



# MINISTRY IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY**

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



# MINISTRY IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“There are varieties of gifts,  
but the same Spirit.”

I Cor. 12:4

Learn more at [gbhem.org](http://gbhem.org).



**HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY**

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Graphic illustration by the Office of Communications, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; originally published in *Interpreter*, September-October 2014, a publication of United Methodist Communications



Lay People



Lay or Clergy



Ordained &  
Licensed Clergy

All Church  
Members

Help lead church ministries and share God's love with neighbors through words and actions.

- ▶ Prayer and worship
- ▶ Visit the hospitalized or homebound
- ▶ Committee participation
- ▶ Lead small groups
- ▶ Teach Sunday school

- ▶ Help with service ministries like food pantries
- ▶ Advocate for the poor or marginalized
- ▶ Attend mission trips
- ▶ And much more

Lay Servant

Serves the local church or charge to inspire the laity to deeper commitment to Christ.

- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Preaching

- ▶ Organization
- ▶ Other ministries

Deaconess  
& Home  
Missioner

Consecrated and commissioned to a lifelong full-time vocational ministry of love, justice, and service in a church-related or helping profession.

- ▶ Community ministry
- ▶ Health & wellness
- ▶ Education

- ▶ Social services
- ▶ Other ministries

Certified Lay  
Minister

Provides congregational leadership as part of a ministry team under the supervision of a clergy person.

- ▶ Preaching
- ▶ Providing care

- ▶ Assisting in program leadership
- ▶ Serving as a witness to the community

Certified in  
Specialized  
Ministry

Specially trained and approved for a ministry specialty.

- ▶ Christian education
- ▶ Children's ministry
- ▶ Ministry with people with disabilities

- ▶ Music
- ▶ Spiritual formation
- ▶ Other ministries

Missionary

Serves in Christ's name around the world in a range of activities and professions.

- ▶ Pastors
- ▶ Educators
- ▶ Congregational and leadership developers
- ▶ Regional coordinators for United Methodist Committee on Relief

- ▶ Agriculturalists
- ▶ Health coordinators
- ▶ Doctors
- ▶ Other ministries

Deacon

Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice. Interrelates worship with service to God in the world.

- ▶ Social services and advocacy
- ▶ Age-level spiritual development
- ▶ Chaplaincy
- ▶ Church-related or ecumenical agencies

- ▶ Worship leadership
- ▶ Educator
- ▶ Denomination-wide service
- ▶ Other ministries

Elder

Word, Service, Sacrament, and Order. Orders the church for spiritual growth and community outreach.

- ▶ Parish pastor
- ▶ Chaplaincy
- ▶ Church-related or ecumenical agencies
- ▶ Social services and advocacy

- ▶ District superintendent
- ▶ Bishop
- ▶ Denomination-wide service

Local Pastor

Licensed for pastoral ministry or chaplaincy. Performs the usual duties of a pastor only within the appointment.

- ▶ Preaching and teaching
- ▶ Worship leadership
- ▶ Presiding over the sacraments where appointed

- ▶ Pastoral care

## Learn More about Your Place of Serving God and Neighbor

### All Church Members

[www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/ministry-of-the-laity](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/ministry-of-the-laity)

### Lay Servants/Lay Speakers

[www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/lay-servant-ministries](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/lay-servant-ministries)

### Lay Deaconesses & Home Missioners

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/dhm](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/dhm)

### Certified Lay Ministers

[www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/certified-lay-minister](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/certified-lay-minister)

### Certification in Specialized Ministry

[www.gbhem.org/certification](http://www.gbhem.org/certification)

### Missionaries

[www.umcmmission.org/get-involved](http://www.umcmmission.org/get-involved)

### Local Pastors (clergy)

[www.gbhem.org/localpastors](http://www.gbhem.org/localpastors)

### Deacons (clergy)

[www.gbhem.org/deacons](http://www.gbhem.org/deacons)

### Elders (clergy)

[www.gbhem.org/elders](http://www.gbhem.org/elders)

## Vocational Discernment

### Explore Calling

[www.explorecalling.org](http://www.explorecalling.org)

*Please talk to your pastor about how you think God might be calling you. Your pastor can pray and converse with you, and give you more suggestions on how to explore.*

### Creating a culture of call in your faith community

[www.explorecalling.org/called](http://www.explorecalling.org/called)



## HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

[GBHEM.org](http://GBHEM.org)