2020/2024 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 Passage.*
8. Applicant receives email invitation from Passage to register.
9. Mentor receives email notification from Passage assigning candidate.
10. DS approves candidate's application via Passage.
11. Candidate pays annual conference application fees and receives *Answering the Call* – the Candidacy Guidebook.
12. Meet with candidacy mentor (individually or with group).
13. Complete criminal background check, credit check, and psychological assessment.
14. Mentor submits report to dCOM before candidate interviews for certification.
15. Agree to live according to the highest ideals of the Christian life, as set forth in ¶¶ 102–105 (Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task) and ¶¶ 160–164 (Social Principles).
16. Request to interview for certified candidacy with the dCOM and receive ¾ approval of dCOM to become certified (written ballot, ¶ 666.7).
17. Mentor, Candidacy Registrar, or BOM staff indicates certification approval/denial in Passage.
18. Receive annual charge conference and dCOM approval to continue as certified candidate.

**Passage is the candidacy registry system managed by GBHEM (¶310.1.c).*

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 at a University Senate-approved theological school.
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 6-12 of ¶ 324.
3. Complete Course of Study.
4. Complete Advanced Course of Study through a University Senate-approved seminary.
5. Submit autobiographical statement and written doctrinal exam to BOM.
6. Present Medical Form 103 and Candidate's Disclosure Form 114.
7. Be interviewed by dCOM and recommended in writing to BOM by ¾ majority vote of dCOM (¶ 324.8).
8. Be interviewed by BOM and recommended to clergy session by ¾ majority vote of BOM (¶ 324.12).
9. 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 (¶ 324.8).
4. Complete BOM-sponsored Orientation to Ministry (¶ 312).
5. Complete bachelor's degree.
6. Complete ½ of M.Div. (deacon or elder), including all of the Basic Graduate Theological Studies courses, or ½ of master's degree in specialized field plus the Basic Graduate Theological Studies (deacon).
7. Present Medical Form 103 and Candidate's Disclosure Form 114.
8. Submit autobiographical statement and written doctrinal exam to BOM.
9. Be interviewed by BOM and recommended to clergy session by ¾ majority vote of BOM (¶ 324.12).
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).
4. 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.