



LLP vs. CLM

LICENSED LOCAL PASTOR vs. CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER

A Comparison from The United Methodist Church

	LICENSED LOCAL PASTOR (LLP) Licensed Clergy	CERTIFIED LAY MINISTER (CLM) Certified Laity
 MINISTRY STATUS	Licensed clergy	Certified laity
 PRIMARY PURPOSE	Serve as the pastor of a congregation or charge through episcopal appointment.	Lead and develop congregational ministry, often in settings lacking full-time clergy, while remaining a layperson.
 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE	¶315–320; responsibilities in ¶340	¶268
 CREDENTIAL GRANTED BY	Bishop, following recommendation of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM) and completion of Licensing School	Annual Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries after recommendation by DCOM and approval by the Annual Conference
 RELATIONSHIP TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE	Clergy relationship	Lay relationship
 APPOINTMENT / ASSIGNMENT	Appointed by the Bishop to a pastoral charge	Assigned by the District Superintendent to a ministry team or ministry setting under clergy supervision
 SUPERVISION	Bishop, District Superintendent, DCOM, Board of Ordained Ministry	Supervising clergy, District Superintendent, Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries
 MAY SERVE AS PASTOR OF A LOCAL CHURCH?	Yes	May lead a congregation or ministry setting under assignment and supervision, but not as appointed clergy
 PREACH	✓	✓
 LEAD WORSHIP	✓	✓
 PROVIDE PASTORAL CARE	✓	✓
 EXERCISE CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP	✓	✓
 DEVELOP NEW MINISTRIES	✓	✓
 ESTABLISH NEW FAITH COMMUNITIES	✓	✓
 ADMINISTER BAPTISM	✓ Yes, within the scope of the appointment	✗ No
 PRESIDE AT HOLY COMMUNION	✓ Yes, within the scope of the appointment	✗ No
 RECEIVE MEMBERS INTO THE CHURCH	✓ Yes	✗ No
 OFFICIATE WEDDINGS	✓ Yes (subject to civil law and conference policy)	✗ Not by virtue of CLM certification
 CONDUCT FUNERALS	✓ Yes	✓ Yes, when permitted by supervising clergy and conference practice, but not by virtue of clergy authority
 INITIAL EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	Certified Candidate process, DCOM recommendation, and Licensing School (or approved equivalent) prior to licensing	Lay Servant Basic Course, Advanced Course(s), CLM curriculum, interviews, recommendations, and conference certification
 ONGOING EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	Course of Study is completed after licensing while serving as a Licensed Local Pastor, along with continuing educational requirements established by the conference	Continuing education, ministry review, and biennial recertification
 CREDENTIAL RENEWAL	Annual continuation of the license and conference requirements	Biennial recertification through the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries



THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCES: LLPs are clergy appointed by the Bishop with sacramental authority. CLMs are laypersons assigned by the District Superintendent to lead ministry under clergy supervision.