2016 LICENSED AND ORDAINED MINISTRY CREDENTIALING REQUIREMENTS

Below are *Disciplinary* requirements for certified candidacy, licensing, associate, provisional, and full membership. Please confirm additional steps that your annual conference requires for credentialing.

To Become a Certified Candidate (¶ 310)

- 1. Obtain high school diploma or equivalency.
- 2. Be a UM member or an active, baptized participant in a UM ministry setting for at least one year.
- 3. Read *The Christian as Minister* and talk with your pastor, campus minister, or another deacon or elder about your call.
- 4. Receive P/SPRC approval (or equivalent body as determined by dCOM).
- 5. Receive charge conference approval (church or other approved ministry setting) to enter candidacy process.
- 6. Applicant writes to DS outlining call and desire to enter candidacy (may also include meeting with dCOM).
- 7. DS or other appointed officer enters candidate into UMCARES, selects Candidacy Track & Psychological Assessment Track (as appropriate).
- 8. DS or other appointed officer assigns mentor via UMCARES.
- 9. Applicant receives email invitation from UMCARES to register.
- 10. Mentor receives email notification from UMCARES assigning candidate.
- 11. DS approves candidate's application via UMCARES.
- 12. Candidate pays application fee and receives Candidacy Guidebook.
- 13. Meet with mentor (individually or with group).
- 14. Complete criminal background check, credit check, and psychological assessment.
- 15. Mentor submits report to dCOM before candidate interviews for certification.
- 16. Agree to live according to the highest ideals of the Christian life, as set forth in ¶¶ 101–104 and ¶¶ 160–166 (Social Principles).
- 17. Request to interview for certified candidacy with the dCOM and receive ¾ approval of dCOM to become certified (written ballot, ¶ 666.6).
- 18. Mentor, Candidacy Registrar, or BOM staff indicates certification approval/denial in UMCARES.
- 19. Receive annual charge conference and dCOM approval to continue as certified candidate.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

To Become a Local Pastor and Be Licensed (¶ 315)

- 1. Become a certified candidate.
- 2. Complete BOM-sponsored Orientation to Ministry (¶ 312).
- 3. Successfully complete Licensing School or 1/3 of M.Div. degree.
- 4. Be recommended by a ¾ majority vote of the dCOM and BOM for initial license and annual report.
- 5. Receive approval for licensing by a ¾ majority vote of the clergy session.
- 6. Receive appointment from the bishop.

To Become an Associate Member (¶ 322)

- 1. Minimum forty years of age with four years' service as a full-time local pastor or equivalent.
- 2. Complete Course of Study and minimum 60 hours toward a B. A. or equivalent.
- 3. Recommended by a ¾ majority vote of the dCOM and BOM.
- 4. Accept full-time continuing appointment.
- 5. Satisfy BOM physical health requirements, psychological reports, and criminal background and credit checks.
- 6. Complete written doctrinal examination (¶ 324.9) and prepare written sermon on suggested Bible passage.
- 7. Receive approval for associate membership by a ¾ majority vote of the clergy session.

To Become a Provisional Member via Course of Study (¶ 324.6)

- 1. Complete four years of full-time service or the equivalent.
- 2. Satisfy all requirements of Sections 1-3 and 7-14 of ¶ 324.
- 3. Complete bachelor's degree.
- 4. Complete Course of Study with no more than ½ taken online or via correspondence.
- 5. Complete Advanced Course of Study through a University Senate-approved seminary.
- 6. Submit autobiographical statement and written doctrinal exam to BOM.
- 7. Present certificate of good health and Candidate's Disclosure Form 114.
- 8. Be interviewed by dCOM and recommended in writing to BOM by ¾ majority vote of dCOM (¶ 324.10).
- 9. Be interviewed by BOM and recommended to clergy session by 3/4 majority vote of BOM (¶ 324.14).
- 10. Receive approval for provisional membership by a ¾ majority vote of the clergy session.



To Become a Provisional Member via Graduate Education (¶ 324)

- 1. Certified candidate for at least one year, maximum 12 years (¶ 313.5, ¶ 324.1).
- 2. Demonstrate gifts for ministry of service and leadership to the dCOM's satisfaction (¶ 324.2).
- 3. Be interviewed by dCOM and recommended in writing to BOM by a ¾ majority vote of dCOM (¶ 324.10).
- 4. Complete BOM-sponsored Orientation to Ministry (¶ 312).
- 5. Complete bachelor's degree.
- 6. Complete ½ of M.Div. (deacon or elder), or ½ of master's degree in specialized field plus ½ of Basic Graduate Theological Studies (deacon).
- 7. Present certificate of good health and Candidate's Disclosure Form 114.
- 8. Submit autobiographical statement and written doctrinal exam to BOM.
- Be interviewed by BOM and recommended to clergy session by ¾ majority vote of BOM (¶ 324.14).
- 10. Receive approval for provisional membership by a ¾ majority vote of the clergy session.

To Become a Full Member Deacon (¶ 330) or Elder (¶ 335)

- 1. Been previously elected as a provisional member.
- 2. Serve under appointment for at least two full annual conference years.
- 3. Complete education requirements: M.Div. (deacon or elder); or master's degree in specialized field, plus the Basic Graduate Theological Studies (deacon).
- Respond to written or oral doctrinal exam administered by BOM.
- 5. Present project demonstrating fruitfulness carrying out church's mission of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."
- 6. Apply to and interview with BOM to receive ¾ BOM recommendation for ordination.
- 7. Receive ¾ majority approval of clergy session, participate in ordination service, and be ordained by a Bishop.