

## Candidacy Summit

**What is Candidacy Summit?** *The Candidacy Summit is a multi-day event during which everyone entering candidacy in the Texas Annual Conference receives accurate information about the entire candidacy process; begins meeting together in small groups with trained mentors; and has opportunities to worship, share their call stories, meet District Superintendents and other supporters, and take required psychological tests.*

**When and Where?** *Summits are scheduled once each year, in late July or early August, at Camp Allen in Navasota, TX. The deadline to sign up each year is June 1.*

**How do I register?** *Your district office can give you a Candidacy Summit Application Form, or it is available at [www.txcumc.org/bom](http://www.txcumc.org/bom) (click 'Candidates' on the left). Complete the form, ask your DS to sign it, and then mail it to the Candidacy Manager Shanda Levingston at the address on the form with a check for \$100. Applications received after June 1 will be registered for next year's summit.*

**Why \$100?** *The Summit is free—lodging, meals, and resources are a gift to you from the Texas Annual Conference. However, you will need to provide your own transportation to and from the Summit, and you will have to pay \$100, which is only a portion of the cost for the psychological assessment which is required for all people entering candidacy for licensed or ordained ministry. If you need help paying the \$100, please let your pastor, church, or District office know. They may be able to assist you.*

*“Before I shaped you in the womb,  
I knew all about you.  
Before you saw the light of day,  
I had holy plans for you...”*

*Jeremiah 1:5  
The Message*



**Questions? Here's who to call:**

**Shanda Levingston**  
Candidacy Manager  
713-521-9383 ext. 306  
[slevingston@txcumc.org](mailto:slevingston@txcumc.org)

**Rev. Michelle Hall**  
Assoc. Director, Center for Clergy Excellence  
713-521-9383 ext. 325  
[mhall@txcumc.org](mailto:mhall@txcumc.org)

## Where and How is God Calling You to Serve?



Perhaps your pastor, a friend at church, or a family member said, “You know, you’d make a great pastor.” Or maybe you’ve been active in your church for a long time, you are ready to make a career decision, and working in a church full-time just sounds “right” for you. Maybe you’ve had a clear feeling that God wants you to be a pastor or minister for many years. Perhaps you’ve just been wondering if God could use you to lead other Christians.

**God may be calling you to consider  
preparing for full-time ministry in the  
United Methodist Church.**

**So, what now?**

## This is a new idea for me.

Begin by **sharing your feelings** with trusted friends, a youth counselor, a Sunday School teacher, and/or your pastor, and ask them to pray with you about this possibility.



The Bible contains many reports of God's call to individuals and many different responses to that call. As you examine the responses of these persons to God's call to them, reflect on how you might have responded if you had been in their situation. Then compare the ways, if any, that your own experience is similar to these experiences.

Abraham & Sarah	Genesis 12 & 17
Moses	Exodus 3-4
Joshua	Joshua 1
Deborah	Judges 4:4-22
Gideon	Judges 6:11-18
Hannah & Samuel	I Samuel 1-4
Isaiah	Isaiah 6
Jeremiah	Jeremiah 1:4-19
Ezekiel	Ezekiel 1-3
Zechariah & Elizabeth	Luke 1
Mary	Luke 1
John the Baptist	Luke 3:1-20
Jesus	Matthew 3-4; Mark 1; Luke 3-4
Peter	Luke 5:1-11
Paul	Acts 9; Romans 1:1-6; Galatians 1
Timothy	2 Timothy 3:10-4:5
A ruler	Luke 18:18-30
Nicodemus	John 3:1-16

I'm ready to talk with my pastor about this.  
What will happen next?

All Christians are called to minister and to serve others. We're called in many different ways and at different times throughout our lives. However,

- If you think God might be calling you to prepare for professional ministry—full-time service as a minister;

And

- If you have been a member of a United Methodist Church, campus ministry, new church start or mission for one year,

It's time to visit your pastor or another United Methodist clergyperson.



Together, you will read through and discuss one of these three books:

*The Christian as Minister*  
*Ministry Inquiry Process*  
*Answering God's Call for Your Life*

Each of these can be purchased from Cokesbury Bookstore: 1.800.672.1789 | [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com)

Then, if you still believe God might be calling you to licensed or ordained ministry, **contact your District Superintendent (DS).**

Get yourself signed up...

As you take the next steps, the following 3 things need to happen (not necessarily in this order):

- Write a letter to your DS officially requesting to enter "candidacy," the UM process of discerning whether God is calling you to licensed or ordained ministry.
- Ask your pastor or church to send a letter to your DS officially stating that you have been a member there for at least one year.
- Schedule an "interview" with your DS (this may happen one-on-one or in a group with others like you who are considering ministry; it may be in-person or on the phone)

Once your DS has interviewed you and agrees that you are ready to begin "candidacy," it's time to register for **Candidacy Summit!**

