



South Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

READMISSION



¶ 366. Readmission After Honorable or Administrative Location— Associate members or clergy members in full connection requesting readmission after honorable or administrative location must meet the following conditions:

1. Presentation of their certificate of location.
2. A satisfactory report and recommendation by the charge conference and pastor of the local church in which their membership is held.
3. A satisfactory certificate of good health from a physician on the form prescribed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.
4. Recommendation by the district committee on ordained ministry, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the cabinet after review of their qualifications, the circumstances relating to their location and conduct during the period of time while on location. When reinstated by vote of the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference that granted the location, their membership in the conference shall be restored, and they shall be authorized to perform all ministerial functions. The conference Board of Ordained Ministry may require at least one year of service as a local pastor (elder and associate member) or approved ministry setting (deacon) prior to readmission to conference membership.

¶ 367. Readmission After Leaving the Ministerial Office—Associate members or clergy members in full connection who have left the ministerial office under the provisions of ¶ 361 to an annual conference of The United Methodist Church or one of its legal predecessors may be readmitted by the annual conference in which they held previously such membership and to which they surrendered the ministerial office, or its legal successor, or the annual conference of which the major portion of the former conference is a part, upon their request and recommendation by the district committee on ordained ministry, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the cabinet after review of their qualifications and the circumstances relating to the surrender of their ministerial office. A period of at least two years service as a local pastor (elder and associate member) or approved ministry setting (deacon) shall be required prior to readmission to conference membership. This service may be rendered in any annual conference of The United Methodist Church with the consent of the Board of Ordained Ministry of the annual conference in which members previously held membership. When reinstated by vote of the clergy members in full connection, their membership in the conference and their credentials shall be restored, and they shall be authorized to perform all ministerial functions.

¶ 369. Readmission After Involuntary Retirement—Clergy members of an annual conference desiring to return to effective relationship after having been placed in involuntary retirement (¶ 358.3) must meet the following conditions:

1. Submit a written request for reinstatement to the Board of Ordained Ministry.
2. The Board of Ordained Ministry and the cabinet shall review the member's qualifications and the circumstances relating to his or her retirement.
3. Recommendation by the Board of Ordained Ministry, the bishop, cabinet, and a two-thirds vote of the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference that granted the involuntary retirement. A period of at least two years of service as a local pastor shall be required prior to readmission to conference membership.
4. Presentation of the certificate of retirement.
5. Presentation of satisfactory certificate of good health from a physician on the form prescribed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry. The Board of Ordained Ministry may require a psychological evaluation. Any pension being received through Wespath shall be discontinued upon their return to effective relationship. The pension shall be reinstated upon subsequent retirement.

NOTE: All readmission applications begin with the "Application for Readmission/Reinstatement" form to the Office of Clergy Services. It is available for download on the Clergy Services page under the Readmission to Conference Relationship forms, and named Application for Readmission.