



LEADERSHIP

UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

Certified Lay Minister Course 2025

Resourcing & Homework

Assignments are subject to change – you will be notified ASAP if anything changes.

Welcome Evening and Breakthrough Preaching Format

Prior to Tuesday, January 21st meeting on Zoom:

- Review The Breakthrough Worship Series called [“Celebrate”](#)
 - Pay careful attention to the “Celebrate Preaching Resource”, which is available in Word and PDF format on the above link
- Review a sample sermon outline found in the [2020 Breakthrough Guide](#) on page 19
- Bring a Sunday morning worship bulletin
- Purchase a 2020/2024 Book of Discipline if you do not already have access to a copy
- Speak to your pastor about the possibilities of making a pastoral call or pastoral visit by April 20th

Module 1: What does worship look like? Why are you called to be a CLM?

Prior to Tuesday, January 28th meeting on Zoom:

- Read Module 1: pages 1-9, 14-16
- Watching the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lxUXQjHVEQ>
- Complete the [Spiritual Gifts Survey](#)
- Complete the [Disc Assessment](#)

Preaching Instruction

Following the Saturday, February 1st meeting in person at the Mission and Resource Center:

By February 21st: Submit sermon and bulletin to Leah Zuckerman via email at lzuckerman@epagnj.org

- Sermon Instructions:
 - Title your document “Sermon by *First and Last Name. Sermon Title*”
 - Manuscript should be typed in Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double spaced with your name on each page.
 - The sermon should be a 10-15 minute original sermon that you are prepared to preach on in class on March 1st based on ONE of the identified scriptures from the *Breakthrough* series “Celebrate”.
 - Consider using the preaching feedback form to receive feedback on your sermon from someone before submission. The form will help guide our preaching sermon feedback session on March 1st.
- Bulletin Instructions
 - Please create a Worship Bulletin based on your Scripture and Sermon
 - Please title your document “Bulletin by *First and Last Name*”
 - Basic patterns for worship can be found in the United Methodist Hymnal pages 2-5
 - Feel free to use bulletins from your church as a reference

Module 2: Practice of Ministry and Leadership Styles

Prior to Tuesday, February 11th meeting on Zoom:

- Read Module 2: pages 1-38, 83-117
- Bring a draft of your March 1st sermon to this meeting for sharing and discussion.

Module 3: Organization for Ministry

Prior to Tuesday, February 25th meeting on Zoom:

- Read Module 3: pages 1-38

Preaching the Sermon and Breakthrough Small Groups

Prior to Saturday, March 1st meeting in person at the Mission and Resource Center

- Prior to class, review [Breakthrough "Celebrate" Small Group Resources](#)
- Bring a copy of your sermon and bulletin to class to be ready to preach

Self-Reflection / Questions & Answers

- Prior to March 11th ensure modules 1-3 have been read

Congregational Care, Funerals & Module 4: Connection for Ministry

Prior to Saturday, March 15th meeting in person at the Mission and Resource Center

Congregational Care and Funerals

- Review [Right Listening by Mark Brady](#). Select at least one of the practices that will impact your listening skills. Use that practice for at least one week before class. Make note of the impact the practice has on your listening skills
- Review in the UMC Book of Worship: Services of Death and Resurrection, pages 139-169. You may wish to borrow a copy from your pastor.
- Review the [sample of a Funeral Sermon](#)
- By April 15th: Funeral Sermon Assignment:
 - Select an obituary of someone that you do not know. Write a funeral sermon based on the obituary. Include the printed obituary and scripture before the sermon.
 - Sermons should be double-spaced in 12-point font of Times New Roman. Make sure your first and last name is on each page. Submit the sermon in a file titled "Your Name_Funeral Sermon" to Leah Zuckerman (lzuckerman@epagnj.org) by April 15th.
 - This is a written assignment, meaning the sermon will not be preached in class.

Mock Interviews & Breakthrough Best Practices

Prior to Tuesday, March 25th meeting on Zoom:

- Review GNJ "Breakthrough Growing Churches Do This Handout," which you received on February 1st
- Read Module 4 and suggested reading
 - Suggested additional reading for polity: ["Our Method and Our Mission"](#)

Sacraments & CLM Process Next Steps

Prior to Saturday, April 5th meeting in person at the Mission & Resource Center

Please bring a Book of Worship to class

- Read about the Three Types of Grace: [A Wesleyan understanding of grace](#)
 - In 250 words, explain the three types of grace and how you have experienced God's grace for yourself or in the community with others. Submit written work to Leah Zuckerman at lzuckerman@epagnj.org by **April 25th**. Work should be typed in Times New Romans, font 12, double-spaced with your name on each page. File should be titled "Your Name and Grace".
- Download and Read: ["By Water and the Spirit"](#)
- Download and Read: ["This Holy Mystery"](#)

Safe Sanctuaries

Prior to Tuesday, April 8th meeting on Zoom

To be Safe Sanctuary Certified there is a 1-hour online training that will need to be completed called *Sexual Abuse Prevention Training*. This 1-hour training class will need to be completed online between April 8th, 2025 and April 15th, 2025. Information will be provided during the April 8th class.

Please read and write out responses to the following questions. Responses should be submitted via email to gnjsafesanctuaries@epagnj.org by April 7, 2025. **Note this is a different email than the other homework submissions. Please be sure you send your work to the correct email address.**

- Why do you think a local church needs a Safe Sanctuary Policy?
- How would you use the Wesleyan Quadrilateral (Scripture, Reason, Tradition, and Experience) to explain to your congregation why having a plan/policy/procedure to protect youth, children, and vulnerable adults is necessary and of biblical importance?
- What kinds of ministries do you have currently at your church or that you might want to one day have that would require you to think through safe sanctuaries?
- If your church were adamant against a Safe Sanctuaries policy, how would you help them to see its importance and how, even if you are in a small church, you might be able to be creative enough to make it happen?

Self-Assessment:

Please type your responses to each question below in up to 200 words. Please ensure that your name is on each page of your work. Responses should be emailed to Leah Zuckerman at lzuckerman@epagnj.org no later than **April 25th**.

1. From your experience in class and in ministry, what are your ministry strengths? Be specific. How will you continue to grow in your strengths?
2. What topics of ministry would you identify as your areas of growth? What opportunities or resources can help you develop your skills?