

# CAMP/RETREAT MINISTRY

## EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Individuals seeking certification in Camp/Retreat Ministry in The United Methodist Church must meet the standards set by the DOM, GBHEM. These include successful completion of five (5) certification courses in Camp/Retreat Ministry. Persons are certified by the annual conference BOM in cooperation with the DOM, GBHEM.

Courses are designed to provide graduate academic experience for persons to qualify them for certification. Other requirements for certification include personal and church qualifications and experience in the area of Camp/Retreat Ministry as determined by the DOM, GBHEM.

The five (5) courses cover the biblical and theological foundations and are designed to include an understanding of The United Methodist Church, its structure, curriculum, and resources.

These courses must be offered for no less than two (2) semesters (or equivalent quarter) hours of graduate academic credit. In some instances, regular degree courses listed in the catalogue may be substituted for specially designed short-term courses with approval of the DOM, GBHEM.

Although candidates may participate in more than one area of study each year, thus completing the course of study as time and energy allow, four (4) years of local church experience or two (2) years following the studies are required for certification. A maximum of ten (10) years is allowed for the completion of the Certification Studies in Ministry Careers.

The DOM, GBHEM will post all courses available at UM institutions on its website, [www.gbhem.org](http://www.gbhem.org).

## Core Competencies expected for certification in Camp/Retreat Ministry:

1. Ability to develop/implement camp/retreat programs that communicate to all persons an understanding of and commitment to Christian teaching according to the heritage of the United Methodist movement.
2. Ability to articulate and implement biblical/theological foundations for Christian hospitality.
3. Ability to utilize the camp/retreat setting in developing spiritual leaders.
4. Ability to lead others to address ecological and social justice concerns as a part of Christian discipleship, including the ability to develop programs and resources.
5. Understanding of camp/retreat center administration, including the ability to develop programs and resources.
6. Ability to dialogue and partner with ethnic leaders and their communities through camp/retreat ministry.

## REQUIRED COURSES for CAMP/RETREAT MINISTRIES

Certification in camp/retreat ministry in The United Methodist Church must meet the standards set by the DOM, GBHEM. These include successful completion of **three (3) core courses of three (3) semester credit hours each and two (2) elective graduate level certification courses of two (2) semester hours each.**

1. The electives shall be within six (6) possible prescribed electives including United Methodist Studies.
2. One of the electives shall be the United Methodist Studies course for a minimum of two (2) semester hours, unless the candidate has already taken an approved graduate credit course in this area.
3. A maximum of two (2) certification courses may be taken online.

## CORE COURSES:

1. **Faith Formation and Christian Living:** This course explores the biblical foundations of camp/retreat ministry and faith formation. It includes creative strategies for reaching out and welcoming persons of the 21<sup>st</sup> century into faith formation experiences; preparing intentional pathways for people to connect and deepen their relationship with God; effective methods for teaching core elements of Christian faith and discipleship; and providing participants and guests with opportunities to actively practice Christian

discipleship with one another and all of God's creation. Strengthening the partnership between camp/retreat ministry, local congregations and conference ministries for long-term faith formation and developing spiritual leaders is an important aspect of this course. It also covers the unique dynamic of Christian hospitality, faith formation when hosting culturally diverse guests and groups that are not church-related.

2. **The Theology and Ecology of Common Ground:** This course focuses on the role of camp/retreat ministry in inspiring and training spiritual leaders who shape society by engaging communities and congregations in ministries of earth care and social justice as an expression of holy common ground. Students will study biblical and theological perspectives on the link between faith in God and loving interdependence among people and all of creation. The course further gives a basic overview of key ecological principals and environmental concerns facing contemporary society; studies in global social justice aspects of the ecological crisis; explores site operational practices that establish camp/retreat/conference centers as Common Ground Centers where people practice Christian stewardship of creation, justice and mercy; and discuss strategies for training and involving both urban and rural leaders for Common Ground Ministries that reach out beyond the camp/retreat site or local congregation.
3. **The Ministry of Camp/Retreat Center Management:** This course provides an overview of Christian camp/retreat/conference center administration that includes: leading a mission-drive ministry; discerning shared visions of implementation; offering Christian hospitality and hosting guest groups; selecting and developing volunteer and paid staff; partnering with local churches, judicatory entities and other organizations; managing food services; maintaining grounds and facilities; providing risk management and health care; assuring the safety of children, youth, and vulnerable adults; creating and managing budgets; marketing and public relations; office management; establishing operational standards, procedures and guidelines; strengthening boards and committees, spiritual nurture and renewal of residential staff; continuing education opportunities and resources.

***Electives – Two courses of two credits each must be taken from this group.***

1. ***United Methodist Studies*** (required if not previously taken) Participation in a continuing education seminar that covers the history and mission of camp/retreat ministry is required. The seminar is offered at the biannual National United Methodist Camp/Retreat event. This requirement should be completed within the ten (10) years allowed for completion of certification studies.
2. ***Biblical Foundations for Camp/Retreat Ministry***
3. ***Developing Christian Camp/Retreat Curriculum and Events***
4. ***Developing Environmental Education/Social Justice Programs & Resources***
5. ***Partnering with Ethnic Leaders and communities in Camp/Retreat Ministries***
6. ***Fund-raising and Financing for Camp/Retreat Ministries***
7. ***Volunteer and Staff Hiring, Training and Supervision for Nonprofit Organizations.***