

PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND COMMISSIONING TOWARD DEACON OR ELDER

Qualifications for Election to Provisional Membership (§324)

- _____ 1. Certified Candidate for at least one year, no more than twelve. (From one Annual Conference to the next).
- _____ 2. Demonstrated gifts for ministries of service and leadership satisfying the DCOM §324.2
- _____ 3. Undergraduate Requirement (§324.3): Bachelor's degree or equivalent from college or university listed by the University Senate or acceptable accrediting body ;or for missional purposes exception with minimum 60 hours and requirements of §324.3a-c
- _____ 4. Graduate Requirements for Elders (§324.4): Master's degree from a graduate theological school; **basic theological studies, and South Carolina requirements.**
- _____ 5. **Elder track candidates must have** completed a minimum of 27 semester hours of graduate theological studies in the courses specified in §324.4a. At least one-half of the 27 semester hours shall be completed in the same seminary or campus. One- fourth of the 24 semester hours may be taken as independent study from the accredited seminary approved by the University Senate. All classes must have "C" or better.
- _____ 6. **Graduate requirements for Deacons (§324.4a,c** an M.Div. or master's degree in area of specialized ministry in which Person will serve. All classes must have "C" or better.
- _____ 7. In some instances a candidate wishing to serve as a Full Deacon may fulfill the academic requirements by §324.5:
 - a. shall have reached thirty-five years of age at the time to become a certified candidate;
 - b. completed a bachelor's degree, received professional certification or license in the area of ministry in which the candidate will serve, have completed a minimum of eight semester hours of graduate credit or equivalent quarter hours in the area of specialization, and have been recommended by the conference BOM;
 - c. have completed a minimum of twenty-four semester hours of the basic graduate theological studies of the Christian faith including the areas noted in §324.5 c At least one-half of the 27 semester hours shall be completed in the same seminary on campus. One-fourth of the 24 semester hours may be taken as independent study from an accredited Seminary approved by the University Senate and documented by a record of completion from that school.
- _____ 8. **Local Pastors** may fulfill the requirements for provisional membership and commissioning (§324.6) when they have:
 - a. Reached forty years of age;
 - b. Satisfied all requirements of 324.1-3 and 324.7-14
 - c. Completed the five-year Course of Study for ordained ministry; and
 - d. Completed the Advanced Course of Study in fulfilling their graduate theological studies, of which **shall include** a minimum of thirty two semester hours of the basic graduate theological studies of the Christian faith including the areas in §324.4a
- _____ 9. Written recommendation on the basis of ¾ majority vote by the DCOM (§324.10)
- _____ 10. Satisfactory certificate of good health (§324.8)
- _____ 11. Notarized Criminal Background Statement (§324.12) and Credit Worthiness

SCBOM Application Process for Provisional Member

A. Supplemental Materials submitted to Clergy Services

- _____ 1. Application for Clergy Relationship with the Annual Conference (Form 105)
- _____ 2. College Transcript and M.Div. or Master's Transcript
- _____ 3. Report of Mentor annually (08b SCBOM)
- _____ 4. DCOM action
- _____ 5. Medical Report (Form 103); and Consent Letter in DS Office and psychological assessment
- _____ 6. Recommendation from Seminary (Form 109)
- _____ 7. Satisfactory Credit Worthiness Report (06SCBOM) and Criminal Background Statement (07SCBOM)

B. Written Work

- _____ 1. Disciplinary questions (§324.9, a-o); and autobiographical statement (§324.13) plus F102 update
- _____ 2. Plan and outline for teaching a book or books of the Bible
- _____ 3. Prepare and preach one written sermon, or contextual project if Deacon candidate, on biblical text assigned by BOM

C. Interview with BOM (time and location to be determined)

- _____ 1. Report at assigned date/time and location
- _____ 2. Interview with BOM Committees and Interview with entire BOM. Notification by mail of BOM decision.

D. At Annual Conference

- _____ 1. Attend Ministerial Session to be elected for commissioning
- _____ 2. Attend the Conference Session for introduction
- _____ 3. Attend commissioning service

Continuation As Provisional Member

- _____ 1. Regular progress in Ministerial Studies, as it relates to South Carolina Requirements. Submit Transcript annually. (§324.7)
- _____ 2. Work with Clergy Mentor assigned by BOM. Report of Clergy Mentor (08bSCBOM) due annually to District Office (§349.1b).
- _____ 3. Meet annually with DCOM for support; and Mentor submits annual report to District Office (08bSCBOM)
- _____ 4. Become Full Member within 8 years (§327) after being Provisional Member for minimum of two years (§330.1, 335)