

What regions have a CLM program?

These regions have lay ministry training programs that can lead to Ordination or Certification:

Indiana & Kentucky, in partnership with Greater Indianapolis: Church Leadership Institute

Maine: AIM (Maine uses the term "Commissioned Minister")

Michigan: Ministry Certification Leadership Program

Ohio, in partnership with Cleveland: Ohio Leadership Academy & Urban Leadership Academy

Pennsylvania & Delaware: Academy of Christian Training & Service

Rocky Mountains: ABCRM Training Academy

Vermont/New Hampshire: Institute for Learning

West Virginia: School of Christian Studies

If your region does not have a CLM program, which ones are 100% online?

There is one that is 100% online. The Academy of Christian Training & Service (ACTS), a regional ministry of ABCOPAD, is currently 100% online.

We use interactive meeting software that allows live sessions with students and instructors anywhere around the world.

For more information on this 100% online program contact:

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The Academy of Christian Training and Service is a ministry team of ABCOPAD

Certified Lay Ministry in the ABC-USA

"We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Eph. 2:10



Certified Lay Ministry in the ABC-USA

What is a *Certified Lay Minister*?

A *Certified Lay Minister* is a person who has completed a certified lay ministry program by an ABC region or seminary and has been certified by the region.

What can a *Certified Lay Minister* do?

A *Certified Lay Minister* has the necessary recognition when called by a local church to perform all the duties of a pastoral leader. They can also serve as chaplains or in any other type of professional ministry calling.

Is there an advantage to going through a regional CLM program vs. seminary?

A typical seminary experience, either online or in person, will prepare a person for ministry in a much more extensive manner. However, the lower cost of a regional lay training school can make that a more accessible choice for some people.



How do you become a *Certified Lay Minister*?

1. Attend a regionally approved lay training program. Many regions have their own schools. Check with your regional staff to see if your region has a school, or if your region will accept a diploma from a school that is based in another ABC region.
2. Once you have graduated, work with your local church and association to go through your region's process for Certification.

Can a graduate from a CLM be ordained?

Some regions will ordain those trained in a regional lay training program. Others do not. Check with your regional office or Commission on Ministry to see what your region does.

Are CLMs part of the ABPS?

Yes, if they choose to register. The ABPS recognizes *Certified Lay Ministers* as a professional status.

What kind of a church might want a *Certified Lay Minister* as a pastoral leader?

Regions that use *Certified Lay Ministers* in pastoral ministry have found that they can excel in all kinds of churches. Historically, most do serve smaller churches and in bivocational ministry.

What is a church getting when they hire a *Certified Lay Minister*?

Certified Lay Ministers bring:

- ✚ High quality, locally based, biblical education.
- ✚ Mentoring by pastoral leaders in the region.
- ✚ Affirmation of their ministry calling, character, and potential from a local association.
- ✚ Experience as lay leaders in their home churches.

