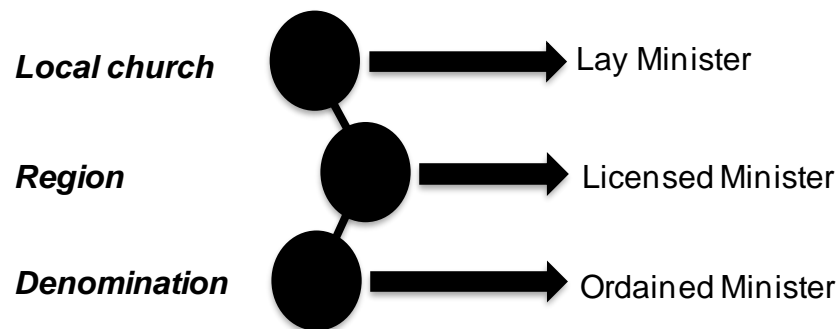




## Lay Ministers



**As a lead/solo pastor, what am I supposed to do with the new RBMD process as it pertains to Lay Ministers?**

- 1) Talk to your LBA about the changes the RBMD has made and how they (LBA) will be responsible for giving oversight to Lay Ministers. The LBA may want to choose 1 of the options below for this oversight.
  - a) The LBA will give oversight.
  - b) The LBA will delegate and empower a team to give oversight and report back to LBA.
  - c) The LBA will delegate and empower other ordained staff to give oversight and report back to LBA.
  
- 2) As a person of interest approaches you or you approach them, the following will need to be done:
  - a) A form may want to be created for people to fill out showing interest in becoming a Lay Minister. This is not a requirement, but only a recommendation. This form would include the following information:
    - i) Name
    - ii) Contact information
    - iii) Personal salvation story
    - iv) Describe call to ministry
    - v) Ministry interest
  - b) A meeting would be set up by pastor and person of interest to discuss call to ministry.

- c) Person of interest will be required to complete discipleship training and become a member at the Leader's level of your local church.
  - d) Discuss how this person of interest would use their gifts and talents, and begin to create a job description for that ministry.
  - e) A meeting would be set up with the team giving oversight to the Lay Ministers process with the following information.
    - i) Person of interest's initial form (if local church required one).
    - ii) Lead/Solo pastor's recommendation.
    - iii) Ministry /job description
  - f) Once approved by team, LBA, and Local Church Conference, person of interest can be credentialed as a Lay Minister with-in your Local Church.
  - g) Lay Minister must register with the Great Lakes Region. This registration would include a background check. If the Lay Minister does not pass the background check, no credentials can be issued. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Background-CreditChecks>.
  - h) Lay Minister must register with the Department of Education and Clergy Development <https://secure.wesleyan.org/em/enroll> and begin to take the five required classes for completion of Lay Ministers Track. The five classes are:
    - Wesleyan History/Discipline
    - Introduction to Theology
    - Introduction to New Testament
    - Introduction to Homiletics
    - Church Leadership/Management
- 3) Oversight includes the following once an individual has been approved as a Lay Minister.
- a) A paid or unpaid position with ministry responsibility's and a job description for clarity.
  - b) Assignment of a supervisor.
  - c) A minimum of monthly meetings with supervisor.
  - d) Follow-up/accountability with required course work. (minimum 2 classes a year)
  - e) Yearly recommendation to LBA by supervisor, Lay Pastor Team and/or Lead/Solo pastor.
  - f) Yearly approval and recommendation to Local Church Conference by LBA.
  - g) Yearly approval by Local Church Conference for Lay Ministers license to be renewed.

## **What if my person of interest is a traditional student or will be enrolled full-time at one of our colleges/universities/seminaries?**

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.

### **Continuing as a Lay Minister:**

**Expectation 1:** Complete academic requirements for Lay Ministers (minimum 2 classes a year).

**Expectation 2:** Continue to meet regularly for mentoring with your pastor or supervisor.

**Expectation 3:** Receive a recommendation from your 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.

### **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.**