachers, exhorters, and class leaders have served the church since its earliest days. The ministry of the laity is key to church vitality and the fulfillment of the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. A Certified Lay Minister is a unique, recognized lay servant in the UMC, intended for missional leadership in churches as part of a team ministry under the supervision of a clergy person.

Global Ministries works with partners and churches in more than 115 countries to equip and transform people and places for God's mission.

Global Mission Fellows are young adults, ages 20–30, who are committed to serve in social justice ministries for two years. They enter into new communities, understanding their challenges and assets through relationships and with the long-term goal to overcome systemic oppression. Fellows partner with community organizations to address a variety of issues, including migration/immigration, education, public health and poverty.

Missionary

CALL: Serves in Christ's name around the world in a range of activities and professions

IN THE CHURCH:

- Serves within, or beyond, their country of origin as pastors, teachers, doctors, nurses (or in other healing ministries), social workers, church planters, evangelists
- Leads in a variety of other ways through denominational or ecumenical ministries

IN THE COMMUNITY:

- Missionaries witness and serve in different locales and cultures and engage in a range of professions and activities
- UMC mission work is a visible expression of the connection between the church and mission

Certification in Specialized Ministry

CALL: Trained and approved for ministry in a specialized area, extending tangible expressions of Christ's love and witness in the world

IN THE CHURCH:

- Connecting prior experience with present leadership positions such as children's ministry, Christian education, and music ministry.
- Additional areas of service within the congregation includes ministry with people with disabilities, Christian education, music ministry

IN THE COMMUNITY:

- Camping and Retreat Ministry work establishes faith-informed dialogue with young people and counselors
- Older Adult Ministry ensures the safe and sensitive care for individuals in need within the community

CAMP & RETREAT MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

EVANGELISM

MINISTRY WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

MINISTRY WITH THE POOR

MUSIC MINISTRY

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

PARISH NURSE

URBAN MINISTRY

YOUTH MINISTRY





CLERGY

CALLED BY GOD INTO LICENSED AND ORDAINED MINISTRY

If you believe God is calling you to serve the church and the world through vocational ministry as an elder or as a deacon, you may look to begin the candidacy journey which is required for all licensed and ordained clergy in The United Methodist Church.

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone

— 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

For some, the call comes early; for others, it comes later in life and maybe even as a second career. Answering the call and living the vocation of a Licensed Local Pastor mirrors the call to Christian discipleship in the world.

Licensed Local Pastor

CALL: Called to Word, Service, Sacrament, and Order. Licensed to perform the duties for pastoral ministry only within the appointed setting.

IN THE CHURCH:

- Ministers to individuals within congregations, performing traditional duties of the pastor of a local church, including Biblical teaching and preaching
- Establishes formal structures of discipleship and formation according to the contextual needs of the congregation

IN THE COMMUNITY:

- Recognizes the importance of connecting the local church to other congregations within the community
- Launching or sustaining ministry connections with community resource organizations
- Establishing a presence within local schools, youth programs, and senior adult support groups, to exemplify the presence of Christ in the community

Deacon

CALL: Called to Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice. Interrelates worship with service to God in the world

IN THE CHURCH:

- Serves within the local church as a specialized minister developing a bridge between that congregation and the greater community
- Recruits and equips laity to participate in mission opportunities
- Assists with worship leading and teaches members regarding spiritual disciplines and personal faith practices

IN THE COMMUNITY:

- When appointed beyond the local church, embodies the presence of Jesus in places of need
- Ministry within counseling services, chaplaincy, or hospice care attends to mental and physical needs
- Advocacy work within state and federal agencies extends ministry care to the poor and marginalized populations

Elder

CALL: Called to Word, Service, Sacrament, and Order. Orders the church for spiritual growth and community outreach and willing to itinerate to new places for ministry

IN THE CHURCH:

- Serves as the pastor of a faith community; develop lay leadership to oversee the various functions of the local church
- Attends to the pastoral care needs of church members and their families
- Administers the sacraments of holy communion and baptism as part of communal worship

IN THE COMMUNITY:

- Appointed as a clergy leader within the connectional structure as a district superintendent, annual conference staff, or as an episcopal leader
- Serves as community leader as a primary driver of advocacy initiatives
- Builds and maintains ecumenical networks within the community



Through faithful listening, responding
and discerning, we discover and develop
leaders that are going to lead the
Church into what God is shaping it to be.

— Rev. Dr. Trip Lowery, Assistant General Secretary of Ministry and Formation



**LEARN MORE ABOUT
HOW YOU CAN SERVE
GOD AND NEIGHBOR**



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