

## To a potential Lay Minister...

If your pastor has connected you to this resource, it shows there must be a stirring by the Holy Spirit in your heart as you are sensing a tug toward ministry. This may have begun as just an invitation to help with the youth group, teach a class at church, or disciple another follower of Jesus. Whatever the journey has been to this point, *we are glad you are here!*

Your local pastor has sensed the gifts and calling you may have, but I am sure you are filled with many questions about what the journey ahead may be like. This interest in Lay Ministry will be your first step in possibly many steps that might lead you into incredible ministry within the kingdom and The Wesleyan Church.

We hope you enjoy the process as God begins to shape and mold you for the ministry He has in store for you!



Flyer produced by  
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A simple guide for  
churches and pastors  
to help a  
congregant discover...

## The Call to **Lay Ministry**

By the Greater Ohio  
District Board of  
Ministerial  
Development

## What is a Lay Minister

A lay minister is a lay member of a local Wesleyan Church whom the local church conference, or the local board of administration (if so delegated) has licensed to preach or serve under the pastor's direction and as opportunity affords, thus providing for the employment and development of the lay minister's gifts and calling. The designation and granting of a lay license invests the lay minister with the approval of and authority of the church to minister alongside the pastor in the work of the local church. The lay ministry license is not a "token" license, but a serious matter for a congregant to obtain and hold. A lay minister is someone who is sensing a clear call of God upon his or her life to function in semi-vocational ministry within the *local* church.

## Why do we require a Lay Ministry License

As a district we require all of our incoming ministerial students to first obtain a *lay license* as their first step toward *ordination*. We require this because the local church, more than anyone, has a vested interest in the perspective student and knows the gifts and calling better than anyone could know on the district level. We also want the Local Church intimately involved in the process along with the student giving opportunities to use his/her new skills and knowledge, while gaining valuable constructive feedback.

## Who Supervises the Lay License?

The local pastor is the primary supervisor of the lay licensed minister. The local board should oversee the pastor's supervision as the local covering body of the church.

## Steps to acquire a Lay Minister's License

- A potential Ministerial candidate senses a call by God to move toward active ministry
- Candidate initiates a discussion with the Local Pastor concerning this call or the pastor initiates a discussion with the member
- Candidate makes a formal Application to the Local Board to begin preparation for this license (application can be found at: <https://gowesleyan.org/dbmd>)
- Local Board gives or denies the candidate permission to pursue the license
- The candidate gives 1 year of active preparation toward the license involving college level courses, training by the pastor (material below), and involvement in local ministry
- Candidate completes "Explore the Call" discipleship course with the local pastor (materials are provided by the DBMD on the above website).
- During this year, the local pastor and board evaluates the candidate's leadership qualifications as described in the discipline (paragraphs 260–268; 558)
- After the year of service, the candidate can make application to the Local Board for approval of the license to be granted
- Upon the boards recommendation, the Local Church Conference must grant the license (unless delegated to the Local Board)
- The Lay License must be renewed annually unless the candidate moves on to acquire a District License and/or ordination
- Upon completion the "Lay Minister's License" must be forwarded on to the DBMD

## Regulations and duties for a Lay Minister

- A lay minister must be a member of the local church in good standing.
- A lay minister has no authority to solemnize marriages, to administer the sacraments
- A lay minister does not have any vote in the local board of administration or in the district conference unless elected as a lay delegate.
- A lay minister is under the authority of the local church conference, and the license may be revoked by the local church for cause or when the best interests of the church so require.
- A lay minister who transfers membership may ask for a letter of standing as a lay minister, and present it to the pastor of the church to which transfer is sought for consideration by the local board of administration there in issuing a new license.
- A lay minister is to assist the pastor as directed, preaching as often as opportunity affords, including speaking in neighboring churches with the pastor's approval or serving in other ways fitting to the lay minister's gifts and local needs.
- A lay minister shall regularly report the progress of studies and the nature and extent of his/her activities to the pastor and the local board as required and to the local church conference annually.
- The lay license must be renewed annually by the local congregation (or board if delegated). The renewal should include an examination of all the above duties and regulations of the lay minister before being granted.