

YOUTH MINISTRY

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Individuals seeking certification in Youth 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 youth 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 youth 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 on its website, www.gbhem.org, a list of the special courses available at all UM graduate institutions.

REQUIRED COURSES FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

1. **BIBLE:** A study of the biblical message in the Old and New Testaments and the relation of the Bible to Youth Ministry.
2. **THEOLOGY:** A survey of major Christian doctrines and ways of doing and teaching theology in Youth Ministry.
3. **MINISTRY WITH YOUTH:** Clarifying leadership styles and developing effective strategies for Youth Ministry (including counseling, staff relations, program development, teaching, and empowering others).
4. **ADOLESCENT WORLD:** Understanding adolescents (personal, moral, social, religious development) and implications for ministry.
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 Youth Ministry certification when these courses have been taken within the past six (6) years and a special assignment related to Youth Ministry is completed.