

To Whom It May Concern:

We have received requests for an opinion in regard to psychological assessment for certified lay minister applicants. While we are living in an environment where the employment of religious workers requires adequate background checks, the Book of Discipline does not require psychological assessment or background checks for Certified Lay Ministry. Whether or not a full psychological is needed for a CLM must be decided by action of an annual conference, board or district committee on ordained ministry.

The policies governing psychological assessment or credit checks for Certified Lay Ministry are not determined by GBHEM or GBOD. We, therefore, trust the annual conferences to determine whether it is necessary or not. Some annual conferences require only Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse History (e.g. Western Pennsylvania) while others require a psychological assessment (e.g. Central PA and Missouri) as well.

Because certified lay ministers may not receive salary and/or other benefits for their work, reimbursement for the costs associated with psychological assessment, if required by the annual conference, should certainly be considered.

Sincerely,

*Sandy Jackson*

General Board of Discipleship  
Director Connectional Laity Development



*Mary Ann Moman*

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry  
Division of Ordained Ministry

