

¶ 267. Local Church Lay Speaker—1. A candidate may be recognized as a local church lay speaker by the district or conference committee on lay speaking after the candidate has:

a) Made application in writing to the appropriate committee and has been recommended by the pastor and the church council or the charge conference of the local church in which membership is held. The district superintendent shall be responsible for reporting the names of applicants to the appropriate committee.

b) Completed the basic course for lay speaking.

2. The local church lay speaker shall serve the local church in which membership is held by witness of the spoken word, vital leadership service, and care-giving ministry (see ¶ 266.3).

3. To maintain status, a report and reapplication with recommendations must be submitted annually and a refresher course approved by the Conference Committee on Lay Speaking Ministries must be completed once in every three years. (see ¶ 247.11).

¶ 268. Certified Lay Speaker—1. A candidate may be recognized as a certified lay speaker by the district or conference committee on Lay Speaking Ministries after the candidate has:

a) Made application in writing to the appropriate committee and has been recommended by the pastor and the church council or the charge conference of the local church in which he or she holds membership.

b) Completed both basic and one advanced training courses for lay speaking.

c) Had his or her qualifications reviewed and approved by the appropriate committee (see ¶ 258.2 f [9]).

2. The certified lay speaker shall continue to serve the local church in the witness of the spoken word, vital leadership service, and care-giving ministry (see ¶ 266.1). In addition, the certified lay speaker may serve in the district and conference and in local churches other than the local church in which membership is held.

3. Recognition as a certified lay speaker shall be renewed annually by the district or conference committee on Lay Speaking Ministries after the certified lay speaker has:

a) Requested in writing the renewal of certification.

b) Submitted an annual report to the charge conference and the committee on Lay Speaking Ministries, giving evidence of the satisfactory performance of lay speaking service.

c) Been recommended for renewal by the pastor and the church council or charge conference.

d) Completed at least once in every three years an advanced course for lay speakers.