



(FOR ELDER/DEACON/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS/LOCAL PASTORS): ¶ 358. Retirement—Retired clergy members are those who have been placed in the retired relation either at their own request or by action of the clergy session upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry.⁴⁶ (See ¶¶ 1506-1507 and the Ministerial Pension Plan, amended and restated effective January 1, 2007, as the Clergy Retirement Security Program, for pension information.) Requests for retirement shall be stated in writing to the bishop, cabinet, and Board of Ordained Ministry at least one hundred twenty days prior to the date on which retirement is to be effective unless waived by the bishop and cabinet. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall provide guidance and counsel to the retiring member and family as they begin a new relationship in the local church.

(FOR ELDER/DEACON/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS/LOCAL PASTORS): 358.1. Mandatory Retirement—Every clergy member of an annual conference who will have attained age seventy-two on or before July 1 in the year in which the conference is held shall automatically be retired.

*(FOR ELDER/DEACON/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS/LOCAL PASTORS): 358.2. Voluntary Retirement—***a) With Twenty Years of Service**—Any clergy members of the annual conference who have completed twenty years or more of service under appointment as ordained ministers or as local pastors with pension credit for service before 1982 or with full participation in the Comprehensive Protection Plan since 1981 prior to the opening date of the session of the conference may request the annual conference to place them in the retired relation with the privilege of receiving their pensions for the number of approved years served in the annual conference or conferences and such other benefits as the final annual conference may provide, payment to begin the first of any month after the ordained minister attains age sixty-two.⁴⁹ If pension begins prior to the age at which retirement under ¶ 359.2c could have occurred, then the actuarial reduction provisions of the Clergy Retirement Security Program shall apply.

(FOR ELDER/DEACON/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS/LOCAL PASTORS): b) With Thirty Years of Service or at Age Sixty-two—At their own request and by vote of the clergy members in full connection, any clergy members who will have attained age sixty-two on or before July 1 in the year in which the session of the annual conference is held or will have completed thirty years of service under appointment as an ordained minister, or a local pastor with pension credit for service before 1982 or with full participation in the Comprehensive Protection Plan since 1981, as of the conference session may be placed in the retired relation with an annuity claim for an actuarially reduced pension.

(FOR ELDER/DEACON/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS/LOCAL PASTORS): c) With Forty Years of Service or at Age Sixty-five—At their own request and by vote of the clergy members in full connection, any clergy members who will have attained age sixty-five on or before July 1 in the year in which the session of the conference is held or will have completed forty years of service under appointment as an ordained minister, or as a local pastor with pension credit for service before 1982 or with full participation in the Comprehensive Protection Plan since 1981, as of the conference session may be placed in the retired relation with the privilege of making an annuity claim.

(FOR ELDER/DEACON/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS/LOCAL PASTORS): d) The dates specified in ¶ 359.1 and .2a-c notwithstanding, between sessions of the annual conference any member who attains the age and/or number of years of service specified in those sections may, upon the member's own request and with the approval of the bishop, cabinet, and executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, be granted the retired relation ad interim, with applicable annuity claim, subject to the approval of the clergy members in full connection at the next annual conference session.

(FOR ELDER/DEACON/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS/LOCAL PASTORS): e) The annual conference, at its discretion, upon joint recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions, may designate any time within the ensuing conference year as the effective date of retirement of a clergy member who is placed in the retired relation under the provisions of § 2b or § 2c above.

*(FOR ELDER/DEACON/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS): ¶ 358.5. Charge Conference Membership—*a) All retired clergy members who are not appointed as pastors of a charge, after consultation with the pastor and the district superintendent, shall have a seat in the charge conference and all the privileges of membership in the church where they elect to hold such membership except as set forth in the Discipline. They shall report to the charge conference and to the pastor all marriages performed, baptisms administered, and other pastoral functions. If they reside outside the bounds of the annual conference where membership is held, they shall forward annually to the charge conference where membership is held a report of their Christian and ministerial conduct, signed by the district superintendent or the pastor of the affiliate charge conference where they reside.

*(FOR ELDER/DEACON/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS): ¶ 358.6. Appointment of Retired Ordained Ministers—*A retired ordained minister shall be eligible to receive an appointment when requested by the bishop and cabinet. A retired ordained minister appointed to a pastoral charge shall have neither a claim upon minimum compensation from the Commission on Equitable Compensation or similar conference agency, nor further pension credit. Compensation for a retired ordained minister shall be negotiated between the district superintendent and the pastoral charge or other appointment to which the retired ordained minister is appointed. Retired ordained ministers may serve on conference agencies.

*(FOR ELDER/DEACON/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS): ¶ 358.7. Return to Effective Relationship—*A clergy member who has retired under the provisions of ¶ 359.2 may at his or her own request be made an effective member upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the bishop and cabinet, and by majority vote of the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference and thereby be eligible for appointment so long as he or she remains in the effective relation or until ¶ 359.1 applies. Each clergy member requesting return to effective relationship after voluntary retirement must meet the following conditions: (1) presentation of their certificate of retirement; (2) a satisfactory certificate of good health from a physician on the form prescribed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. However, any pension being received through Wespeth shall be discontinued upon their return to the effective relationship. The pension shall be reinstated upon subsequent retirement.

*(FOR LOCAL PASTORS): 5. Retired Local Pastors—*a) Candidates for ministry at age 72 or older may enter or continue in the candidacy process to pursue appointment in retired local pastor status.

(FOR LOCAL PASTORS): b) A local pastor who has made satisfactory progress in the Course of Study as specified in ¶ 318.1 or .2 may be recognized as a retired local pastor. Retirement provisions for local pastors shall be the same as those for clergy members in ¶ 358.1, .2, .4, with pensions payable in accordance with applicable provisions of the Clergy Retirement Security Program.

(FOR LOCAL PASTORS): c) Retired local pastors who are not under appointment may attend annual conference sessions with voice but not vote. A retired local pastor may be appointed by the bishop to a charge and licensed upon recommendation by the district committee on ordained ministry without creating additional claim upon the conference minimum compensation nor further pension credit. A retired local pastor who is serving under appointment shall attend annual conference sessions with voice and vote (¶ 602.1d).

(FOR LOCAL PASTORS): d) Local pastors who have completed the Course of Study may upon retirement annually request from the District Committee of Ordained Ministry and the bishop a license to continue to serve in the local church where they hold membership for the purpose of providing sacramental rites of baptism and Holy Communion, at the request of the appointed pastor. This license does not constitute an appointment and does not provide vote at the annual conference session.

(FOR LOCAL PASTORS): e) Retired local pastors who are appointed shall continue to make satisfactory progress in the Course of Study (¶ 319).

(FOR LOCAL PASTORS): SCBOMP: XV.f.i. Local Pastors who retire under any section of ¶ 358 must have completed an MDiv. (or its equivalent), the basic course of study, or be current on their educational progress (no more than one year

behind) in order to continue to be listed as a retired Local Pastor in the business questions. Local Pastors who retire without meeting this condition will be allowed to participate in the Conference retirement program, but their candidacy will be discontinued if not under appointment as retired Local Pastor, and they will not continue to be listed as a retired local pastor in the business questions, conference journal of appointment sheets. They may be reinstated at a later date if the Cabinet desires to appoint them as a retired local pastor.

(FOR LOCAL PASTORS): SCBOMP: XV.f.ii. Local Pastors who are under appointment as a retired Local Pastor must complete the Basic Course of Study while serving if they have not already done so. ¶1320.5e

Retiring local pastors must designate a local church to which their membership will be transferred to from the annual conference.

RETIREMENT

Requesting Retirement

- Request retirement in writing to the Bishop. Copy your district superintendent, the office of Clergy Services and the Conference Benefits Officer.
- Follow up with the Conference Benefits officer with any questions related to retirement benefits.