



2025-2026 Lay Servant Annual Report or Re-Certification Application

Who should file this form?

1. If you are certified as a Lay Servant, you should use this form to file your Annual Report, or,
2. If you are certified as a Lay Servant and have taken the advanced LSM course 2025, you should use this form to get recertified.

Please follow these three steps to complete your application:

1. As soon as possible, **make an appointment with your pastor or ministry leader to talk about your growth and discernment** (see section D below). Bring a copy of your application with you. Your completed application will be sent to you in your confirmation email.
2. Send the Recommendation Form link for your pastor to fill out: **2025-2026 Pastoral Recommendation Form (Lay Servant) (brtapp.com)** (<https://calnev-reg.brtapp.com/PastoralRecommendationFormLayServant20252026>)
3. **Present your report at your Church/Charge Conference:** You will need to be recommended by both your pastor and the Church/Charge Conference for certification.

A. Applicant Information

*Application/Report Year (put in current year) :

2025

*First Name

Aton

*Last Name

Abril

*Address 1

647 N 11th St

*City

San Jose

*State

California

*Zip

95112

*Phone

6507995409

*Email

aton@wesleysj.net

***Church Member:**

☒ Yes

☐ No

***Church Name:**

San Jose, Wesley UMC

***Church District:**

El Camino Real

***Pastor's Name:**

John Oda

***Pastor's email:**

revjohnoda@yahoo.com

***Check the appropriate line:**

☐ This is my annual report.

☒ This is my application for recertification.

***When were you certified as a Lay Servant?**

If you don't remember write DNK.

2024

A. Training

***Have you taken an Advanced Lay Servant Course within the last three years?**

Requires a minimum of 1 Advanced LSM course every 3 years.

☒ Yes

☐ No

Name of course:

Spiritual Gifts

Year taken:

2024

What other Advanced Lay Servant courses have you taken and when (begin with most recent first)?

AI CHAT GPT for the Church - May 13, 2024

B. Further Engagement and Development

In this past year, what steps have you taken to...

***Develop your devotional life:**

I'm an active participant of our neighborhood group, and current participant in Spiritual

***Improve your understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith?**

The activities for my devotional life also overlap with development in Christian faith

***Improve your understanding of The United Methodist Church?**

I am a member of the Core team of our annual conference, vision and planning for our

***Improve your skills in speaking, leading, and caring?**

I was a speaker for multiple conference and district leadership gathering, and opening

C. Service In and Outside the Church

***Select the activities you have participated in your local church, district, conference or the wider community during the past year.**

- ☒ Worship Leadership
- ☒ Sermons or devotional messages given
- ☐ Pulpit supply in other churches
- ☒ Classes taught
- ☒ Prayer/spiritual formation groups led
- ☒ Member visitation
- ☒ Congregational care
- ☒ Outreach ministries
- ☒ Relationship building with non-believers
- ☒ Faith sharing
- ☒ Justice & advocacy
- ☒ Administrative leadership in church
- ☒ Administrative leadership in the district
- ☒ Administrative leadership in the conference
- ☐ Administrative leadership in the community

Other:

D. On-going Discernment & Growth (to be discussed with your pastor)

***1. Which area(s) of service are you seeing the most fruit?**

Continues to be thriving in community, my intra district partnership is showing first fruits through building a community that is starting to see it self again beyond the local church.

***2. Where do you see your need for growth? What are your growing edges?**

My goals in this is not just growth beyond the walls but living into John Wesley's words "The world is my parish"

3. Are you feeling called to any area of ministry, either in the church or outside the church, in which you are not currently involved? If yes, please share:

I want to build a United Methodist Elementary school in our district, if given the opportunity

***4. What additional training or support do you need to further your ministry?**

Between Spirituality in Practice and Creating a Culture of Renewal I feel like I'm well supported, I would like to find pathways to bring others to these and other programs throughout our connection.

***5. What suggestions do you have for the Lay Servant Training Program (new courses or suggestions for improvement):**

My vision for the program is that it utilizes a robust LMS (Learning Management System) and has a much stronger communication network that is embraced by our local churches.

*Applicant Signature

Enter your name below. By typing your name and signing in the area below you are verifying your name and date of this signature.

Aton Abril

Date: 11/01/2025

Draw your signature below.



clear signature

Please schedule a time to meet with your pastor regarding your growth and ongoing discernment. You will need to receive approval from your pastor (through the Pastor's Recommendation Form) and your church's Charge Conference before the Lay Servant Ministries Committee can act upon your application.

For office use only:

Pastor's Recommendation Received:

- ☒ No answer
☐ Yes
☐ No

Appeared on Church Dashboard:

- ☒ No answer
☐ Yes
☐ No

On People Portal:

- ☒ No answer
☐ Yes
☐ No

Oops, something went wrong! Scroll up and find the missing or invalid fields

Invalid captcha

I'm not a robot

reCAPTCHA is changing its terms of service.
[Take action.](#)

reCAPTCHA
[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

Submit Form