

Florida Conference Lay Servant Ministries
APPROVED ALTERNATIVE ADVANCED COURSES
(Exception Credit)

2017

Certified Lay Servants and Certified Lay Speakers are required to take an Advanced Course every three years to remain certified. Certified Lay Ministers are required to take an Advanced Course every two years.

While it is hoped that all lay servants (including lay speakers and lay ministers) would look for opportunities to take courses and to read books each year, they will minimally be held to the two-year and three-year requirements of the Book of Discipline. Normal advanced coursework will be those courses listed in the current year's Lay Servant Catalog, published by Discipleship Ministries:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/lay-servant-ministries-catalog>

These include classroom courses and courses given online. Currently, the only authorized provider for online coursework is the BeADisciple program at the Richard and Julia Wilke Institute for Discipleship at Southwestern College, a United Methodist institution in Winfield, Kansas. These may be accessed at:

<http://www.beadisciple.com/course-catalog>

Look under the "Affiliations" column for courses listed as either Certified Lay Ministry or Lay Servant Ministries. Courses listed under these affiliations are approved as Advanced Courses for Certified Lay Servants, Speakers and Ministers.

Alternative coursework has often been approved in the past, and may continue to be approved as such by the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

Instructor Credit. Lay Servants and Lay Ministers may be given exception credit for any course they teach under the approval and direction of the applicable District or Conference Director for Lay Servant Ministries.

It is strongly suggested that advance approval be gotten from CCLSM before taking a course. Alternative courses include both classroom and online classes. The following have been approved and may continue to be used in the future, but only once in each category. Questions and requests may be forwarded to info@flumclsm.org.

One-time classes:

- Walk to Emmaus
- Academy for Spiritual Formation – Five-Day or Two-Year Courses
- Any Disciple Bible Study course completed
- Florida Conference UMW Mission U courses
- Seminary courses successfully completed (United Methodist only, or others approved in advance by the Conference Committee on LSM)

<http://floridalayservants.com/>