



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CLERGY TRANSFERS

The Board of Ordained Ministry shall “be in consultation with the bishop through the chairperson or the executive committee regarding transfers.” This consultation is to be at the bishop’s initiative and, where possible, to take place prior to transfers into the annual conference.” (§ 635.2.n)

Clergy from other Methodist denominations do not go through the same process as clergy from non-Methodist denominations. (§ 347.2)

Candidate and clergy documents held by the annual conference are the property of the annual conference.

TRANSFERS FROM METHODIST DENOMINATIONS (§ 347.2)

- Clergyperson notifies the conference of their intent to transfer.
- Bishops provide consent.
- BOM chairperson or executive committee shall be consulted to determine if the clergyperson meets the standards for conference membership. Determination involves these documents:
 - The list of “other Methodist denominations” is the World Methodist Council list. (<https://worldmethodistcouncil.org/member-churches/>) [At this time, The Global Methodist Church is not listed.]
 - Psychological report
 - Criminal background report
 - Credit Check report
 - Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse report
 - Notarized statement detailing convictions or felonies
 - Notarized statement certifying the clergyperson has not been convicted of felonies, misdemeanors, sexual misconduct, or child abuse.
- GBHEM certifies the satisfaction of the clergyperson’s educational requirements.
- BOM executive committee makes a recommendation to the clergy session.
- Clergy session votes on the BOM recommendation.
- Clergyperson may be received as a Local Pastor, Provisional Member, or Member in Full Connection.



TRANSFERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS (§ 347.3)

- Clergy person notifies the conference of their intent to transfer.
- Clergy person presents credentials to the bishop and the BOM.
- Clergy person “gives assurance” of their Christian faith and experience.
- Clergy person “gives evidence” of their agreement and willingness to support and maintain UM doctrine, discipline, and polity.
- BOM chairperson or executive committee shall be consulted to determine if the clergy person meets the standards for conference membership. Determination involves these documents:
 - Certificate of good health
 - Psychological report
 - Criminal background report
 - Credit Check report
 - Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse report
 - Notarized statement detailing convictions or felonies
 - Notarized statement certifying the clergy person has not been convicted of felonies, misdemeanors, sexual misconduct, or child abuse
- BOM, in consultation with GBHEM, certifies the satisfaction of the clergy person’s educational requirements.
- BOM executive committee makes a recommendation to the clergy session.
- Clergy session votes on the BOM recommendation.
- Clergy person may be received as a Local Pastor or Provisional Member.
- Clergy person serves as a Provisional Member for at least 2 years.
- Clergy person completes all requirements of § 335, including courses in UM history, doctrine, and polity, before being admitted into Full Connection.
- After admittance into full membership, the ordination credential submitted at the beginning of this process is returned to the clergy person with the inscription indicated in § 347.6.
- Bishop signs and provides the clergy person a certificate of “recognition of orders”.



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WITHDRAWAL TO UNITE WITH ANOTHER DENOMINATION (§ 360.1)

- Clergyperson submits a written request to withdrawal to the conference secretary.
- Clergyperson submits their certificate of conference membership (different than a certificate of ordination) to the conference secretary, thus terminating their conference membership but not their ordination.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ORDAINED MINISTERIAL OFFICE (§ 360.2)

- Clergyperson submits a written request to withdrawal to their district superintendent for deposit with the conference secretary.
- Clergyperson submits their certificate of conference membership to their district superintendent for deposit with the conference secretary.
- Clergyperson submits their certificate of ordination to their district superintendent for deposit with the conference secretary.
- Clergy session votes to approve the withdrawal request.

WITHDRAWAL BETWEEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS (§ 360.4)

- Clergy submits a written request to withdrawal to their district superintendent or bishop for deposit with the conference secretary.
- Clergy submits their certificate of conference membership to their district superintendent or bishop for deposit with the conference secretary.
- Clergyperson submits their certificate of ordination to their district superintendent or bishop for deposit with the conference secretary.
- BOM reports the withdrawal to the clergy session at the next annual conference session.

The effective date of withdrawal is the date the written request was received (*JCD 691*).

The certificate of membership and certificate of ordination are distinct and tangible documents.