

O kpm { 'Uwf { 'Proposed Legislation

Amend by Deletion

¶141. Definition of Clergy—Clergy in The United Methodist Church are individuals who serve as ~~commissioned ministers~~, deacons, elders, and local pastors under appointment of a bishop (full- and part-time), who hold membership in an annual conference, and who are ~~commissioned~~, ordained; or licensed.

Amend

¶ 301.2. Within the church community, there are persons whose gifts, evidence of God's grace, and promise of future usefulness are affirmed by the community, and who respond to God's call by offering themselves in leadership as ~~ordained ministers~~ set-apart ministers, ordained and licensed (¶ 302).

Amend by addition

¶ 303.2. Ordination is fulfilled in leadership of the people of God through ministries of Service, Word, Sacrament, ~~and Order~~, Compassion and Justice. The Church's ministry of service is a primary representation of God's love. Those who respond to God's call to lead in service, word, compassion and justice, and ~~to~~ equip others for this ministry through teaching, proclamation, and worship and who assist elders in the administration of the sacraments are ordained as deacons....

Amend

¶ 306. Order of Deacons and Order of Elders—There shall be in each annual conference an Order of Deacons and an Order of Elders. All persons ordained as clergy in The United Methodist Church upon election to ~~full~~ provisional membership in the annual conference shall be members of and participate in an order appropriate to their election....

Amend

¶ 309. Membership in an Order—1. Persons shall become members of the Order of Deacons or Order of Elders following their election to ~~full~~ provisional membership in the annual conference. Acceptance of the status of ~~full~~ provisional membership will constitute a commitment to regular participation in the life of the order.

Amend by addition

¶ 311.4. A certified candidate must declare to the dCOM in writing his/her intention to pursue ordination at least one year before the expected date of ordination. With a recommendation based on a three-fourths majority vote by the dCOM, the certified candidate will then come under the care of the Board of Ordained Ministry until a final decision is made about ordination and full membership (¶324.10).

Insert new ¶ after the current ¶311 and renumber subsequent ¶¶

Orientation to Ministry – An orientation to ministry is required for all candidates for licensed and ordained ministry. Attendance at the orientation and becoming a certified candidate may be sequential or concurrent. This common ministry preparation experience is for the purpose of building collegiality and understanding among the varieties of set-apart ministry (deacons, elders, local pastors).

1. The orientation shall be held in each annual conference and is the responsibility of the conference board of ordained ministry.
2. Collegiality in ministry and commonalities and distinctions among the categories of ministry (deacon, elder, local pastor) will be emphasized to facilitate understanding and appreciation of the gifts contributed through team ministry, and the practice of set-apart ministry within the UM connection will be articulated.
3. Guidelines will be made available from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Ordained Ministry.

Amend

¶ 315. License for Pastoral Ministry—All persons not ordained as elders who are appointed to preach and conduct divine worship and perform the duties of a pastor shall have a license for pastoral ministry. The Board of Ordained Ministry (¶ 635.2g) may recommend to the executive session of the annual conference the licensing of those persons who are:

1. ~~Provisional elders commissioned by the annual conference, or~~
 2. 1. Local pastors who have completed the following:
 - a) The conditions for candidacy certification in ¶¶ 311.1-2 and;
 - b) The Orientation to Ministry
 - ~~b) c)~~ c) The studies for the license as a local pastor as prescribed and supervised by the Division of Ordained Ministry or one-third of their work for a Master of Divinity degree at a school of theology listed by the University Senate;
 - e) d) Been examined and recommended by the district committee on ordained ministry (¶ 665.8);
- or....

Amend by deletion

¶ 321. Eligibility and Rights of Associate Members—Associate members of an annual conference are in the itinerant ministry of the Church and are available on a continuing basis for appointment by the bishop. They offer themselves without reserve to be appointed (and to serve as their superiors in office shall direct). They shall be amenable to the annual conference in the performance of their ministry ~~and shall be granted the same security of appointment as provisional members and members in full connection....~~

Amend Section title by addition
Section VI. Ordination and Provisional Membership

Amend

¶ 324. Qualifications for Ordination and Election to Provisional Membership— Provisional membership accompanies the beginning of service as an ordained deacon or elder. A candidate will be ordained when elected to provisional membership. A person shall be eligible for ordination and election to provisional membership in the annual conference by vote of the clergy session on recommendation of its Board of Ordained Ministry after meeting the following qualifications.

1. Candidacy Requirement: Each certified candidate shall have been a certified candidate for ordination and provisional membership shall come under the care of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry for at least one year, and no more than twelve years. During the certification period, the conference Board of Ordained Ministry shall discern fitness for provisional membership and readiness for ordained ministry. Certified candidacy shall last no longer than 12 years.

2. Service Requirement: Each candidate shall have demonstrated his or her gifts for ministries of service and leadership to the satisfaction of the ~~district committee on ordained ministry~~ Board of Ordained Ministry as a condition for ordination and provisional membership.

3. Undergraduate Requirement:

c) have graduated with a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a college not recognized by the University Senate and have completed ~~one-half of the studies of the Master of Divinity or equivalent first professional degree in a school of theology listed by the University Senate.~~

4. Graduate Requirement:

a) Candidates for deacon or elder shall have completed ~~one-half of the basic graduate theological studies in the Christian faith. . . .~~

b) a candidate for ordination as an elder shall have completed ~~one-half of the studies toward a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent, including one-half of the basic graduate theological studies from a seminary listed by the University Senate.~~

c) a candidate for ordination as a deacon shall have:

(1) completed ~~one-half of the studies of a master's degree~~

....(3) completed ~~one-half of the basic graduate theological studies,~~

....5.c) have completed ~~one-half of the minimum of twenty-four semester hours of the basic graduate theological studies~~

....14. After fulfilling all candidacy requirements and Orientation to Ministry (¶XXX) Each candidate shall have been recommended in writing to the clergy session based on at least a two-thirds majority vote of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Ordination is approved by two-thirds vote of the clergy session of the annual conference. The bishop and secretary of the conference shall provide credentials as an ordained minister and as a provisional member in the annual conference.

⇒ 15. Historic Examination for Admission into Provisional Membership and Ordination—The bishop as chief pastor shall engage those seeking to be admitted in serious self-searching and prayer to prepare them for their examination before the conference. At the time of the examination, the bishop shall also explain to the conference the historic nature of the following questions and seek to interpret their spirit and intent. The

questions are these and any others which may be thought necessary:

- (1) Have you faith in Christ?
- (2) Are you going on to perfection?
- (3) Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
- (4) Are you earnestly striving after perfection in love?
- (5) Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and God's work?
- (6) Do you know the General Rules of our Church?
- (7) Will you keep the General Rules of our Church?
- (8) Have you studied the doctrines of The United Methodist Church?
- (9) After full examination do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?
- (10) Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?
- (11) Do you approve our Church government and polity?
- (12) Will you support and maintain them?
- (13) Will you exercise the ministry of compassion?
- (14) Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
- (15) Will you visit from house to house?
- (16) Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?
- (17) Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?
- (18) Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?
- (19) Will you observe the following directions?
 - (a) Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.
 - (b) Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.

16. The provisional period ends when the provisional member is received as a full member of the annual conference, or a decision is made not to proceed to full connection following the procedures in ¶327.6.

17. A deacon or elder shall be ordained by a bishop by the laying on of hands, employing the Order of Service for the Order to which he or she will be ordained (see ¶ 415.6). The bishops shall be assisted by other deacons and elders and may include laity designated by the bishop representing the Church community. Bishops in other communions may join the ordaining bishop in laying hands on the head of the candidate, while participating deacons, elders and laity may lay hands on the back or shoulders of the candidate.

¶325 Delete and renumber subsequent paragraphs

~~¶ 325. Commissioning—Commissioning is the act of the church that publicly acknowledges God's call and the response, talents, gifts and training of the candidate. The church invokes the Holy Spirit as the candidate is commissioned to be a faithful servant leader among the people, to lead the church in service, to proclaim the Word of God and to equip others for ministry. Through commissioning, the church sends persons in leadership and service in the name of Jesus Christ and marks their entrance into a time of provisional membership as they prepare for ordination. Commissioned ministers are provisional clergy members of the annual conference and are accountable to the bishop and the clergy session for the conduct of their ministry. During the residency program the clergy session discerns their fitness for ordination and their~~

effectiveness in ministry. After fulfilling all candidacy requirements and upon recommendation of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the clergy session shall vote on the provisional membership and commissioning of the candidates.

The bishop and secretary of the conference shall provide credentials as a provisional member and a commissioned minister in the annual conference.

The period of commissioned ministry is concluded when the provisional members are received as full members of the annual conference and ordained as either deacon or elder, or a decision is made not to proceed toward ordination and provisional membership is ended.

Amend

¶ ~~326.1.~~ Provisional members ~~planning to give their lives as deacons in full connection~~ shall be in ministries of Word, ~~and Service, Compassion and Justice~~ in the local church or in an approved appointment beyond the local church.

A provisional member preparing for ordination as a deacon shall be licensed for the practice of ministry during provisional membership to perform the duties of the ministry of the deacon as stated in [¶ 328](#) and be granted support as stated in [¶ 331.14](#).

2. Provisional members ~~planning to give their lives as elders in full connection~~ shall be in ministries of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service in the local church or in an approved extension ministry.

A provisional member preparing for ordination as an elder shall be licensed for pastoral ministry ([¶ 315](#)).

3. Provisional members who are serving in extension ministries, enrolled in graduate degree programs, or appointments beyond the local church shall be accountable to the district superintendent and the Board of Ordained Ministry for the conduct of ministry, and for demonstrating their effectiveness in the ministry of the order to which they seek to be ordained. In all cases, they will also demonstrate their effectiveness in servant leadership in the local church to the satisfaction of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

4. Provisional members seeking to change their ~~ordination track~~ ordained order shall:....

Amend

¶ ~~327.~~ Eligibility and Rights of Provisional Membership—

....Annually, the Board of Ordained Ministry shall review and evaluate their relationship and make recommendation to the clergy members in full connection regarding their continuance. ~~No member shall be continued on probation beyond the eighth regular session following their admission to provisional membership.~~

~~1. Provisional members who are preparing for deacon's or elder's orders may be ordained deacons or elders when they qualify for membership in full connection in the annual conference.~~

~~2.~~ 1. Provisional members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except the following:

a) constitutional amendments;

b) election of delegates to the general and jurisdictional or central conferences

e) b) all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.....

~~4. 3. Provisional members preparing to become elders shall be eligible for appointment by meeting disciplinary provisions ([¶ 315](#))-....~~

6: 5. . . . a) When ordained provisional members in good standing withdraw to unite with another denomination or to terminate their membership in The United Methodist Church, their action shall be considered a request for discontinuance of their relationship and their ordination and membership credentials shall be surrendered to a district superintendent.

b) Prior to any final recommendation of discontinuance without consent, an ordained provisional member will be advised of the right to a hearing before the executive committee of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry. A report of the action will be made to the full board. The provisions of fair process (§ 362.2) shall be observed and there shall be a review by the administrative review committee under § 636 prior to hearing by the annual conference. When this relationship is discontinued, they shall no longer be permitted to exercise ministerial functions and shall return their ordination and membership credentials to the district superintendent for deposit with the secretary of the conference, and their membership shall be transferred by the district superintendent to the local church they designate after consultation with the pastor. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall file with the resident bishop and the secretary of the conference a permanent record of the circumstances relating to discontinuance as a provisional member as required in § 635.3d. After discontinuance, provisional members may be classified and approved as local pastors in accordance with the provision of § 316.

c) No member shall be continued on provisional membership beyond the eighth regular session following their admission to provisional membership.

Amend title by deletion

Section VII. The Ordained Deacon ~~in Full Connection~~

Amend

¶ 329. Ministry, Authority, and Responsibilities of Deacons ~~in Full Connection~~—

1. Deacons are persons called by God, authorized by the Church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word, ~~and Service, Compassion and Justice~~, to both the community and the congregation in a ministry that connects the two. Deacons exemplify Christian discipleship and create opportunities for others to enter into discipleship. ~~In the world, the deacon seeks to express a ministry of compassion and justice, assisting laypersons as they claim their own ministry.~~ The work of deacons is a work of justice, serving with compassion as they seek to serve those on the margins of society. In the congregation, the ministry of the deacon is to teach and to form disciples, and to lead worship together with other ordained and laypersons.

2. ~~The deacon in full connection shall have the rights of voice and vote in the annual conference where membership is held; shall be eligible to serve as clergy on boards, commissions, or committees of the annual conference and hold office on the same; and shall be eligible for election as a clergy delegate to the General, central, or jurisdictional conference. The deacon in full connection shall attend all the sessions of the annual conference and share with elders in full connection responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (§ 334.1).~~

3. As members of the Order of Deacons, all deacons in full connection are in covenant with all other such deacons in the annual conference and shall participate in the life of their Order.

Add: to all paragraphs referring to deacons where the words “Word and Service” appear the following words, “Compassion and Justice.”

Amend

¶ ~~330.~~ Requirements for ~~Ordination as Deacon and~~ Admission of Ordained Deacon to Full Connection—Provisional members who are applying for admission into full connection and who have been provisional members for at least two years following the completion of the educational requirements for ordination as a deacon specified in .3 below may be admitted into membership in full connection in an annual conference by two-thirds vote of the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference, upon recommendation by two-thirds vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry, after they have qualified as follows:

~~...2. They shall have been previously elected as a provisional member.~~

~~...d) Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection and Ordination as Deacon—The bishop as chief pastor shall engage those seeking to be admitted in serious self-searching and prayer to prepare them for their examination before the conference. At the time of the examination, the bishop shall also explain to the conference the historic nature of the following questions and seek to interpret their spirit and intent. The questions are these and any others which may be thought necessary:~~

~~(1) Have you faith in Christ?~~

~~(2) Are you going on to perfection?~~

~~(3) Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?~~

~~(4) Are you earnestly striving after perfection in love?~~

~~(5) Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and God’s work?~~

~~(6) Do you know the General Rules of our Church?~~

~~(7) Will you keep the General Rules of our Church?~~

~~(8) Have you studied the doctrines of The United Methodist Church?~~

~~(9) After full examination do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?~~

~~(10) Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?~~

~~(11) Do you approve our Church government and polity?~~

~~(12) Will you support and maintain them?~~

~~(13) Will you exercise the ministry of compassion?~~

~~(14) Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?~~

~~(15) Will you visit from house to house?~~

~~(16) Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?~~

~~(17) Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?~~

~~(18) Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?~~

~~(19) Will you observe the following directions?~~

~~(a) Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.~~

~~(b) Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience’ sake.~~

~~6.5.~~ A provisional member of the annual conference who has completed the requirements for ~~deacon’s orders and~~ admission into full membership shall be eligible for election to full membership and ~~ordination as deacon by a bishop~~. Following election, the bishop and secretary

of the conference shall provide a certificate of full membership in the annual conference, ~~and following ordination, a certificate of ordination.~~

7. A deacon shall be ordained by a bishop by the laying on of hands, employing the Order of Service for the Ordination of Deacons (see ¶ 415.6). ~~The bishops shall be assisted by other deacons and may include laity designated by the bishop representing the Church community. Bishops in other communions may join the ordaining bishop in laying hands on the head of the candidate, while participating deacons and laity may lay hands on the back or shoulders of the candidate.~~

Amend by deletion

¶ 331. Appointment of Deacons ~~in Full Connection~~ to Various Ministries—

1. Deacons ~~in full connection~~ may be appointed to serve as their primary field of service:....
2. Deacons ~~in full connection~~ may be appointed to attend school as part of their renewal and personal growth.....
- ...4. When deacons ~~in full connection~~ serve in an agency or setting beyond the local church....
- ...6. The appointment of deacons ~~in full connection~~ shall be made by the bishop.
 - a) It may be initiated by the bishop or the district superintendent, individual deacon ~~in full connection~~, or the agency seeking their service.
 - b) It shall be clarified by a written statement of intentionality of servant leadership in order to establish a clear distinction between the work to which all Christians are called and the work for which deacons ~~in full connection~~ are appropriately prepared and authorized.
 - c) The deacon ~~in full connection~~ shall then seek another appointment,
 - d) Deacons ~~in full connection~~ at their request
7. At the request of the deacon ~~in full connection~~
 - a) The deacon ~~in full connection~~ shall
 - b) Reappointment to less than full-time service shall be requested annually of the bishop by the deacon ~~in full connection~~.
 - c) The bishop may make an interim appointment of less than full-time service upon request of a deacon ~~in full connection~~,
8. With approval and consent of the bishops or other judicatory authorities involved, deacons ~~in full connection~~ from other annual conferences, other Methodist churches, or other denominations may receive appointments in the annual conference while retaining their home conference membership or denominational affiliation. Appointments are to be made by the bishop of the conference in which the deacon ~~in full connection~~ is to serve.
9. Deacons ~~in full connection~~ with the approval
10. Deacons ~~in full connection~~ who are serving

Insert New Paragraph after current ¶331. Renumber subsequent paragraphs.

Voting Rights for Deacons in Full Connection - The deacon in full connection shall have the rights of voice and vote in the annual conference where membership is held; shall be eligible to serve as clergy on boards, commissions, or committees of the annual conference and hold office on the same; and shall be eligible for election as a clergy delegate to the General, central, or jurisdictional conference. The deacon in full connection shall attend all the sessions of the annual

conference and share with elders in full connection responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (§ 334.1).

Amend title by deletion

Section VIII. The Ordained Elder ~~in Full Connection~~

Amend

¶ 332. Ministry of an Elder—Elders are ordained ministers who, by God’s grace, have completed their formal preparation and ~~have been commissioned and served as a provisional member,~~ have been found by the Church to be of sound learning,...

1. Elders by virtue of their ordination are bound in special covenant with all the ordained elders of the annual conference. In the keeping of this covenant they perform the ministerial duties and maintain the ministerial standards established by those in the covenant. They offer themselves without reserve to be appointed and to serve, after consultation, as the appointive authority may determine. They live with all other ordained ministers in mutual trust and concern and seek with them the sanctification of the fellowship. By entering into the covenant, they accept and subject themselves to the process of clergy discipline, including serving on committees on investigation, trial courts, or appellate committees. Only those shall be elected to full membership who are of unquestionable moral character and genuine piety, sound in the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, and faithful in the discharge of their duties.¹²

2. A provisional member of the annual conference who has completed the requirements for admission into full membership shall be eligible for election to full membership. Following election, the bishop and secretary of the conference shall provide a certificate of full membership in the annual conference.

¶333. Delete and renumber subsequent paragraphs

~~¶ 333. Elders in Full Connection—1. Elders in full connection with an annual conference by virtue of their election and ordination are bound in special covenant with all the ordained elders of the annual conference. In the keeping of this covenant they perform the ministerial duties and maintain the ministerial standards established by those in the covenant. They offer themselves without reserve to be appointed and to serve, after consultation, as the appointive authority may determine. They live with all other ordained ministers in mutual trust and concern and seek with them the sanctification of the fellowship. By entering into the covenant, they accept and subject themselves to the process of clergy discipline, including serving on committees on investigation, trial courts, or appellate committees. Only those shall be elected to full membership who are of unquestionable moral character and genuine piety, sound in the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, and faithful in the discharge of their duties.~~¹²

~~2. A provisional member of the annual conference who has completed the requirements for Elder’s Orders and admission into full membership shall be eligible for election to full membership and ordination as elder by a bishop. Following election, the bishop and secretary of the conference shall provide a certificate of full membership in the annual conference, and following ordination, a certificate of ordination.~~

3. An elder shall be ordained by a bishop by the laying on of hands, employing the Order of Service for the Ordination of Elders (see ¶ 415.6). The bishop shall be assisted by other elders and may include laity designated by the bishop representing the Church community. Bishops in other communions may join the ordaining bishop in laying hands on the head of the candidate, while participating elders and laity may lay hands on the back or shoulders of the candidate.

Amend by deletion

¶ 334. ~~Ministry, Authority, and Responsibilities of an Elders in Full Connection~~—An elder in full connection is authorized to give spiritual and temporal servant leadership in the Church in the following manner:

1. ~~Elders in full connection shall have the right to vote on all matters in the annual conference except in the election of lay delegates to the general and jurisdictional or central conferences (¶ 602.1a) and shall share with deacons in full connection responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. This responsibility shall not be limited by the recommendation or lack of recommendation by the Board of Ordained Ministry, notwithstanding provisions which grant to the Board of Ordained Ministry the right of recommendation.¹³ They shall be eligible to hold office in the annual conference and to be elected delegates to the general and jurisdictional or central conferences under the provision of the Constitution (¶ 35, Article IV). Every effective elder in full connection who is in good standing shall be continued under appointment by the bishop provided that if the elder is appointed to serve in an affiliated relationship in a missionary conference (¶ 586) and that appointment is terminated by the bishop who presides in the missionary conference, then the responsibility for meeting this obligation rests with the bishop of the conference of which the elder is a member.¹⁴....~~

Amend

¶ 335. ~~Requirements for Admission to Full Connection and Ordination as an Elder~~—Provisional members who are candidates for full connection ~~and ordination as elders~~ and have been provisional members for at least two years may be admitted into membership in full connection in an annual conference ~~and approved for elder's ordination~~ by two-thirds vote of the clergy members in full connection

Insert New ¶ after current ¶335. Renumber subsequent paragraphs.

Voting Rights of Elders in Full Connection - 1. Elders in full connection shall have the right to vote on all matters in the annual conference except in the election of lay delegates to the general and jurisdictional or central conferences (¶ 602.1a) and shall share with deacons in full connection responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. This responsibility shall not be limited by the recommendation or lack of recommendation by the Board of Ordained Ministry, notwithstanding provisions which grant to the Board of Ordained Ministry the right of recommendation.¹³ They shall be eligible to hold office in the annual conference and to be elected delegates to the general and jurisdictional or central conferences under the provision of the Constitution (¶ 35, Article IV).

¶336. Delete and renumber subsequent paragraphs

Admission and Continuance of Full Membership in the Annual Conference

~~¶ 336. Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection—The bishop as chief pastor shall engage those seeking to be admitted in serious self-searching and prayer to prepare them for their examination before the conference. At the time of the examination the bishop shall also explain to the conference the historic nature of the following questions and seek to interpret their spirit and intent. The questions are these and any others that may be thought necessary:~~

- ~~1. Have you faith in Christ?~~
- ~~2. Are you going on to perfection?~~
- ~~3. Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?~~
- ~~4. Are you earnestly striving after it?~~
- ~~5. Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and his work?~~
- ~~6. Do you know the General Rules of our Church?~~
- ~~7. Will you keep them?~~
- ~~8. Have you studied the doctrines of The United Methodist Church?~~
- ~~9. After full examination, do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?~~
- ~~10. Will you preach and maintain them?~~
- ~~11. Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?~~
- ~~12. Do you approve our Church government and polity?~~
- ~~13. Will you support and maintain them?~~
- ~~14. Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?~~
- ~~15. Will you visit from house to house?~~
- ~~16. Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?~~
- ~~17. Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?~~
- ~~18. Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?~~
- ~~19. Will you observe the following directions?~~
 - ~~a) Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.~~
 - ~~b) Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.¹⁸~~

Amend

¶ 337. General Provisions—

- ~~1. All elders in full connection who are in good standing in an annual conference shall be continued under appointment by the bishop unless they are granted a sabbatical leave, an incapacity leave (¶ 357), family leave, a leave of absence, retirement, or have failed to meet the requirements for continued eligibility (¶ 334.2, .3), provided that if the elder is appointed to serve in an affiliated relationship in a missionary conference (¶ 586.4.b) and that appointment is terminated by the bishop who presides in the missionary conference, then the responsibility for meeting this obligation rests with the bishop of the conference of which the elder is a member.¹⁹~~
- ~~2. 1. In addition to ~~o~~ Ordained elders; and persons who have been granted a license for pastoral ministry and who have been approved by vote of the clergy members in full connection may be~~

appointed to local churches as ~~pastors in charge under certain conditions, which are specified in ¶¶ 315–318.~~ All clergy members and licensed local pastors to be appointed shall assume a lifestyle consistent with Christian teaching as set forth in the Social Principles.

~~3. 2. Elders and deacons in full connection,~~

~~...c) All persons in such appointments should shall:~~

~~...3. In the case that an elder or associate member in good standing is not continued under appointment one of the following steps shall be taken:~~

~~a) If the elder is not continued because a missional appointment is not available, then the bishop shall recommend the elder to the Board of Ordained Ministry for transitional leave (¶XXX).~~

~~b) If the elder is not continued because of ineffectiveness then the bishop shall initiate a complaint according to the processes in ¶361 at least 90 days prior to the annual conference.~~

Amend

¶ 338. The Itinerant System—The itinerant system is the accepted method of The United Methodist Church by which ordained elders are appointed by the bishop to fields of labor.²⁰ All ordained elders shall accept and abide by these appointments. Bishops and cabinets shall commit to and support open itineracy and the protection of the prophetic pulpit and diversity. Persons appointed to multiple-staff ministries,

...2. At the initiative of the bishop and cabinet or at his or her request, an elder may receive a less than full-time appointment. Less than full-time service may be rendered by a clergy member under the conditions stipulated in this paragraph.²¹ Less than full-time service shall mean that a specified amount of time less than full-time agreed upon by the bishop and the cabinet, the clergy member, and the annual conference Board of Ordained Ministry is devoted to the work of ministry in the field of labor to which the person is appointed by the bishop. At the initiative of the bishop and cabinet or at his or her own initiative, a clergy member may request and may be appointed in one-quarter, one-half, or three-quarter time increments by the bishop to less than full-time service without loss of essential rights or membership in the annual conference. Division Ordained Ministry-endorsed appointments beyond the local church may be for less than full-time service. Appointment to less than full-time service is not a guarantee, but may be made by the bishop, provided that the following conditions are met:

a) The ordained elder seeking less than full-time service should present a written request to the bishop and the chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry at least ~~three months~~ 90 days prior to the annual conference session at which the appointment is made. Exceptions to the ~~three-month~~ 90 day deadline shall be approved by the cabinet and the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

b) The bishop may appoint an ordained elder, provisional member elder, or an associate member to less than full-time service. The clergy person shall be notified at least 90 days prior to the annual conference at which the appointment shall be made. Special attention shall be given to ensure that the values of open itineracy are preserved....

Amend

¶ 342. Support for Elders ~~in Full Connection~~ Appointed to Pastoral Charges—

....1. Support for Elders ~~in Full Connection~~ Appointed to Pastoral Charges Who Render Full-Time Service—Each elder ~~in full connection~~ of an annual conference

...2. Support for Ordained Elders Appointed to Pastoral Charges Who Render Less than Full-Time Service—Each elder ~~in full connection~~ who is in good standing

Amend

¶ 344. Provisions for Appointment to Extension Ministries—

....1. b) Appointments to extension ministries of elders ~~in full connection~~,

...3. Relation to the Local Church—

.... All conference members who are elders ~~in full connection~~,

Amend

¶ 349. Mentors—....

1.a) Candidates will be assigned to a candidacy mentoring group wherever possible or to a candidacy mentor by the district committee on ordained ministry in consultation with the vocational discernment coordinator (wherever named) and the district superintendent (¶ 311).

4. Clergy mentoring begins when a person receives an appointment as a local pastor or as a ~~commissioned minister entering provisional service~~ provisional member deacon or elder.

Insert New ¶ after current ¶ 353 and renumber subsequent ¶¶

Transitional Leave – 1. In order for the church to be missional in its focus, and flexible in appointment making, associate, provisional, and members in full connection may move into the status of transitional leave for up to 24 months during a period of time that they are between appointments. A request to the Board of Ordained Ministry for transitional leave may come from a clergy person or a bishop and cabinet whenever it is clear that appointive service will be interrupted. The request must come at least 90 days prior to the annual conference session. Transitional leave request require the approval of the bishop and cabinet and the annual conference board of ordained ministry and shall include a plan for future service to the church, appointive or otherwise.

A transitional leave of absence may be granted for the following reasons:

- (1) An associate member, provisional or full connection elder is not appointed.
- (2) A provisional or full member deacon needs to seek and secure an appointable primary position – compensated or nonsalaried.
- (3) A provisional member, associate member, or full member elder needs to transition from an extension ministry to another appointment.

2. Between sessions of the annual conference, transitional leave of absence may be granted or terminated for a deacon, with the approval of the bishop and district superintendents, by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry. 40 This interim action shall be subject to the approval of the clergy session of members in full connection with the annual conference at its next session.

3. Should there be active complaints or charges, a request for transitional leave of absence shall not be permitted until those complaints or charges have been resolved. At the resolution of completion of an administrative or judicial complaint process, a clergy respondent may be placed

on transitional leave if the process has taken at least 90 days following initial notification of the complaint to the respondent.

4. Clergy on transitional leave of absence shall have no claim on the conference funds. Notwithstanding the foregoing, where the conference has made certain elections under applicable benefit plans that require continued participation by the clergy on voluntary leaves of absence, the clergy shall continue to participate in such plans. They may participate in the conference health program through their own contributions, if applicable.

5. Clergypersons on transitional leave shall be eligible for membership on annual conference committees, commissions, or boards. They may vote for other clergy delegates to general or jurisdictional conferences and may be elected to serve as delegates themselves.

6. After consultation and with the written consent of the pastor in charge, and with the approval of the district superintendent and the staff-parish relations committee of a local church, clergy members shall designate a charge conference within the bounds of the annual conference to which they shall related and submit an annual report. They shall report all marriages performed, baptisms administered, funerals conducted and other ministerial activities to the charge conference, pastor in charge, and Board of Ordained Ministry. The exercise of this ministry shall be limited to the charge conference to which they relate and with the written permission of the pastor in charge unless special permission is granted by the bishop of the conference where membership is held. With the permission of the bishop of the conference where membership is held, under the supervision of the district superintendent, the clergy members may preach, teach, perform marriages, and, if holding sacramental privileges, administer the sacraments outside of the charge where membership is held.

7. Those on transitional leave of absence shall be held amenable to the annual conference for their conduct and the performance of their ministry. In case of failure to report to the Board of Ordained Ministry, the complaint procedures may be invoked (§ 361).

8. Clergy members on transitional leave of absence may, with the permission of the bishop and with the approval of the United Methodist Endorsing Agency, continue to hold an existing reserve commission as an armed forces chaplain, but may not voluntarily serve on extended active duty.

Amend by deletion

¶ 354 Voluntary Leave of Absence

2. A voluntary leave of absence may be taken for a variety of reasons:...

~~e) Transitional Leave—A leave granted for up to twelve months with approval of the bishop and the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee to provisional and associate members and full clergy members in good standing who are temporarily between appointments.~~

~~A transitional leave of absence may be granted for the following reasons:~~

~~(1) A provisional or full member deacon needs to seek and secure an appointable primary position—compensated or nonsalaried.~~

~~(2) A provisional member, associate member, or full member elder needs to transition from an extension ministry to another appointment.~~

~~During transitional leave, the clergyperson shall provide quarterly substantiation of his or her effort to obtain such an appointable position to the bishop and to the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee.~~

3. Written request for a voluntary leave of absence, ~~with the exception of transitional leave,~~ should be made at least ninety days prior to the annual conference...

11. When an end to voluntary leave of absence is requested, ~~except for transitional leave,~~ it shall be by written request at least six months prior to the session of annual conference....

Renumber subsequent paragraphs.

Amend by deletion

¶ 364. Readmission to Provisional Membership—....When reinstated by vote of the clergy members in full connection, their provisional membership in the conference shall be restored, they shall serve a minimum of two years of provisional membership according to ¶ 326. ~~prior to ordination, and they shall be authorized by licensing and/or commissioning to perform those ministerial functions for which they are qualified.~~

Amend

¶ 524. Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy—1. It shall meet at least ~~biennially~~ annually....

3. The jurisdictional committee on episcopacy shall:

a) Review and evaluate annually the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report such evaluations and other findings to the jurisdictional conference for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The evaluation shall include those areas of responsibility outlined in ¶ 414, ~~and~~ ¶ 415, and ¶416 as well as the bishop's leadership in the promotion and support of the full payment of apportionments.

Amend by addition

¶ 635. Conference Board of Ordained Ministry—

....1. c) The board shall organize by electing from its membership a chairperson, registrars, and such other officers as it may deem necessary. A vocational discernment coordinator may be named to coordinate the candidacy mentoring process.

2. b) To renew a culture of call in the church by giving strategic leadership to annual conferences, districts, congregations, campus ministries, camps, and other appropriate ministries, especially among youth and young adults.

Renumber subsequent points