

Lay Pastor Training and Lay Pastor Endorsement

Revised April 26, 2022

1. Program Details
 1. Two Tracks
 1. Endorsement
 1. Open to everyone who is a member of good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
 2. Requires careful attention to requirements for each class and fulfillment thereof
 3. Requires a mentoring relationship with their local pastor
 1. Must work in harmony with the local church and pastor to complete the practical ministry assignments from each training
 4. Must attend and complete the assignments of a minimum of 6 trainings weekends
 2. Audit
 1. No requirement at all
 2. You may participate and do assignments as you like
 3. You may practice the principles and activities required of the certification candidates selectively or in full
 4. You are not entitled to a mentoring relationship with your pastor (their time is limited and you cannot impose on them)
 5. You will not receive certification
 6. You need to work with the program administrator to change from Audit to Certification for the trainings to count going forward
 1. Audited weekends will not count towards the required minimum of 6 for endorsement
 2. What to expect from the program
 1. 3 intensives per year
 1. Some core courses which are required—without satisfactory completion of the core courses, there is no certification
 1. ie servant leadership
 2. Some courses which are elective—you may follow your passion
 3. Entrance into the Lay Pastor Program
 1. Completion of the application on the RMC Lay Pastor page
 2. Recommendation from the local pastor
 3. Approval from RMC Administration or RMC Ministerial Director
 4. Approval from the program director
 4. Assignments
 1. Each weekend training will be two assignments
 1. One will deal with the theological topic of the weekend
 1. If a book is given or required then a reflection paper will be required
 2. Sometimes giving a Bible study or sermon on the topic will be assigned instead.
 2. The second will deal with the practical ministry topic of the weekend
 1. These assignments will be to try or put in place the practices associated with the area of ministry discussed
 2. Assignments must be completed to be eligible for endorsement
 5. Endorsement
 1. Lay Pastor is not an official position within the Seventh-day Adventist Church and therefore has no authority with the title.
 2. Upon completion of the minimum requirements:
 1. After the student completes a minimum of 6 trainings
 2. And does all assignments that goes with each of the 6 trainings
 1. They will be eligible for consideration for endorsement

3. What will be considered when a person is eligible for endorsement as it does not happen automatically?
 1. Demonstration of a servant's heart and servant leadership with their local church
 2. Good working relationship with their local pastor and church board
 3. Recommendation letter given to Pastor Nate from their local pastor that they serve with
 4. A voted action by the local church board recorded in the church board meeting minutes stating that the board is acknowledging that
 1. the candidate has been working in harmony with the local pastor and church board supporting the ministry of the local church
 2. The church board is supportive of the ministry of the candidate as part of the RMC Lay Pastor Program
 5. A vote of the RMC Executive Committee affirming God's leading in the candidate's ministry
6. Endorsement duration and terms
 1. Certification is for one year and is renewed when you meet certain criteria:
 1. Attend a minimum of one refresher course per year
 2. Must preach one sermon per year or devotional talk at a vespers or something similar
 3. Must do at least one pastoral visit per quarter
 4. Must give at least one Bible study to a new interest or conduct an evangelistic series per year
 5. Must continue to have the support of the local pastor, church board, and conference executive committee
 2. You will receive
 1. You are issued a Lay Pastor Endorsement Card
 1. You will be described as Lay Pastor — this will grant you access to hospitals and prison ministry as a professional clergy.
 3. Your title is for the clinical environment only.
 1. The Lay Pastor title can never be used as your title in the local church setting
 1. The endorsement will be immediately revoked if the candidate uses the title "Lay Pastor" to attempt to give themselves authority over a person or ministry in the local church.
7. The Core Areas
 1. Theological Development
 2. Personal Development
 3. Evangelism and Church Growth
 4. Pastoral Counseling and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)
 5. Evangelism and preaching
8. Goal of the Program
 1. That each participant
 1. Learn the joy of Servant Leadership
 1. Not seeking power, authority or control
 2. Ministering to serve the Lord and the Church
 3. Learn to labor in a collaborative vs competitive manner
 4. Learn true concepts of promotion and advance
 5. Learn the Christian power of influence
 2. Learn Team Ministry
 1. Learn to view mission in global context vs. local perspective
 3. That each participant
 1. Develop adequate skills for the huge variety of ministry situations
 2. Develop a vision for mentoring and training others
 3. Develop a passion for their own unique ministry emphasis and find their "voice" for ministry

4. Develop at their level as a part of a local and conference team with accountability to Jesus and one another
 4. That each church develop a team of trained lay pastors to give assistance to their pastor
 5. That each church develop a growing leadership team where ministry is planned, prayed for and modeled
 6. That the paradigm for pastoral leadership shift
 1. From Chaplaincy role with all ministry being done by the ordained clergy
 2. To Player/Coach with the Pastor (whether lay or professional) training others while engaged in ministry – “Never do ministry alone”
 3. To Equipper/Trainer with the pastor finding fulfillment and joy in doing ministry and supporting others in their ministry path
 7. That the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Rocky Mountain Conference will grow in grace, truth, and number with more trained laborers
9. Program Outline
1. Classes are held in a seminar format
 2. Class time is spent in intensives with most of the class work being conducted back in the home church
 1. Emphasis is on the practical skills necessary for effective ministry as well as theological training
 3. Weekend intensives are held three times per year
 4. Possible dates could be at the end of January or early February, around Memorial Day and after Labor Day
 5. Weekend Schedule for trainings
 1. Friday night from 7-9 pm
 2. Saturday from 1:30-8pm
 3. Sunday from 8-Noon