



## Educational Options for Lay Ministers & Licensed Ministers

### Academic Requirements

Lay Ministers and Licensed Ministers in the Great Lakes Region are expected to complete two courses annually that will meet the academic requirements either for ordination or for ongoing appointment as either a Lay Minister or a Licensed Minister. The academic requirements for reaching the level of ongoing appointment for each category are as follows:

#### Lay Minister:

- Wesleyan History/Discipline
- Introduction to Theology
- Introduction to New Testament
- Introduction to Homiletics
- Church Leadership/Management

#### Licensed Minister (all of the above plus the following):

- Introduction to Old Testament (must be completed before appointment as a LM)
- Methods of Bible Study
- Doctrine of Holiness
- Evangelism/Church Health
- Spiritual Formation

And any two of the following:

- General Church History
- Advanced Theology
- Christian Education
- Global and Intercultural Ministries
- Pastoral Ministries
- Worship
- Expository Preaching
- Pastoral Counseling

#### Ordained Minister (all of the above plus the following):

- Supervised Ministry
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Philosophy/Ethics
- Old Testament Bible Elective
- New Testament Bible Elective

## Educational Opportunities

Lay Ministers and Licensed Ministers have several different opportunities to complete the academic requirements under the oversight of the Department of Education and Clergy Development of The Wesleyan Church. The following links are provided for your convenience in learning more t he current options as well as links that will be helpful to you in your ministerial training.

- Pathways to ministry (<https://www.wesleyan.org/e cd/pathways-to-ministry>). This link explains the different standard degree programs and non-degree programs offered by The Wesleyan Church and various Districts within the Wesleyan Church.
- Portal Use (<https://www.wesleyan.org/e cd/ministerial-preparation>). The Wesleyan Church provides a portal link for pastors and students. Each person has the opportunity to set up his or her portal account. Through this account one is able to complete the Annual Service Reports as well as to review the official transcript from ECD that tracks academic progress. There are also videos at this link to explain how to use the portal.
- Submitting transcripts (<https://www.wesleyan.org/e cd/ministerial-preparation>). The Department of Education and Clergy Development oversees the academic training of ministers. All transcripts must be sent to them in order to receive credit for course completion. The Regional District Board of Administration is not able to make appointments or approve completion of academic coursework. It is the pastor or student's responsibility to keep their ECD transcript current.
- Residencies (<https://resources.wesleyan.org/residencies>). Several churches and districts are developing residencies for those in training for ministry. The above link provides access to the current information available regarding residencies.

## **Traditional student enrolled full-time at one of our colleges/universities/seminaries and the Wesleyan Loan Grant**

Definition of traditional student: A Traditional Student is defined as one who is enrolled full-time in one of our accredited Colleges, Universities, and/or Seminaries, and is *living in proximity* to the campus.

1. This person will still go through all of the steps to become a Lay Minister at their home church as prescribed above, but will not be required to participate in ministry opportunities at their local church so a ministry description will not be required. However, it is highly recommended that the Lay Pastor find a local church near their campus and begin to volunteer there.
2. A person from the Local Church oversight team will need to make contact with Lay Pastor to allow conversations and opportunities for accountability as they deem necessary.
3. Lay Pastor will still need to receive a recommendation from their supervisor and/or pastor, local church LBA and Local Church Conference for continued listing as a Lay Minister. For yearly meetings with Lay Ministers Team or LBA, please see Supervisors of Lay Ministers document located on the GLR website.
4. If they desire to apply for Ministerial Loan Grant, they must be approved as a Lay Minister from their Local Church first. Then, an email can be sent to [slaurence@thegl.org](mailto:slaurence@thegl.org) requesting a form for the GLR Ministerial Loan Grant. That form will have further instructions.

If you have any additional questions regarding academic training or the RBMD process feel free to contact the RBMD office.

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