

## Candidacy Summit & Lay Supply Video

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Hello, friends! My name is Lindsey Baynham and I serve as the Director in the Center for Clergy Excellence. Our office resources folks who are in the early stages of discerning a call to ministry all the way to retirement (and beyond!).

One of the strong markers of our Wesleyan heritage is through our baptism, we believe that all are called into ministry in various ways.

Did you know, that in the United Methodist Church there are 28 identified ways to be in relationship in ministry? 28 ways to live out your calling and so many more yet to be discovered and lived in to!

I would like to highlight some of these conference relationships as you discern your next steps in ministry. Some of the 28 conference relationships are lay relationships.

**Lay Servants:** Assist the clergy in leading inside your local church

**Lay Speakers:** Preach in your local church and around your district

**Professional Certification** is designed for persons who are called to professional ministry in the church in an area of specialization. Professional ministry means that you desire to serve as a staff person in a local church or agency. This is a step beyond, but for those who are not ready/called to seminary or even ordination

**Certified Lay Ministers** are a conference relationship that exists in order to enhance the quality of ministry to small membership churches, expand team ministry in churches, and in deference to an expression of gifts and evidence of God's grace associated with the lay ministry of early Methodism. The **certified lay minister shall preach the Word, provide a care ministry to the congregation, assist in program leadership, and be a witness in the community for the growth, missional and connectional thrust** of The UMC as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergy person.

CLM'S have the gifts and willingness to preach, provide care and be a part of program ministries. CLMs create a support team, much like the early bands, which met weekly in covenant relationship. The CLM also has the support of a clergy person and is assigned by the DS to a specific church or churches.

**Lay Supply Pastors** are individuals who serve as Lay supply have the gifts and willingness to lead a congregation for a season. They preach, teach and offer care with the supporting supervision of the District Superintendent. This conference relationship for 1 year, while a clergy person comes in to preside over communion and baptize new believers. After this one year we hope

that Lay supply are moving towards a new conference relationship: CLM, Certified Candidate, and/or LLP

### **Missionaries**

**These are only a few of many ways in which laity are involved in the mission and ministry of the body of Christ, the church.**

**As folks discern a call to a clergy relationship, the first step is to become a certified candidate in the United Methodist Church.**

### **Becoming a Certified Candidate**

Inquiring:

Contact your local pastor or campus minister for prayer, discussion and discernment around your call. There are so many resources and two I would highlight are *The Christian as Minister* and the *United Methodist Deacon*

Next, Contact your District Committee on Ordained Ministry Chair and District Superintendent to declare your intent of becoming a certified candidate.

Once you have connected with the District committee, you will be set up in UMCARES— online filing system that has all the requirements for becoming a certified candidate. The necessary requirements are on tracks within UMCARES, and there are several tracks as a part of your candidacy journey. Initially, you will be on two tracks: **Inquiring Candidate & Candidacy Summit**

Following your submission of the required materials and interview with the District Committee, if admitted, candidates move into what I like to call the “meat and potatoes” of the journey as it holds the majority of the required elements for certification. You will be placed on two new tracks: **Candidacy (GBHEM) & Becoming a Certified Candidate.**

These tracks include registering with the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry, requesting the candidacy guidebook to work through with your mentor, attend Summit, psychological assessment, expanded background check, medical form, candidate’s disclosure form, mentor report and written responses for the District Committee before your certification interview.

Things to remember if you are certified: this is an annual renewal with your District Committee and this status makes you eligible for Grants & Loans for education.

Once certified, you are eligible to become a licensed local pastor and/or work towards ordination in the UMC. Here are some key points about different clergy relationships.

**A licensed local pastor** is licensed for pastoral ministry and performs all the duties of a pastor, including proclamation of the Word of God, leading in worship and liturgy, performing the sacraments of baptism and holy communion, the services of marriage (where states allow), burial, confirmation, and membership reception. **A local pastor has the authority of a pastor only within the setting and during the time of the appointment.**

An **Associate Member** is a licensed local pastor who has served at least four years full time, over the age of 40, has at least 60 credit hours towards a bachelor, completed Course of Study, interviewed and been recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry.

A United Methodist **deacon** is a clergyperson called by God and ordained by a bishop to a servant ministry of Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice.

The United Methodist Church instituted the Order of Deacon in 1996. Prior to that date, ordination as a deacon was a step toward ordination as an elder. Both men and women are eligible for ordination as deacon, a service in which they are ordained, or set apart, for a ministry of word, service, justice and compassion.

A United Methodist **elder** is ordained by a bishop to minister through service, Word, Order, Sacrament, and Service.

Elders primary appointments are in the local church where our discipline affirms the primary place where disciples are made. However, elders serve beyond the local church as well as extension ministers, District Superintendents, teachers and administrators, living out their call to the ministry of word, order, sacrament and service.

Isn't it amazing all the ways that God calls us by the power of the Holy Spirit to participate in the body of Christ, the church?

Blessings to you as you discern next steps and I pray God's blessings upon you.