

GBOD Suggestions for Certified Lay Minister (CLM) Interviews for District Committees on Ordained Ministry (dCOMs)

1. Please remember CLMs are important to the ministry of The United Methodist Church. CLMs most often serve small membership churches or on staff at a larger membership churches as part of a ministry team. Many CLMs have family responsibilities and full-time jobs which limit the amount of time they have to work on committees, for study and to attend district/conference meetings.
2. Most CLMs have not had formal theological training. They have felt God's call to ministry and need our patience, support and guidance as they explore this call.
3. The dCOMs have an important role to play with CLMs in interviewing and recommending for certification. They are charged with interviewing a candidate to help them in the discernment process and to determine fitness and potential for ministry. The CLM program will train CLMs for service in ministry and the District Superintendent assigns CLMs to a specific ministry once they are approved for certification by the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries (or equivalent). Interview committees should be looking at a candidate's openness to grow, willingness to be part of the covenant, and for commitment to the doctrines of The United Methodist Church.
4. The Certified Lay Minister program has four training modules and specialization studies. A lay person can only be certified after completing all four modules or equivalent (and courses required for specialization, if required).
5. It is encouraged for CLMs to meet with the dCOM for introduction prior to completion of training. The CLM would then meet with the dCOM after training for purposes of interview and recommendation for certification. (Please check with your annual conference as to process required in that context.)
6. Background checks are encouraged for CLMs to serve in any kind of ministry in the local church. If a CLM is asked to serve a local church in a ministerial role as part of a ministry team, it is recommended that he/she complete psychological evaluation.
*NOTE: In the New England conference, at the current time, we **require** both the background check and the psychological assessment.*
7. CLMs are required to complete a continuing education event every two years. Lay Servant Ministry advanced courses meet this requirement.
8. John Wesley and Francis Asbury believed that all pastors, both lay and clergy, should read and continue to grow and develop as spiritual leaders. The dCOM after meeting with a candidate might require the candidate to further study a particular area of ministry, perhaps working with a mentor or coach.