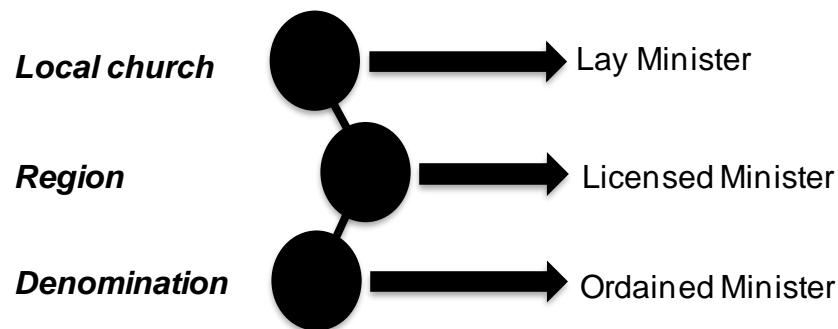




## Lay Ministers



Individuals who sense a call to ministry service and begin serving in the local church may have their calling and giftedness for ministry officially recognized by their Local church in becoming a Lay Minister. Lay Ministers may serve as lay pastors, lay staff pastors, or students pursuing vocational training for ministry. Lay Ministers completing the required coursework may continue as Lay Ministers as long as they are serving in their Local church and continue to receive the recommendation of their local church. The following is a summary of the category of Lay Minister. It is highly recommended that candidates read through the *GLR Ministerial Training Process* manual as well.

### Steps to becoming a Lay Minister:

- Step 1:** Discuss call to ministry with your pastor.
- Step 2:** Complete Discipleship training and become a member at the leader's level of your local church.
- Step 3:** Receive Lay Minister credentials from your local church.
- Step 4:** Register with the Great Lakes Region.
- Step 5:** Register with the Department of Education and Clergy Development.

### Continuing as a Lay Minister:

- Expectation 1:** Complete academic requirements for Lay Ministers.
- Expectation 2:** Continue to meet regularly for mentoring with your pastor.
- Expectation 3:** Receive a recommendation from your local church LBA for continued listing as a Lay Minister.

### **Privileges of a Lay Minister:**

**Privilege 1:** Serve in leadership and teaching ministries under direction of local church.

**Privilege 2:** May serve in a lay capacity as a pastor, staff pastor, or student pursuing ministerial credentials.

**Privilege 3:** If serving as the lead or solo pastor of a church in the region may be a voting delegate at the Regional Conference and be authorized to serve the sacraments. **May not officiate weddings.**

### **Traditional Student as a Lay Minister:**

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. 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. 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.

It is highly encouraged and recommended for a Lay Minister who is a traditional student to be serving in some type of ministry capacity at a church near their campus as they continue their university/college education. They should have regular contact through phone, email or personal visits on a monthly basis with their home church pastor sharing various ministry opportunities, learning experiences and university/college involvement.