

CERTIFICATION

in Specialized Ministries in
The United Methodist Church



Evangelism

Educational Requirements

Individuals seeking professional certification in Evangelism in The United Methodist Church must meet the standards set by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's Division of Ordained Ministry (GBHEM). These include successful completion of five (5) certification courses relating to Evangelism. Specialized ministers are certified by the annual conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM), in cooperation with GBHEM.

Courses are designed to provide a graduate academic foundation. Other requirements for certification include personal and church qualifications and experience in the area of Evangelism, as determined by GBHEM. The five courses include theories and methods of teaching the Bible, exploration of the pedagogical and theological bases for ministries and equipping people as disciples for the transformation of the world. Courses also include an understanding of The United Methodist Church, its structure, curriculum and resources.

Each course must be offered for no less than two (2) semester (or equivalent quarter) hours of graduate academic credit. All certification courses must be taken at a United Methodist seminary or approved graduate school. Exceptions may be made for other seminaries on the University Senate-approved list in consultation with an annual conference BOM and GBHEM.

Three of the five courses may be taken online. Candidates may participate in more than one course each year. A maximum of ten (10) years is allowed for the certification

studies in ministry careers. Two years' experience working in a specialized area is required for certification. Experience is defined as a contractual agreement with supervision, accountability, evaluation and continuing education in a specialized ministry area. Sufficient experience is approved by the annual conference BOM and may also require pre-approval.

CORE COMPETENCIES FOR CERTIFICATION IN EVANGELISM

1. Ability to develop and administer an evangelism program that equips people to tell the Christian story to those outside the church to invite them to become disciples of Jesus Christ
2. Skills in developing a ministry of hospitality in a congregation that engages neighbors in the life and ministry of the congregation
3. Ability to develop systems of building relationships among people through pastoral care, visitation, support, and small-group ministry
4. Skills in providing opportunities for the growth and empowerment of laity in their faith and discipleship
5. Demonstration of leadership in integrating theory and practice with an understanding of and commitment to the church's mission of evangelism

REQUIRED COURSES FOR EVANGELISM

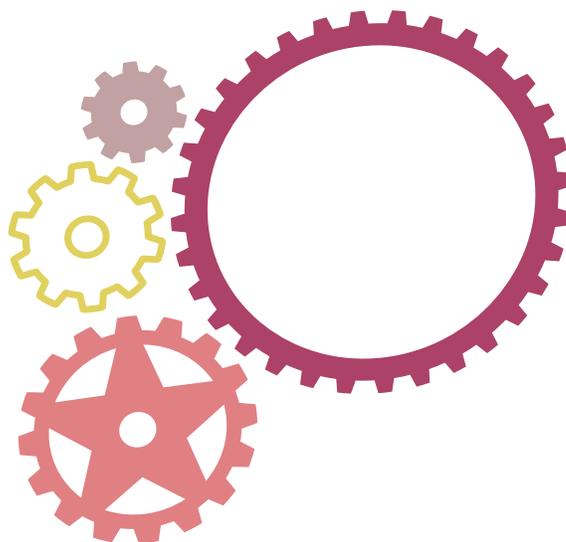
- 1. Teaching Biblical Faith:** A study of the biblical message of the Old and New Testaments and the relation of the Bible to teaching Evangelism
- 2. Teaching Theology:** Theological foundations for the ministry of Evangelism, empowering laity as theologians and exploring Christian doctrines
- 3. Evangelism as Congregational Outreach and Growth:** Examination of the role of the specialist in Evangelism in equipping the congregation to tell the Christian story to those outside the church, to seek a response to the Christian message and to assimilate newcomers into the life and ministry of the church. Areas of concern will include communication theory and skills, outreach methods and approaches, and models for the assimilation of new members
- 4. Evangelism as Congregational Care and Nurture:** Consideration of the ministry of evangelism through the care of members by such means as pastoral care, visitation, support and self-help groups, and the growth and empowerment of laypeople in faith and discipleship
- 5. United Methodist Studies:** Understanding of and grounding in United Methodist doctrine and polity, and the practice of ministry. The course may include a study of doctrine, the General Rules, Social Principles and polity of the UMC as found in The Book of Discipline, or historical issues in UMC polity (organization and structure of contemporary United Methodism)

GBHEM may accept the two (2) courses in Bible and theology required for other areas of certification as meeting the requirements for Evangelism certification when these courses have been taken within the past ten (10) years and a special assignment related to Evangelism is completed in consultation with GBHEM.

SHOULD I SEEK PROFESSIONAL OR PARAPROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION?

Professional certification is available to people with an undergraduate degree and graduate credit courses at a United Methodist seminary or approved graduate school, or to students graduating from a United Methodist-related college, where they have completed the required courses in an area of specialization and have served two years in a specialized ministry area.

Paraprofessional certification is available to people who may or may not have an undergraduate degree and are working in areas of specialized ministry. Paraprofessional certification does not carry academic credit and is designed for people seeking training in a specialized ministry as a worker or volunteer.



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.gbhem.org