



## **2016 *Book of Discipline* - Update for District Committees on Ordained Ministry and Boards of Ordained Ministry**

*NOTE: This material is for use in training dCOMs and BOMs. The main changes are listed below. However, there are additional changes to the 2016 Discipline. While this draft shows anticipated language for the 2016 Book of Discipline, the Discipline is not final until published. The published 2016 Book of Discipline supersedes any language in this draft.*

### ***Candidacy***

#### ***Lay Supply***

¶ 205.4 – If a layperson’s assignment to a pastoral charge will last longer than one year, “**within that year the layperson will begin the process of becoming either a certified lay minister or a certified candidate, thus coming under the care of the dCOM.**”

#### ***Financial Support for Candidates***

¶ 303.4, ¶ 310.2d), ¶ 313.2 – Churches are encouraged to assist candidates with expenses. Candidates are required to provide a report each year that details how their local church is supporting them spiritually and financially.

#### ***Translation***

¶ 310.2b)(2) – “The dCOM through the BOM shall seek ways to consider cultural and ethnic/racial realities **and language translations as candidates** meet these requirements, **including interviews, psychological assessment, criminal background, and credit checks**” (see ¶ 666.4).

### ***Local Pastor***

#### ***Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members***

¶ 323.2 – The elected chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members shall be a member of the BOM and its executive committee. The elected chair may be a full-time or part-time local pastor.

#### ***Local Pastor Clergy Membership***

¶ 324.1 – Clarifies that local pastors are clergy members of the annual conference. The “12-year candidacy clock” no longer applies to them when they are appointed.

#### ***Provisional Membership for Local Pastors***

¶ 324.6 – Replaced the 40 years’ minimum age requirement with a four years of full-time service requirement.



## ***Expand Course of Study***

¶ 324.6c) (2) – Added option for local pastors to complete Course of Study requirements in conjunction with an approved bachelor’s degree program at a United Methodist-related undergraduate institution.

*(NOTE: GBHEM is developing the process for undergraduate institutions to offer Course of Study (COS). All COS programs must be approved by GBHEM before they are recognized. Contact the office for Local Pastors/COS at GBHEM before accepting any undergraduate work toward the completion of COS. Details regarding the development of this option will be made available as a process is finalized.)*

## ***Advanced Course of Study***

¶ 324.6d) – The Advanced Course of Study must include completion of the 27 semester hours of the Basic Graduate Theological Studies.

## ***Commissioning and Provisional Membership***

### ***Basic Graduate Theological Studies***

¶ 324.4 – Changed the minimum semester hours from 24 to 27.

### ***Provisional Membership Doctrinal Questions***

¶ 324.9k – Updated wording requiring the candidate to explain their understanding of the distinctive vocations of deacon and elder. The new question reads, “**Explain your understanding of the distinctive vocations of the order of elder and the order of deacon.** How do you perceive yourself, your gifts, your motives, your role, and your commitment as a provisional **deacon or provisional elder** in the UMC?”

## ***Deacons***

### ***Sacramental Responsibility for Deacons***

¶ 328 – The resident bishop of the conference where a deacon serves may authorize the deacon to preside at the celebration of the sacraments. The deacon may request and the bishop may grant this authorization without consultation of the district superintendent.

### ***Appointments Beyond the Local Church***

¶ 331 – ABLC guidelines provided. Language regarding Extension Ministry and ABLC was clarified to show that deacons serve ABLC while elders, local pastors, associate members serve Extension Ministry. Clarified that deacons may pursue endorsement when needed.



## ***Ordination and Full Membership***

### ***Ordination Questions***

¶ 330.5a)(5) (Deacons) and ¶ 335.a)(5) (Elders) – Deleted due to repetition.

### ***Voting***

All major votes for candidacy, licensing, provisional and full membership have been made consistent to require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote from all bodies (dCOM, BOM, Clergy Session).

See ¶¶ 315.1d), 315.6b), 315.6d), 322.1, 324, 330, 335.

## ***Mentoring and Mentors***

### ***Part-time Local Pastors***

¶ 348.1b) – Part-time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study may now serve as clergy mentors.

### ***Clergy Mentoring Groups***

¶ 348.3 – Conferences are encouraged to assign local pastors and provisional members to clergy mentoring groups whenever possible.

## ***Conference Relations***

### ***Less than Full-time Appointment***

¶ 338.1 – Remains the same as 2012 *Book of Discipline*

¶ 338.2. *Less Than Full-Time Service* – On occasion, less than full-time service is requested by or required of an elder, provisional elder, or associate member. A clergy member may be appointed in one-quarter, one-half, or three-quarter time increments by the bishop to less than full-time service without loss of essential rights or membership in the annual conference. Division of Ordained Ministry-endorsed appointments beyond the local church may be for less than full-time service.

- a) Appointment to less than fulltime service is not a guarantee, but may be made by the bishop **under** the following **circumstances**:
  - (1) *Limited Itineracy* – Less than full-time service may be granted – but is not guaranteed – when the elder, provisional elder, or associate member has declared in writing that itineracy is limited due to temporary constraints. The clergy member shall present that written declaration to the bishop and the chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry prior to the annual conference session at which the appointment is made.
  - (2) *Self-initiated* – The elder, provisional elder, or associate member seeking less than full-time service **shall** present a written request to the bishop and the chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry at least 90 days prior to the annual conference session at which the appointment is made. Exceptions to the 90-day deadline shall be approved by the cabinet and the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry.
  - (3) *Bishop-Initiated* – **For missional purposes**, the bishop may appoint an elder, provisional elder, or an associate member to less than full-time service. The clergyperson shall be



notified at least 90 days prior to **final termination of the current** appointment. Special attention shall be given to ensure that the values of open itineracy are preserved.

**b) Provisions for Less Than Full-time Appointment**

- (1) Following appropriate consultation, as established in ¶¶ 338 and 425-429, and upon joint recommendation of the cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry, the less than full-time category shall be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference.
- (2) Reappointment to less than full-time service shall be approved annually by the bishop and cabinet and shall not be granted for more than a total of eight years, except by a three-fourths vote of the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference.
- (3) Elders, provisional elders, and associate members who receive an appointment at less than full-time service remain within the itineracy and, as such, remain available, upon consultation with the bishop and cabinet, for appointment to full-time service. A written request to return to full-time appointment shall be made to the bishop and cabinet at least six months prior to the annual conference session at which the appointment is to be made.
- (4) The bishop may make *ad interim* appointments at less than full-time service upon request of the elder, provisional elder, or associate member following consultation as specified in ¶¶ 424-428 and upon recommendation of the cabinet and executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the same to be acted upon by the next regular session of the annual conference.

¶ 338.3 – Remains the same as 2012 *Book of Discipline*

¶ 338.4 – Remains the same as 2012 *Book of Discipline*

### **Transfers**

¶ 347.1 – “**Recommendation by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and approval of the clergy session shall take place prior to the transfer.**”

¶ 347.6 – Moved the recognition of orders paragraph from ¶ 348 to ¶ 347.6 to clarify that recognition of orders happens after the minister has been approved for full membership in the annual conference.

**NOTE: ¶ 348 was deleted. Therefore, ¶¶ 349 – 370 in the 2012 Discipline will decrease by one number in the 2016 Discipline**

### **Transitional Leave**

¶ 353.2c)(2) – Transitional leave is now available for elders who are transitioning from a local church to an extension ministry appointment.

¶ 353.3 – Transitional leave limited to one 12-month period.



## ***Changes to the BOM paragraph – ¶ 635***

¶ 635.1 – “No district superintendent or extended cabinet member shall be the chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry.”

Terminology throughout ¶ 635 changed to make the BOM responsible for “ordained, licensed, certified, and assigned leadership”.

## ***Changes to the dCOM paragraph – ¶ 666***

¶ 666.1 – The district superintendent shall not chair the dCOM.

¶ 666.4 – “The committee, through the BOM, shall seek ways to make reasonable accommodations for cultural and ethnic/racial realities and language translations as candidates meet the requirements for candidacy, including interviews, psychological assessment, criminal background, and credit checks” (see ¶ 310.2b)(2)).

## ***New Eight-Year Assessment (all new language)***

¶ 349.3 – Every clergyperson shall also engage in a six-month process of personal and professional assessment and development every eight years. The process will be designed and implemented by the cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry for each annual conference in consultation with the Chairs of the Orders of Deacon and Elders and Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members. The process shall include both a formal review and an in-depth renewal opportunity, such as a retreat or series of coaching and mentoring sessions.

- A. The formal review shall include a self-evaluation, metrics appropriate to the ministry setting to which clergy are appointed, observations of trends from the previous eight years, and reviews or interviews with people close to the ministry of the clergy being reviewed.
- B. The in-depth renewal opportunity shall be designed by the cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry in a form appropriate to the conference. The renewal opportunities shall include a combination of elements, such as: time apart for prayer and reflection, reflection with a covenant group, meetings with a coach, celebration of ministry milestones, and discernment of future ministry challenges and opportunities. When deemed important to help in the evaluation process, psychological assessments may be requested by the cabinet or Board of Ordained Ministry.
- C. The district superintendent shall review the portfolio and provide the initial report of the eighth year review of effectiveness. When recommended by the district superintendent, a meeting with the bishop and members of the cabinet may be held.
- D. Each annual conference shall develop and initiate a plan for such assessment by January 1, 2020.