



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Guidelines for Evaluating a Site for Extension Ministry

¶ 344.1d – Other Valid Christian Ministries

These questions are provided for guidance for the BOM and clergy in considering the appropriateness of an extension ministry setting under ¶ 344.1d. These questions are not a checklist but are guidelines to help frame a conversation between clergy, the BOM, and/or cabinet.

For All Clergy

- Within the context of your call to ordained or licensed ministry, identify your sense of call to this particular ministry.
- How does this ministry enrich the church's effectiveness in mission?
- Is the ministry congruent with the annual conference's missional commitment to the world?
- In what ways does serving in this setting minister to the world's needs as related to the Church's mission?
- What gifts, training, education, and experience have prepared you to serve in this setting?
- What are the accountability structures in this setting and how will you continue to fulfill other membership responsibilities and participate in covenant community among clergy?
- What accountability structures would the cabinet and BOM recommend?

For Deacons

- How will you fulfill the ordination vows to Word, Service, Compassion and Justice?

For Elders

- How will you fulfill the ordination vows to Word, Service, Sacrament and Order?
- Are you prepared to accept an appointment to a local church or other ministry setting if requested to do so?

Discipline Reference

¶ 344.1d) Other Valid Christian Ministries. *With the approval of the bishop and the Board of Ordained Ministry, clergy may be appointed to other valid Christian ministries which extend the work of the Church into the world. These appointments shall be initiated in missional response to the needs of people in special circumstances and unique situations and shall reflect the commitment of the clergy to intentional fulfillment of their ordination vows. Conference members in such appointments retain conference membership, and the annual conference may choose to extend financial support and benefits for its clergy by vote of the annual conference. (See ¶624.3, .5)*

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, in order to assist boards of ordained ministry, will provide standards and consultation to assist in validating the appropriateness of special ministry settings.