



Clergy Fellowship in the United Methodist Church

Board of Ordained Ministry | South Carolina Conference | The United Methodist Church

Clergy Orders in The United Methodist Church

¶ 323. Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members—Each annual conference shall organize a Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members. All licensed local pastors and associate members shall be members of and participate in the Fellowship. The Fellowship will provide mutual support for its members for the sake of the life and mission of the church.

1. The specific and limited function is to:

- a) provide for regular gatherings of local pastors and associate members for continuing formation in relationship to Jesus Christ through such experiences as Bible study, study of issues facing the church and society, and theological exploration in vocational identity and leadership;
- b) encourage local pastors and associate members in continued study beyond the Course of Study and Advanced Course of Study;
- c) develop a bond of unity and common commitment to the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church and the annual conference; and
- d) enable the creation of relationships that allow mutual support and trust.

2. The bishop shall convene the fellowship and the Board of Ordained Ministry shall coordinate its life and work. Necessary financial support shall be provided by the annual conference through the budget of the board. Quadrennially, the board, with guidance from the present Fellowship Chair, shall nominate for chairperson of their Conference Fellowship at least one local pastor who has completed education requirements and/or associate member, not to exceed 3 nominees, to then be elected by the Fellowship members present during a gathered meeting of the annual session of the Fellowship. The elected chairperson, in cooperation with and under the guidance of the bishop, will provide continuing leadership for the Fellowship. The elected Fellowship chairperson, full-time or part-time, shall be a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry and its executive committee as specified in ¶ 634.1a.

Activity of the Fellowship will be reported regularly to the Board of Ordained Ministry.