



Introduction to Certified Lay Ministry Opportunities

Certified Lay Ministers have participated in a two-year process of education, examination, and learning through the Cal-Pac Lay Academy, then certification by their local church and District Committee on Ordained Ministry, in order to have the knowledge, training, authorization and accountability (through the certification and continuing education) to serve as specialized volunteer lay leadership within and beyond the local church. They are trained to be developers of others in local church leadership and/or to be developers of ministry for the local congregation, community and/or district.

That being said, how might a Certified Lay Minister serve?

In the congregation - A Certified Lay Minister could be invited to provide the founding leadership for a new ministry – or to revitalize a ministry that is ongoing.

In Clusters or with other congregations - A Certified Lay Minister could lead and/or coordinate a selected ministry.

In the Community – A Certified Lay Minister could work with other churches or organizations to grow a needed ministry in the local community or district.

There are a multitude of ways that a Certified Lay Minister can reach out to help the local church, the community and the district. Read through the list below and then **find a need and fill it!**

Certified Lay Ministry Opportunities

This list consists of three kinds of ministries – those that are already established in some form that you can become involved in, those that may be available now in your community or that you could start, and those that you can develop in your church. There are needs to be filled everywhere you look.

Established Ministries

(check web pages)

Prison Ministry - Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, Torch, Get on the Bus, Disciple Bible Study in prisons, Epiphany and Angel Tree.

Literacy Ministry - Check with your local library. Most have programs that will train you.

Stephen's Ministry - Individual caring for others. Contact Carolyn Ingram

Hospital/ Hospital Chaplin Ministries – Check with local hospitals for training or Pink Lady programs.

UMCOR Assistance – check with district/conference, furnish supplies from local churches.

Burned Out Churches Ministry - check with district/conference for groups scheduled to go.

Warm Up America – form a group in your church to help knit/crochet afghans for those in need

Special Olympics – opportunity to work with those with disabilities.

LIFT Renewal Ministries – opportunity to work with renewing churches

Strength for the Journey – work with Aids Ministry

Ministries in Communities

Retirement Home Ministries – Teach computers or Bible studies, or visit residents. Check with retirement homes in your area.

Thrift Shop Ministries – Check local city listings or churches.

Food Bank Ministry - Check local city listings or churches.

Homeless Ministries - Check local city listings or churches. Look for ways your local church can help (showers, food, clothes).

Alcoholic/Drug Ministries – check local area listings.

Veterans Ministry – contact local VA for their needs. Visit Vets in hospital, VA homes, provide books, lap robes.

Local or District Projects

(consider starting or supporting in local church or a district project)

Grief Ministries – for the widowed, for those who have lost children (Umbrella Ministry), for transition (loss of job, divorce)

Singles Ministry – organize and lead a local church group and reach out to the community

Jobless Ministry – organize resources, provide resume' help, provide computer service for those looking for work

Education Ministry – check needs in your local church. Organize VBS, Bible studies, Adult Sunday School, tutoring (could be a community service). Start an Early Word Bible Study that meets before people have to be to work. Send a Verse of Day (selected Bible verse) to those who want to receive it by e-mail.

Administrative Ministry – provide help in district and local church offices. Organize the library or music library in the local church.

Prayer Ministries – organize groups, prayer chains, e-mail chains through your church. Contact Upper Room and organize a prayer ministry for their prayer requests.

Youth Ministries - check the needs in your local church. Offer to do children's sermons. Organize a mission trip for the youth.

Camping Ministries – Assist in the District Camping Ministries program or organize the camping ministry at your local church.

Justice Ministries – provide list of resources for legal aid and rehabilitation resources for parolees.

Men's Ministries – develop men's studies and outreach. Lay Speaking now has a new class for this type of ministry.

Health Fair Ministry – check district and local resources and organize a community health fair. Offer free blood pressure checks and other health services monthly at your local church.

Hospitality Ministries – offer to visit newcomers, provide food and/or service for fellowship time after worship. Organize a newcomers group to orient newcomers, or a welcome potluck once a month.

Bus Ministry – obtain a small bus for your church and bring neighborhood kids to Sunday School.

Stewardship Training Ministry – contact Dan Gara at the Conference to present at local church.

Satellite Ministry – establish a satellite community for your church in another area of town or a neighboring community using technology and your local pastor. Wonderful outreach!

Shut-in Ministry – visit those unable to attend worship and work with the local pastor to provide communion for them each month. Run errands, do shopping as needed.

Clown Ministry – outreach to children in your church or hospital. Children can be involved in this.

Puppet Ministry – organize youth and children to present puppet shows during worship.

Liturgical Dance Ministry – check website – train to dance scripture and present in worship