



Call & Discipline Life Committee Guidelines: Disciplinary Questions Part II Provisional Deacon, Provisional Elder and Associate Member Candidates

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>

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DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS – PART 2
FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP DEACON AND ELDER CANDIDATES
¶ 322.10 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, ¶ 324.9 PROVISIONAL DEACONS/ELDERS (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 II 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 to Part II should be **no more than 15 pages**.
7. Papers not meeting all of the above instructions and requirements will be returned to the Sender.

DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS PART II FOR COMMITTEE ON CALL AND DISCIPLINE LIFE (324.9 j-o, q)

- j) Discuss your understanding of the primary characteristics of United Methodist polity.
- k) Explain your understanding of the distinctive vocations of the Order of Elders and the Order of Deacons. How do you perceive yourself, your gifts, your motives, your role, and your commitment as a provisional deacon or provisional elder in The United Methodist Church?
- l) Describe your understanding of *diakonia*, the servant ministry of the church, and the servant ministry of the provisional member and commissioned minister.
- m) What is the meaning of ordination in the context of the general ministry of the Church?
- n) Describe your understanding of an inclusive church and ministry.
- o) You have agreed as a candidate for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness of the gospel, and in consideration of their influence as ministers, to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life, and to this end agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all personal relationships, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God. What is your understanding of this agreement?
- q) “Knowing the dangers and blessings of technologies for Social Networking, what steps have you taken to safe guard your integrity as a disciple of Christ and a United Methodist minister? What steps have you taken or would you take to use this tool to make disciples for the transformation of the world?”