



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

The Rev. Perry W. Polk, CLayM Training Coordinator
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Dear Inquirer,

CLayM Committee

Jay Parr
Certified Lay Minister
Committee Chair

Gayle Sherman
and Burt Yin
*Co-Conference Lay
Leaders, Board of Laity*

Karen Hester
CLayM Graduate
Treasurer

The Rev. Kathleen Smith

Helen Kinel
CLayM Graduate

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 may be 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 training will be at Mercy Center Auburn.

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.

The third way to take training is through the CLayMTEL program online with the Pacific School of Religion. CLayMTEL is a United Methodist extension of the PSR/TEL offering. The program is a year long with new courses each month. Entry can be at anytime through the year. Contact me for further information

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 all types of the training, 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	Stewardship
Ministries	Transformational Leadership
Worship Design	Christian Education
and Leadership	Spiritual Leadership
Your Spiritual Life	

The next scheduled CLayMAway training weeks are:

Monday, October 29 - Friday, November 2, 2012

Monday, January 21 - Friday, January 25, 2013

(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 9 - August 17

Cycle 1 first Retreat August 18 and 19

Cycle 1 Session 2 August 27 - October 5

Cycle 1 second retreat October 6 and 7

Cycle 2 Session 1 September 3 - October 12

Cycle 2 first Retreat October 13 and 14

Cycle 2 Session 2 October 15 - November 30

Cycle 2 second retreat December 1 and 2

Cycle 3 Session 1 January 7 - February 15

Cycle 3 first Retreat February 16 and 17

Cycle 3 Session 2 February 25 - April 19

Cycle 3 second retreat April 20 and 21

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 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.

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.

Applications and all five references are required to be completed a minimum of two weeks prior to the beginning date of the training. All the paperwork should be sent to your District Superintendent as one complete package. Mail or deliver the package to the District Administrative Center, Office Location: 1276 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691, Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980250, West Sacramento, CA 95798.

In order to secure a slot in the training a non-refundable \$100 deposit along with a copy of the first page of the application may be sent at anytime to me at the address above. Please indicate the type of training and the entry date you prefer. Checks should be made to the "California-Nevada Annual Conference."

Yours in Christ,

Perry W. Polk