



MINISTRY IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

I Cor. 12:4

Learn more at 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

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



Lay or Clergy

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



Ordained &
Licensed Clergy

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