



South Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church

GUIDE FOR EXTENSION MINISTRY



DISCIPLINARY PARAGRAPHS & BOARD POLICIES TO KEEP IN MIND

¶ 343. Appointments Extending the Ministry of The United Methodist Church—1. Clergy may be appointed to serve in ministry settings beyond the local United Methodist church in the witness and service of Christ's love and justice. Clergy in these appointments remain accountable to the annual conference. They shall be given the same moral and spiritual support by it as clergy in appointments to pastoral charges.³² Their effectiveness shall be evaluated in the context of the specific setting in which their ministry is performed.

2. The institution or agency desiring to employ an ordained minister shall, when feasible, through its appropriate official, consult the ordained minister's bishop and secure approval before completing any agreement to employ the ordained minister. If the institution or agency is located in another area, the bishop of that area shall also be consulted.

3. Clergy desiring an appointment extending the ministry of The United Methodist Church or change of appointment shall consult with their bishop and/or district superintendent prior to any interviews relative to such an appointment.

4. In accordance with the provisions of ¶ 317.1, the Board of Ordained Ministry must approve the appointment of provisional members and local pastors to extension ministries. Additionally, the Board of Ordained Ministry must approve the appointment of all clergy serving under ¶ 344.1.d (Other Valid Christian Ministries). The appointment of ordained clergy in full connection and associate members of the annual conference under the provisions of ¶ 344.1.a, b, or c are valid on their face and do not require Board of Ordained Ministry approval.

5. Elders and associate members in extension ministries remain full participants in the itinerant system and must be willing upon consultation to receive an appointment in a pastoral charge. When either the conference member or the annual conference requests appointment to a pastoral charge, the request shall be made in writing to or from the bishop, the cabinet, and the Board of Ordained Ministry. Such a request should be made at least six months prior to annual conference. In both instances, consultation shall give due regard to the individual's special training, experience, skills, and leadership potential.

¶ 344. Provisions for Appointment to Extension Ministries— 1. *Categories of Appointment*—In order to establish a clear distinction between the work to which all Christians are called and the tasks for which clergy are appropriately prepared and authorized, the following categories are established for appointments of elders, deacons, associate members, and those licensed for pastoral ministry in The United Methodist Church.

a) Within the connectional structures of United Methodism: (1) Appointments for which the annual conference provides for pension contributions to the Ministerial Pension Plan, amended and restated effective January 1, 2007, as the Clergy Retirement Security Program, such as district superintendents, staff members of conference councils and boards, treasurers, bishops' assistants, superintendents or directors of parish development, general evangelists, and campus ministers. Only elders in full connection may be appointed district superintendents;

(2) Appointments to a general agency for which the general agency provides pension contributions through December 31, 2006, to the Ministerial Pension Plan and, effective January 1, 2007, to the Retirement Security Program for General Agencies of The United Methodist Church, amended and restated effective January 1, 2010, as the Retirement Plan for General Agencies;

(3) Appointments to a United Methodist institution or other ministry, such as superintendents or directors of parish development, general evangelists, campus ministers, missionaries, faculty and administrators of United Methodist schools of theology or other educational institutions approved by the University Senate; and

(4) Appointments to an ecumenical agency.

b) Under endorsement by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Clergy appointed under endorsement by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall submit an annual report to the board as it may direct. The board shall annually verify the appropriate employment of clergy under its endorsement and request their reappointment.

c) In service under the General Board of Global Ministries. Clergy in service under the General Board of Global Ministries may be appointed to ministries in annual conferences or central conferences, or with affiliated autonomous churches, independent churches, churches resulting from the union of Methodist Churches and other communions, mission institutions, or in other denominational or ecumenical ministries. They may accept such rights and privileges, including affiliate membership, as may be offered them by central conferences or by other churches to which they are assigned without impairing their relationship to their home annual conference. If appointment is to a missionary conference, the terms of the appointment shall be as provided in ¶ 586.4.

d) Other Valid Christian Ministries. With the approval of the bishop and the Board of Ordained Ministry, clergy may be appointed to other valid Christian ministries which extend the work of the Church into the world. These appointments shall be initiated in missional response to the needs of people in special circumstances and unique situations and shall reflect the commitment of the clergy to intentional fulfillment of their ordination vows. Conference members in such appointments retain conference membership, and the annual conference may choose to extend financial support and benefits for its clergy by vote of the annual conference. (See ¶ 624.3, .5.)

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, in order to assist boards of ordained ministry, will provide standards and consultation to assist in validating the appropriateness of special ministry settings.

Those seeking an appointment under this subparagraph shall submit a written statement to the cabinet, and the Board of Ordained Ministry, describing in detail the proposed setting for their ministry, sharing a sense of calling to that ministry and their gifts and evidence of God's grace for it, and expressing the intentional fulfillment of their ordination vows. This material will be submitted not later than 120 days before desired appointment to the proposed setting. On recommendation of the cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry, such positions are to be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the clergy members of the annual conference. The bishop may make ad interim appointments in this category after consultation with the cabinet and executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the position to be formally acted upon by the next session of the annual conference.

¶ 345. Provisions for Appointments to Ecumenical Shared Ministries-United Methodist clergy members in full connection may be appointed annually to churches of other Christian denominations or to ecumenical shared ministries. Persons in these appointments remain in the itineracy and shall be accountable to the annual conference. Their effectiveness shall be evaluated in the context of the specific setting in which their ministry is performed. (See ¶ 344.1d.)

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY APPROVAL PROCESS AND APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION MINISTRY UNDER ¶344.1d, 345, AND 337.3 IS FOUND AT: <https://www.umcsc.org/wp-content/uploads/Extension-Ministry-Application-1-4.pdf> OR ON THE CLERGY SERVICES SITE UNDER THE SECTION IDENTIFIED AS "¶343-345 EXTENSION MINISTRIES".