



Certified Lay Minister Training Program (formerly Conference Lay Minister Training)

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June 13, 2011

CLayM Committee

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Certified Lay Minister
Committee Chair

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*Co-Conference Lay
Leaders, Board of Laity*

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CLayM Graduate
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The Rev. Kathleen Smith

Helen Kinel
CLayM Graduate

Dear Inquirer,

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

The intent of the Certified 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 and are approved by their District Committee on Ordained Ministry, they are recognized as a "Certified Lay Minister" under ¶271 of the *Book of Discipline*.

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 three ways to take CLayM training. One way is to attend a two week residential training (CLayMAway). Classes are intense and begin each morning at 8:00 and continue well into the evening. Training weeks start on Monday and go through Friday lunch. All meals are provided as part of the training experience. The location of the training will be determined before Annual Conference Session.

The second way is to take training via DVD. 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. This also is intense training requiring submission of answers to questions on each lesson as you progress through the sessions.

The cost is \$299.00 for each week or for each session for a total of \$598. 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.

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.

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
Rural and Small Church Ministries	Stewardship
Worship Design and Leadership	Transformational Leadership
Christian Education	Spiritual Leadership

The next scheduled CLayMAway training weeks are:

Monday, November 14 - Friday, November 18, 2011

Monday, January 16 - Friday, January 20, 2011

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

There will be three cycles of CLayM@Home training this conference year.

Cycle 1 Session 1 July 11 - August 19

Cycle 1 Retreat 1 August 20 and 21

Cycle 1 Session 2 August 29 - October 7

Cycle 1 Retreat 2 October 8 and 9

Cycle 2 Session 1 August 29 - October 14

Cycle 2 Retreat 1 October 15 and 16

Cycle 2 Session 2 October 24 - December 2

Cycle 2 Retreat 2 December 3 and 4

Cycle 3 Session 1 January 1 - February 17

Cycle 3 Retreat 1 February 18 and 19

Cycle 3 Session 2 February 27 - April 27

Cycle 3 Retreat 2 April 28 and 29

Beginning in August 2011, there is a third way to take CLayM Training. In cooperation with the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CLayM is available online via webinars and online seminars. The Theological Education for Leadership (TEL) program has a special curriculum for CLayM. The course work will take a year to complete. Students will take about a course a month. At the completion of the course work, they will become CLayM graduates as well as TEL graduates.

To enroll in the CLayMTEL program, the regular application process is necessary as well as enrollment in the TEL program through PSR. The cost of the TEL program is approximately \$1,250 dollars for the year long program. This cost is very close to the total cost (including travel and lodging) of the other ways to take CLayM training. For more information on TEL, see <http://www.psr.edu/TEL>.

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

Taking CLayM 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.

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