



PROVISIONAL ELDER MEMBERSHIP CHECK LIST

Board of Ordained Ministry | South Carolina Conference | The United Methodist Church

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION TO PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP (§324)

1. Candidacy or Licensing Requirement: Each candidate shall have been a certified candidate or a local pastor for at least one year, no more than twelve years.
2. Each candidate shall have demonstrated his or her gifts for ministries of service and leadership to the satisfaction of the district committee on ordained ministry as a condition for provisional membership with three-fourths vote.
3. A candidate for provisional membership shall have completed a bachelor's degree from a college or university recognized by the University Senate. Exceptions to the undergraduate degree requirements may be made in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in some instances, for missional purposes, for persons who have a minimum of sixty semester hours of Bachelor of Arts credit and:
 - A) have been prevented from pursuit of the normal course of baccalaureate education,
 - B) are members of a group whose cultural practices and training enhance insight and skills for effective ministry not available through conventional formal education, or
 - C) have graduated with a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a college not recognized by the University Senate and have completed one half of the studies of the Master of Divinity or equivalent first professional degree in a school of theology listed by the University Senate.
4. Candidates for provisional membership shall have completed the basic graduate theological studies in the Christian faith from a University Senate-approved theological school. These courses shall each be three (3) semester hours, or the equivalent, and may be included within or in addition to a seminary degree. These basic graduate theological studies shall include courses in Old Testament; New Testament; theology; church history; mission of the church in the world; evangelism; worship/liturgy; preaching; and United Methodist studies in doctrine, polity and history. The combined credit hours for the United Methodist studies shall be a minimum 6 semester hours, or the equivalent. All classes must have a "C" or better. Basic graduate theological studies shall not be taken pass/fail.
5. **Elder**—a candidate for ordination as an elder shall also:
 - A) have completed a Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate approved theological school or its equivalent;
 - B) Local pastors may fulfill the requirements for provisional membership as elders when they have:
 - a) completed four years of full-time service or the equivalent;
 - b) completed the Course of Study as determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (§1406.12, .13) by: Completion of Course of Study, or completion of an equivalent program of study embedded in an undergraduate degree at a United Methodist related college or university.
 - c) completed an Advanced Course of Study consisting of thirty-two semester hours of graduate theological study offered by a seminary recognized by the University Senate or its equivalent as determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The Advanced Course of Study shall include the basic graduate theological studies (§ 324.4a).13
6. **Deacon**—a candidate for ordination as a deacon shall also have:
 - A) completed a the studies of a master's degree from a University Senate-approved theological school, or
 - B) received a master's degree in the area of the specialized ministry in which the candidate will serve, or
 - C) Candidates who have professional certification may fulfill the requirements for provisional membership as deacons when they have completed four years of full-time (or the equivalent) employment in the area of specialized ministry; and received certification in specialized ministry or are licensed in the area of ministry in which the candidate will serve, have completed a minimum of eight semester hours of graduate credit or equivalent quarter hours in the area of specialization, and have been recommended by the conference Board of Ordained Ministry;
7. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall require an official transcript of credits from each school before recognizing any of the applicant's educational claims.
8. Each candidate shall present a satisfactory certificate of good health from a physician.
9. Each candidate shall respond to a written and oral doctrinal examination administered by the BOM.
10. Prepared and preached at least one written sermon on a biblical passage specified by the BOM.
11. Presented a detailed plan and outline for teaching a Bible study topic assigned by the by the BOM.
10. Each candidate shall have been recommended by the BOM to Clergy Session, based on a three-fourths majority vote.
11. Each candidate shall have a personal interview with the BOM to complete his or her candidacy.
12. Each candidate shall submit on a form provided by the BOM a notarized statement detailing any convictions for felony, or misdemeanor, or written accusations and its disposition of sexual misconduct or child abuse; or certifying that this candidate has not been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor or accused in writing of sexual misconduct or child abuse.
13. The candidate also shall release required psychological reports, criminal background, credit checks and reports of child abuse.
14. Each candidate shall be approved by to the clergy session based on at least three-fourths vote.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBER

- _____ 1. Made written application to the Clergy Services/Registrar of BOM (F105)
- _____ 2. Satisfactory Physical examination (Form 103)
- _____ 3. Completion or update of Online SCUMC Pastor's Profile including an update of contact information.
- _____ 4. Signed and Notarized and submitted Criminal & Sexual Background Statement (07SCBOM)
- _____ 5. Signed and submitted Credit Worthiness Statement (06SCBOM)
- _____ 6. Completion of a Criminal and Credit Background Check.
- _____ 7. Two recommendations from Seminary (Form 109)
- _____ 8. Submission of Statement of Theological Fulfillment with current official transcript (final official transcript must be submitted before the first day of annual conference).
- _____ 9. Submission of Bible Study on assigned book of the bible.
- _____ 10. Submission of Sermon on text provided for Elder Candidates. Deacon Candidates may complete the sermon requirement or a Contextual Project.
- _____ 11. DCOM action report with recommendation.
- _____ 12. Supervision Report submitted by the Mentor (08bSCBOM) to DS, & Clergy Services.
- _____ 13. Submission of a written response to Disciplinary Questions for the Theology & Doctrine Committee.
- _____ 14. Submission of a written response to Disciplinary Questions (for the Call & Disciplined Life Committee).
- _____ 15. College Transcript and M.Div. or Master's Transcript (or ACOS) showing graduation and the completion of the Basic Theological Studies.
- _____ 16. Interview and recommendation by BOM for ordination .
- _____ 17. Election by the Clergy Session of the Annual Conference in Executive Session.
- _____ 19. Attend Reception into membership at Conference Session and Commissioning.