



## DISCIPLINARY QUESTION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answering the Disciplinary 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:

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**DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS – PART 1**  
**FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP ELDER CANDIDATES**  
**¶ 335.8 a, b, c ELDERS (2016 Book of Discipline)**  
**¶ 330.5 a, b, c DEACONS (2016 Book of Discipline)**

1. Type your full **name, address, phone number and email address** at the top right of each page to help the committees 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 of **Part I and Email Part I with bibliography to:** Clergy Services, [clergyservices@umcsc.org](mailto: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 to Part I should be **no more than 25 pages**.
7. Papers not meeting all of the above instructions and requirements will be returned to the Sender.

**PART I FOR COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY AND DOCTRINE**

a) Theology

- (1) Give examples of how the practice of ministry has affected your experience and understanding of:
  - (a) God
  - (b) Humanity
  - (c) The need for divine grace
  - (d) The Lordship of Jesus Christ
  - (e) The work of the Holy Spirit
  - (f) The meaning and significance of the sacraments
  - (g) The kingdom of God
  - (h) Resurrection and eternal life
- (2) How do you understand the following traditional evangelical doctrines?
  - (a) Repentance
  - (b) Justification
  - (c) Regeneration
  - (d) Sanctification
  - (e) What are the marks of the Christian life?
- (3) How has the practice of ministry informed your understanding of the nature and mission of the Church? What are its primary challenges today?
- (4) The United Methodist Church holds that Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason are sources and norms for belief and practice, but that the Bible is primary among them. What is your understanding of this theological position of the Church, and how has your practice of ministry been affected by this understanding?