

Educational Standards

Approved by

Northern Europe Central Conference Board of Education (NEBE) and

**The United Methodist Church Northern Europe & Eurasia Central Conference
2009**

1. Lay Speaker (Certified Lay Speaker or Local Preacher)

BoDNE 2009 § 266.1.2.3. § 267.1.2.3..268. § 269.

To earn a certificate as a Lay Speaker, a person needs theoretical and practical training in close connection with the local church where the person is a member. The purpose is to develop skills for leadership of the spoken word and care-giving ministry in the local congregation.

A training course for certified Lay Speakers must include:

Bible study

Introduction to Old and New Testaments; self studies of the Bible; use of commentaries and Bible dictionaries

Spoken communication

Personal testimonies; Biblical meditations, addresses and sermons, as well as conduct of worship and devotion

Leadership

Church and community leadership, including leading of small group meetings for prayer, training, study and discussion

Care-giving ministry

Counselling, spiritual advise, visiting and pastoral care

Methodist theology

Doctrinal standards of The United Methodist Church, BoDNE 2009: § 101 – 166, (Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task, The ministry of all Christians and Social Principles), A Methodist presentation of the Christian faith and selected Wesley Standard Sermons.

Methodist policy

Connectional structure, organization and church culture

Methodist history

Methodist history in England, Northern Europe, and the local area (nation).

The United Methodist Theological Seminaries within the Central Conference, the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, or another board or agency authorized by the Annual Conference develop the curriculum with literature available in each national language and the framework of time for the total training course:

Either

- a training course based on part time studies over minimum 20 two hours course days spread over 2 years, under the leadership of the ordained Elder in charge,

Or

- a training course scheduled as a one year full time bible school.

Or

- a training course based on a combination of self studies and seminars planed for all lay speakers of an Annual Conference by a Theological Seminary or the Board of Ordained Ministry.

The training course might be open to any active member, but license as a lay speaker is depending on the recommendation of the Elder in charge and the sanction of the Charge Conference. License is given by the District Superintendent.