

**TRANSITIONAL PROCESS FOR LOCAL PASTORS TOWARD PROBATIONARY  
MEMBERSHIP AND FULL CONNECTION  
¶366.1 OF THE 2000 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE**

**The options included here are available until December 31, 2008**

¶366.1 of the *2000 Book of Discipline* is the “**Transitional Provision** for Those Beginning Candidacy Before January 1, 1997.”

SCBOM Policy requires, as The Division of Ordained Ministry suggests, that under Par.366.1,.2 transitional provisions only those local pastors who had finished the **first year of the Course of Study prior to January 1, 1997** be allowed to continue on the track which would lead to Associate Membership and then to Probationary Membership and Full Connection in the conference. The policy for this process is outlined in ¶¶416.2; 419; 420; 421; 424 of the *The 1992 Book of Discipline*.

In this process, the Local Pastor must first become an Associate Member of the annual conference before moving toward Probationary Membership and then to Full Connection.

Before being received for Probationary Membership one must have met the following requirements:

- Serve as Associate Member for a minimum of two years under full time appointment (¶416.2)
- Completed the Bachelor of Arts degree or its equivalent degree in a college or university listed by the University Senate. (¶416.2)
- Completed two years of Advanced Course of Study at a school or theological school approved by the University Senate. **This two years will include four (4) courses @ a minimum of two (2) hours each course=8 semester hours.** (¶416.2)
- Recommended by the Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry by a ¾ vote (¶416.2)  
(The paragraph does not say an interview with the Board of Ordained Ministry is required, but it is understood there would be an interview if the BOM is to recommend. However, this decision is determined by the conference BOM)
- Be admitted into probationary membership by ¾ majority vote of the clergy members in full connection. (¶416)

The Probationary Member must have served an appointment for at least two years before being admitted into membership in full connection in a Conference. (¶424)

The Probationary Member may apply for Full Connection in a conference after meeting the following requirements:

- Served full time under Episcopal appointment for a least two full Annual Conference years.
- Completed two additional years of the Advanced Course of Study. **This two years will include 4 courses @ a minimum of 2 hours each course=8 semester hours.** (¶424 (3)(d)  
**It is recommended United Methodist History, Doctrine and Polity be included.**
- **Medical:** Satisfied the board regarding physical, mental and emotional health
- **Sermon:** Prepared and preached at least one written sermon on a biblical passage specified by the Board of Ordained Ministry
- **Bible Study:** Presented a plan and outline for teaching a book or books of the Bible
- **Disciplinary Questions:** Responded to a written or oral doctrinal examination administered by the BOM
- Answered questions in ¶424.(7) a)
- Be approved by ¾ vote of the clergy members in full connection, present and voting.

**THIS OPTION IS AVAILABE UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2008**

This means the educational and other requirements must be met before that date and they must apply to the Board of Ordained Ministry prior to that date. They may be received into the conference no later than Annual Conference 2009. This transitional process under Par. 366.1 does not affect the process under Par. 315.6 of the 2000 Discipline for eligible local pastors, who seek to fulfill the requirements for Probationary member/commissioning.