

STEPS TO BECOMING A LAY SPEAKER

There are two categories of lay speakers – Local Church and Certified. The Disciplinary requirements are listed below. (Paragraphs 267-269)

LOCAL CHURCH LAY SPEAKER:

1. You must be a member of a local United Methodist Church.
2. You must be actively involved in the life of your congregation and its ministries.
3. You must be trained and develop skills in communication, leadership and care-giving ministry.
4. You must inspire other laity to a deeper commitment to Christ.
5. You must take the initiative to serve your local church by giving leadership, assisting or supporting one of its programs, lead a meeting or help with worship/sermons.
6. You must make application in writing to the church council where your membership is held, indicating your desire to become a Lay Speaker.
7. You must be recommended by your pastor, the church council and the charge conference.
8. You must complete the Basic Course for Lay Speaking offered by your district.
9. To maintain your status as a Local Church Lay Speaker you must:
 - A. Request continuance by reapplying yearly
 - B. Submit a report to your Charge Conference yearly and receive their recommendation
 - C. Complete a refresher course once every three years

Local Church Lay Speakers may minister in the church or charge in which their membership is held by witness of the spoken word, vital leadership, service and care-giving ministry.

CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER:

1. Complete steps 1-8 above and...
2. Complete an Advanced Training Course.
3. To maintain your status as a Certified Lay Speaker you must:
 - A. Request continuance by reapplying yearly
 - B. Submit a report to your Charge Conference yearly and receive their recommendation
 - C. Complete an approved Advanced Training Course (minimum of 10 hours) once every three years

Certified Lay Speakers may serve in the church or charge in which their membership is held by witness of the spoken word, vital leadership, service and care-giving ministry. In addition, the Certified speaker may serve in the District and Conference and in local churches other than the local church in which their membership is held.