Standards

Local Evangelist

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**Summary**

The Church exists amid a lost world to give out to each generation the Word of life, and to declare the praises of the One who called us out of darkness into wonderful light (1 Pet 2:9). The world is in such a need of a Savior and of the knowledge of God that Jesus commanded before He left, “Preach the gospel to all creation.” “Make disciples of all the nations.” Every member of the church has the great privilege of sharing the gospel with others, of leading them by God’s grace to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus, and of discipling them in their walk with the Lord.

The Local Evangelist (LE) is a designation following a mandate of the The Book of Discipline to the Conference Area on Evangelism “to give particular emphasis to the promotion of ministries of evangelism” (630.3e). It is to help identify, encourage, empower and support laity to do the work of an evangelist.

The LE is a person (clergy or laity) recognized by the Western PA Conference of the United Methodist Church as demonstrating gifts, passion and fruitfulness through a divine call as evangelist within the context of another vocational life. Often referred to as the Apostle Paul’s model of “tentmaker evangelist” (Acts 18:3-4), the LE supports themselves in other work as they do evangelism on the job, through the local church and in free time.

**Qualifications**

1. Clergy or laity desiring to serve as a LE should have a conviction of divine call to this ministry.

2. The LE shall be in harmony with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures as set forth in the United Methodist Articles of Religion.

3. The LE must be a member of and loyal to the United Methodist Church, and amenable to its rules and policies.

4. Evangelism experience within the local church shall be required.

5. The LE shall declare his/her willingness to serve in the ministry of evangelism, allowing preference to the United Methodist Church.

6. Personal and professional qualifications for evangelistic work must be established to the satisfaction of the Conference Board of Evangelism.

7. The LE shall be evaluated annually by to the Conference Board of Evangelism. Performance evaluations from ministries served and a written report shall be presented.

8. The LE shall develop a continuing education program for development in evangelistic ministry.

9. The LE shall receive supervision, accountability and support from his/her local pastor or another Conference Board of Evangelism appointee.

**Process for Approval as Local Evangelist**

1. To seek approval as a LE the candidate will consult with his/her pastor or overseer. Together they will explore the call, pray for discernment, seek affirmation, support and guidance.

2. If consultation leads to further inquiry, the pastor or overseer will contact the Executive Evangelist of the Evangelism Cooperative (see evangelismcoop.org) with the candidate’s interest to seek approval as a LE.

3. The Executive Evangelist of the Evangelism Cooperative will contact the inquiring candidate and make available the standards and an application for LE.

4. Upon reception of a completed application, the Conference Board of Evangelism will conduct an interview and determination of approval of the candidate as a LE.

5. Enroll in the next available online Evangelism Certification Program at www.beadisciple.com (Course 1, 2 or 3), or its approved equivalent.

6. The LE certification will officially begin on July 1 following the Conference Board of Evangelism approval.

**Continuation as a Local Evangelist**

Provide annually the following information to the Executive Evangelist of the Evangelism Cooperative (see evangelismcoop.org):

1. A letter of recommendation from the pastor or other designated supervisor.

2. A written report of ministry engagement for the past year and vision for the coming year.

3. Performance evaluations from any specific ministry activities.

4. Enroll annually in one of the Evangelism Certification Program courses (Course 1, 2 or 3) through [www.beadisciple.com](http://www.beadisciple.com), or its approved equivalent, until all courses completed.

5. Upon recommendation from the Executive Evangelist of the Evangelism Cooperative, LE’s will be evaluated annually by the Conference Board of Evangelism.