

THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES

The Office of Clergy Services (OCS) serves as the bridge between the Bishop, the Cabinet, and the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM). The Coordinator of OCS serves on the Bishop's Extended Cabinet, and plays a crucial role in facilitating communication between the Bishop, the Cabinet, and the BOM. The OCS provides assistance and resources to the BOM and its District Committees on Ministry (dCOM) who are supervising the credentialing of individuals called to ministry in various settings. The OCS also aids candidates and ministers for ministry at every stage, from initial exploration through retirement by:

- Coordinating the efforts of the Bishop, Cabinet and BOM in matters pertaining to clergy credentialing, leadership development and records management.
- Serving as a resource to assist clergy in developing their leadership abilities throughout the course of their ministry.
- Maintaining the personnel files and records for all the clergy of the conference.
- Managing and monitoring the processing of criminal background checks carried out every three years on all active candidates, clergy, certified lay ministers, and lay supplies (421 conducted during last conference year).
- Receiving Annual Reports from and supporting all Extension Ministers, Deacons, Honorably Located Clergy and Clergy on Personal Leave.
- Serving (Coordinator) on the Conference Ministry Advisory Team, Joint Approval for Service Committee, The Board of Ordained Ministry and the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry.
- Supporting the efforts of the Order of Deacons, Order of Elders, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, including two Continuing Education Clergy Gatherings that focused on clergy leadership and spiritual development.
- Working with BOM Bishop's School of Ministry design team to host an evangelism continuing education event in February.
- Planning, managing and implementing the Licensing School for Pastoral Ministry.
- Assisting candidates and clergy both entering and exiting ministry in the United Methodist Church in South Carolina.

Our priority continues to be helping the clergy of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference develop and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ in this rapidly shifting environment. We will keep working to offer useful and innovative support, materials, events and trainings to equip the clergy of the South Carolina United Methodist Conference.

Mr. Sha'Rome Henry, executive assistant to the office of clergy services, keeps providing unparalleled assistance. His unending readiness to assist candidates in their journey through the process demonstrates his compassion for each of our congregations and candidates. Without him, this office's work would not be possible. I am grateful for the twelve district administrative assistants' efforts. They carefully monitor a vast quantity of data that is important to so many different people. I appreciate all the Board of Ordained Ministry. Members of the BOM freely give a considerable amount of time and effort during what has become a challenging period in the history of Methodism. It is a gift to work with our Bishop and Superintendents on many matters related to our clergy and to support them as they continue the

important and demanding work necessary to identify, nurture, instruct, and supervise the clergy of our Conference. To better serve the evolving leadership requirements of the conference and local churches, this office is still developing. I am grateful for the chance to serve Christ and the church in this way.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Melton Arant, Jr., Coordinator of Clergy Services