**2023 Suggested LSM Board Questions for Candidates for Certified Lay Speaker**

**RENEWAL EVERY TWO YEARS IS REQUIRED.**

Certification provides a structured process for members of the laity to participate in training opportunities and experiences to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to realize and respond to their personal call to ministry. Certification has been standardized across all conferences so laity can transfer their certifications upon relocation with both the receiving conference and district recognizing certifications. The processes were standardized including recertification requirements with the 2016 Book of Discipline.

A **CLSp**, Certified Lay Speaker, is a **CLSe**, Certified Lay Servant, (Competed BASIC and Discovering Spiritual Gifts) who is called for the specific service of preaching can be certified by completing additional courses of: United Methodist Polity, Discovering Spiritual Gifts, Leading Worship, Leading Prayer, Leading Adult Bible Study, Biblical Storytelling, and Preaching in the Greater Detroit District.

**INITIAL CLSp CERTIFICATION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. What are your gifts for ministry as a baptized believer? How will you use these gifts as a Certified Lay Speaker?
2. How has your ministry with the local church community affirmed that your call is to serve as a Certified Lay Speaker, possibly providing pulpit supply Conference Wide?

3. Describe the specific ministry area that you will be leading or serving within your local church or nearby congregational community.

4. Which steps do you follow in preparing to deliver a sermon? Provide a manuscript and video link to a sermon which you delivered in the past year.

1. What is grace? Explain the core components using UMC Theology.
2. What is the mission of The United Methodist Church and how will you advance this

 mission as a Certified Lay Speaker?

1. What are the four components of the Quadrilateral Discernment Model? Explain each

 area.

1. Outline the organizational structure and function of the Michigan Conference. What is

your understanding of the mission of the church?

9. What are your growth edges? How will you strengthen these areas?

10.How do you encourage listening congregations to explore topics of current social justice concerns within the United Methodist Church Universal?

**FIRST RENEWAL CLSp CERTIFICATION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. What are your gifts for ministry as a Certified Lay Speaker? What is an example of fruit that has come from your gifts?
2. Share details of an experience with the local church community that affirmed your call as a Certified Lay Speaker, possibly providing pulpit supply Conference Wide?
3. Describe the specific sermon that you delivered within your local church or nearby congregational community. What evidence of impact did you observe or experience?
4. Which steps do you follow in preparing to deliver a sermon to diverse congregations? How do you evaluate that sermon? Provide a manuscript and video link to a sermon which you delivered in the past year.
5. What is grace? Explain how you have experienced grace in your life.
6. What is the nature and the mission of The United Methodist Church and how have you advanced the identified nature and mission as a Certified Lay Speaker over the last two years?
7. Tell us about a conflict that arose during or arose as a result of a sermon or bible study. How did you use the Quadrilateral Discernment Model to resolve the difference of opinion?
8. Outline the organizational structure and function of the United Methodist Church.
9. What are your growth edges? How will you strengthen these areas? What resources are available to you in the District, Conference, or General UMC?
10. What sermons, ministries, or holy conferencing opportunities do you envision to assist congregations to engage in living into our mission of addressing current social justice concerns within the United Methodist Church?

**2023 SUGGESTED DCOM QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR**

**CERTIFIED LAY MINISTRY**

In The Michigan Conference, each Certified Lay Minister must be a Certified Lay Speaker. Once a person has received the recommendations from his/her pastor and church council or charge conference and his/her district superintendent, has completed the required course work, and is appearing before the dCOM for interview and recommendation of certification or recertification as a CLM, it is recommended that Wesley’s historic questions be asked again, as well as specific questions concerning the person's effectiveness in ministry.

Candidates submit a written response to each question to the GDD Lay Servant Ministries Training Board. The written responses are forwarded to the dCOM for further review and examination.

The following is a list of suggested questions and talking points to be used by the dCOM. Additional areas may be addressed and examined as dCOM determines:

**INITIAL CLM CERTIFICATION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. How did your studies with the Certified Lay Minister Module I -IV or Lay Ministry Courses affirm that your call is to serve as a Certified Lay Minister/Certified Lay Speaker?

2. Briefly, share with us your call story. How has the community of the church affirmed your call to serve as a Certified Lay Minister?

3. Describe the specific ministry area that you will be leading or serving within your local church or the congregation.

4. Please share with us the link of a five-minute sermon clip or give us a sample of the message from the full sermon manuscript provided to us.

5. What are your spiritual gifts for ministry? What is an example of fruit that has come from your gifts?

6. What is grace? How have you experienced grace?

7. What are your plans for continued growth?

8. What is the nature and the mission of the church?

9. What excites you about Bible Study in ministry? Share with us a Bible Study plan that you have used recently to teach The Word of God.

10. What ministries or holy conferencing opportunities do you envision to assist your congregation to engage in discussion of current social justice concerns within the United Methodist Church?

**FIRST RENEWAL CLM CERTIFICATION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. How did your studies with the Certified Lay Minister Module I-IV Courses affirm that your call is to serve as a Certified Lay Minister?

2. How has the community of the church affirmed your understanding of call to serve as a Certified Lay Minister? Give a detailed example from your experience.

3. Describe the specific ministry area that you will be leading or serving within your local church or the congregation. Provide a five-minute sample of your preaching, from the sermon link and manuscript submitted.

4. How will you lead and equip your mutual ministry team?

5. What are your gifts for ministry? What is an example of fruit that has come from your gifts during your practice of ministry?

6. What is your understanding of grace? How have you experienced each type of grace in your ministry?

7. What are the four components of The Quadrilateral Discernment Model? Explain each area.

8. What are your identified growth edges? What plans for continued growth will target these areas?

9. Outline the organizational structure and function of The Michigan Conference UMC.

10. What is your understanding of the nature and mission of the church? How will you live out each?

11. What excites you about ministry? What is your passion for seeking justice and peace?

12. How have you engaged your congregation through your mutual ministry team in fruitful ministry addressing social justice, human rights, and the mission of The Church?

**SUBSEQUENT RENEWAL CLM CERTIFICATION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. Tell us about your faith journey and which of the Four CLM Modules have had the most impact on your practice of ministry over the last two years?

2. How would you describe your understanding of God, Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit?

3. How have you experienced the presence of God in your ministry?

4. Tell us about a leadership experience you have had in the local church within the last two years. Share with us a conflict situation in which you have been involved and how you applied the discernment quadrilateral to bring resolution.

5. Tell us how your service in your local church has demonstrated an appreciation of the history, doctrine, polity, worship and liturgy of The United Methodist.

6. What gifts, skills, and abilities do you bring to certified lay ministry?

7. Describe the covenant you have developed with your mutual ministry.

8. Where do you feel your ministry needs to be strengthened?

9. Reflect on the content of The BOM Behavioral Standards. Personally which benchmark is a most challenging for you and in which ways are you addressing this Behavioral Standard?

10. What are you doing for personal spiritual growth?

11. What are you doing to take care of yourself physically, emotionally, and mentally?

12. Tell us about new ministries, additional outreaches, small groups, or other initiatives were used to engage congregations or community members in current social justice concerns within the United Methodist Church? (Refer To UMC 2016 Social Principles)

**DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED (Those First Certified In An Even Year Must Complete Now For 2024)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare Written Responses To Interview Questions and Submit to LSM Directors, Chair,

Dean. (See Appropriate Questions For Your Certifications).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Interview With GDD LSMB On December 9, 2023 From 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. By Zoom

784-000-401 (Make An Appointment) And With GDD dCOM On December 14, 2023 At Utica UMC At 9:00 A.M. Recommendations Will Be Made To CCOLSM In April; Presented In AC Clergy Session In June. Hold These Dates!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Current Safe Sanctuary Certificate <https://safegatherings.com>
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Updated Call Story, If Necessary
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Church Conference Forms 5 and 6

<https://michiganumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Form-5-MIUMC-Certified-Lay-Speaker-Annual-Report-Renewal-Request.pdf>

<https://michiganumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Form-6-MIUMC-Certified-Lay-Minister-Annual-Report-Renewal-Request.pdf>

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Business of The Church lines 7-10 <https://michiganumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-Business-of-the-Church-Conference.pdf>
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Completed An Advanced LSM Class, Workshop, Or Training Over The Last Two Years –

Request An Updated LSM Transcript from Paul Sadowski and Rick Gibson Showing The Class.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Delivered A Sermon Over The Last Two Years. Provide Link, Manuscript, And Three

 Evaluations.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Ministered Under A Clergy Mentor And With A Mutual Ministry Team As Assigned

By The GDD DS. (Attach Your Current Covenant)

