

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Individuals seeking certification in Christian education in The United Methodist Church must meet the standards set by the DOM, GBHEM. These include successful completion of five (5) certification courses in Christian education. 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 Christian education 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).

## REQUIRED COURSES FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

1. **BIBLE:** A study of the biblical message in the Old and New Testaments and the relation of the Bible to Christian education.
2. **THEOLOGY:** A survey of major Christian doctrines and ways of doing and teaching theology in Christian education.
3. **TEACHING/LEARNING:** Historical, theological, and philosophical foundations of Christian education with attention to ways people develop and learn and how teaching takes place in the church.
4. **ADMINISTRATION/LEADERSHIP:** An examination of the role of the educator in ministry through administration and leadership in local church education.
5. **UNITED METHODIST STUDIES:** Understanding of and grounding in United Methodist doctrine and polity, and the practice of ministry. The course may include a study of doctrine, general rules, social principals, and polity of the UMC as founded in the Book of Discipline; historical issues in UMC polity (organization and structure of contemporary United Methodism).

**The DOM, GBHEM may accept** the two (2) courses in Bible and Theology required for other areas of certification administered by the DOM, GBHEM as meeting the requirements for Christian education certification when these courses have been taken within the past six (6) years and a special assignment related to Christian education is completed.