

A Letter for the Pastor and Congregation of a Layperson Considering Certified Lay Ministry:

We are excited to share an opportunity for your congregation to invest in lay leadership through the Certified Lay Minister (CLM) Candidate Training Program. This program equips laypersons with the skills, training, and spiritual formation needed to extend ministry within your congregation and community. CLMs often serve in volunteer roles that strengthen pastoral care, outreach, and discipleship efforts, bringing new energy and capacity to your ministry.

Having a CLM in a congregation can be akin to adding another staff member. CLMs commit to long-term ministry roles and work with the congregation through a specially formed “mutual ministry team” to discern the focus of their ministry and how it fits within the broader vision and mission of the church.

While occasionally CLMs are compensated as part of the congregation’s paid staff, most serve on a volunteer basis. The value they bring to your ministry is significant, and supporting their training is one way your congregation can invest in this leadership.

Supporting a CLM candidate strengthens lay leadership, extends ministry capacity, and nurtures discipleship in your congregation. When a church budget cannot cover the full cost, congregations have found creative ways to help. For example, hosting a church potluck where the candidate shares about their learning and vision for ministry, followed by a love offering, can both help cover expenses and introduce other members to Lay Servant Ministries.

If the candidate or congregation is still unable to cover the full expense, partial scholarships may be requested through the Board of Laity. We encourage congregations to partner with the CLM and the Board in supporting these costs, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent laypersons from participating in this important program.

Thank you for your commitment to nurturing strong lay leadership within our conference. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me by email (josey.snyder@nccumc.org) or phone (Cell: 404.580.6030 | Office: 984.257.0716)

In Christ,

Josey Snyder

Associate Director of Leadership Development and Christian Formation
CLM Registrar

CLM Candidate Training Program Cost Overview

The \$300 program fee is paid directly to the NC Conference. Churches who wish to cover all or part of this cost may pay the fee at the beginning of the program year or split it into two payments—half in the fall and half in January. This total covers the core training requirements:

- **CLM Module Notebook and Workbooks** – \$30
Includes printing for all four module workbooks, usually paid with the application.
- **Access to Online Learning Platform** – \$30 per module, \$120 total
Paid at the beginning of each module. Provides access to online lessons and resources for all four modules.
- **Background Check** – \$25
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing Assessment** – \$125
The Board of Laity covers the remaining \$125 of this \$250 assessment.

Additional Expenses and Opportunities to Provide Support

- **GCORR Required Course** (varies by selection; \$20–\$75)
Paid directly to GCORR through their course registration page.
- **Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) Prerequisite Courses**
CLMs take three LSM courses (Basic, History, and Polity). Course registration is offered on a sliding scale of \$5–25. Congregations may choose to partner by purchasing the required books for the church library, making them available to any layperson who wishes to take the courses.