



THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answering the Theological Questions offers you an opportunity to demonstrate your proficiency in articulating Christian theology and the doctrine of the Church.
2. Read and answer each question carefully. Each part of each question is to be addressed. Be aware that certain questions call for examples from your personal experience and/or ministry.
3. Each question requests that you address in writing at least one basic doctrine of the Church. You should, at a minimum, consider that doctrine(s) from the following viewpoints:
 - a. rootage of the doctrine in **Scripture**,
 - b. development of the doctrine within Christian **history/tradition**,
 - c. impact of the doctrine of the Methodist **experience** (and the Methodist experience in the doctrine), and
 - d. impact of the doctrine on your personal theology and the impact of your personal experience on your understanding of the doctrine.
4. Your answers are to be an exercise in critical **theological thinking**. Remember that the Discipline requires that you “should demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly in both oral and written forms” (2016 Discipline, Par. 335). Be aware that your reader will take seriously every word that you have written. Your responses should be written with the utmost attention to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and style.
5. We expect all of our candidates to use **inclusive language** throughout their paperwork.
6. A few guides to inclusive language from our UMC seminaries can be found at:
 - a. <https://divinity.duke.edu/sites/divinity.duke.edu/files/documents/scos/COS%20%20Inclusive%20Language%20Policy.pdf>
 - b. <http://candler.emory.edu/programs-resources/course-study/policies-procedures.html>
 - c. <http://www.itc.edu/assets/pdf/Student-Handbook-2013.pdf>

For Questions Contact: The Coordinator of Clergy Services

**THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS FOR THE RECOGNITION OF ORDERS
FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP ELDER CANDIDATES
TRANSFERING FROM OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS**

1. Type your full **name, address, phone number and email address** at the top right of each page to help the committee easily identify your work.
2. RESTATE each question in full and number it exactly as listed below. Note that several questions have more than one part. Answer each part of the question fully.
3. Answers must be **TYPED, Double-spaced** for 8 ½ x 11, **number** all pages.
4. E-Mail **ONE** copy **with bibliography to:** Clergy Services, clergyservices@umcsc.org.
5. Your answers should be honest reflections of where you are presently on your journey of faith. Be straightforward in your answers. Give proper credit, if you make use of quotes or paraphrase.
6. The responses should be **no more than 40 pages**.
7. Papers not meeting all of the above instructions and requirements will be returned to the Sender.

THEOLOGY, DOCTRINE, DISCIPLINE QUESTIONS (BOM POLICY GUIDELINES)

- 1) What is your understanding of the Trinity and how does this doctrine influence the life and work of the Church?
- 2) How do you experience God in your personal life? How do you see God at work in the world?
- 3) What is your understanding of humanity, and the human need for divine grace?
- 4) What is your understanding of Prevenient Grace, Justifying Grace, and Sanctifying Grace from a Wesleyan perspective?
- 5) The United Methodist Church maintains that tradition, experience and reason serve as tools in interpreting and applying scriptural doctrine. How does this position relate to your understanding of the authority of scripture? How do you view the authority of the Bible?
- 6) Describe the nature and mission of the Church. What are its primary tasks today?
- 7) Discuss your understanding of the primary characteristics of United Methodist polity. Identify four or five strengths with this polity that you find compelling.
- 8) What's your understanding of the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion?
- 9) Describe your call to ministry and why you feel being a United Methodist pastor is the best way for you to respond to God's claim upon your life.
- 10) Have you ever applied for ordination, or held the position of local pastor or membership in another Annual Conference or other denomination? If so, give clear information about this relationship, including dates.
- 11) What habits do you practice to keep yourself healthy: physically, mentally, and spiritually?