



DEFINITION: *For the purpose of this process, “at least equal to those of United Methodist elders” means that in addition to having been ordained, the clergy person has met the educational requirements or the equivalent approved by the GBHEM for full membership and ordination in the United Methodist Church and in the SCAC. GBHEM will certify that the educational requirements for the United Methodist Church have been met, and the Office of Clergy Services will certify that the requirements of the SCAC have been met.*

¶ 347.3 Transfers, Ordained Clergy from Other (Non-Methodist) Denominations- On recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the clergy members in full connection may recognize the orders of ordained clergy from other denominations and receive them as provisional members or local pastors. They shall present their credentials for examination by the bishop and Board of Ordained Ministry and give assurance of their Christian faith and experience. They shall give evidence of their agreement with and willingness to support and maintain United Methodist doctrine, discipline, and polity and present a satisfactory certificate of good health on the prescribed form from a physician approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry. The Board of Ordained Ministry, in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, shall determine whether they meet the educational requirements for conference membership. A psychological report, criminal background and credit check, and reports of sexual misconduct and/or child abuse shall be required.

1. Ordained Clergy from Other (Non-Methodist) Denominations

- a. A clergy person ordained in another denomination (non-Methodist) desiring to transfer into the UMC under paragraph 347.3 shall have served in the SCAC for a minimum of two years either as a 346.2 appointment or as a local pastor.
- b. Such clergy person desiring to transfer in shall indicate this desire in a letter to the Bishop, Coordinator of Clergy Services and the Chair of the BOM.
- c. Prior to meeting with the Board of Ordained Ministry the clergy person shall complete all of the following requirements:
 - i. The clergyperson shall receive the consent of the bishops or authorities involved.
 - ii. All steps required by 346.2 must be completed before a transfer under 347.3 takes effect.
 - i. The clergyperson shall verify that he/she has met the educational requirements or the equivalent approved by the GBHEM for provisional membership of the United Methodist Church and in the SCAC. GBHEM will certify that the educational requirements for the United Methodist Church have been met, and the Office of Clergy Services will certify that the requirements of the SCAC have been met. Clergypersons are eligible to be received as:
 1. Provisional Member (Deacon or Elder) if they have met all the current academic and process requirements to become a Provisional member.
 2. Local Pastor if they have met all the current academic and process requirements to become a Local Pastor, but not all the requirements for Provisional Membership.
 - iii. Receives the recommendation of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

- iv. Receives the recommendation of the District Superintendent.
 - v. Submit a “Notarized Criminal Background Statement (07SCBOM),” and pay the background check fee online at:
<https://www.umcsc.org/backgroundcheckpayment/>
 - vi. Submit Medical Report (Form F-103) to be completed by physician of candidate choosing
 - vii. Submit Credit Statement ¶ 310.2b (Form 06SCBOM)
 - viii. Psychological Testing will be required if previous Psychological test is ten years or more old.
- d. Clergy seeking to transfer as a Local Pastor or Provisional Members shall submit their written responses for the following questions to the Executive Committee of the BOM prior to their interview.
- 1. Theology and Doctrine
 - a. What is your understanding of the Trinity and how does this doctrine influence the life and work of the Church?
 - b. How do you experience God in your personal life? How do you see God at work in the world?
 - c. What is your understanding of humanity, and the human need for divine grace?
 - d. What is your understanding of Prevenient Grace, Justifying Grace, and Sanctifying Grace from a Wesleyan perspective?
 - e. The United Methodist Church maintains that tradition, experience and reason serve as tools in interpreting and applying scriptural doctrine. How does this position relate to your understanding of the authority of scripture? How do you view the authority of the Bible?
 - f. Describe the nature and mission of the Church. What are its primary tasks today?
 - g. Discuss your understanding of the primary characteristics of United Methodist polity. Identify four or five strengths with this polity that you find compelling.
 - h. What’s your understanding of the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion?
 - 2. Called and Discipline Life
 - a. Describe your call to ministry and why you feel being a local pastor is the best way for you to respond to God’s claim upon your life.
 - b. Have you ever applied for ordination, or held the position of local pastor or membership in another Annual Conference or other denomination? If so, give clear information about this relationship, including dates, addresses, and name of supervisors.
 - c. What habits do you practice to keep yourself healthy: physically, mentally, and spiritually?

- ii. Be interviewed by and received an affirmative vote from the Executive Committee of the BOM. The Committee shall ensure that the following questions are addressed with the clergyperson.
 - 1. Did the clergyperson ever have membership in another annual conference of the UMC? If so, when and under what circumstances was that conference relationship severed? (§347.4) A written statement shall be required.
 - 2. Did the clergyperson ever withdraw from a relationship with another annual conference of the UMC? If so, admission into the UMC cannot occur without the consent of the BOM of the annual conference withdrawn from. (§347.5)
- iii. Receive an affirmative vote during the Clergy Session
- iv. If received as a Local Pastor in the SCAC, clergy will
 - 1. Local Pastors shall be required to meet annually with and be recommended for continuation by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry of the district under which they are appointed.
 - 2. **License** to be **signed annually** at meeting with District Committee.
 - 3. Continuation approved annually by the Clergy Session of the Annual Conference upon the recommendation of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
 - 4. Satisfactory written report of Mentor if a Mentor is assigned.
 - a. Full-time Local Pastor (318.1)
 - i. Completed annually a minimum of **FOUR courses** in the Ministerial Course of Study (§318.1) until completion of the five-year program. (Must be completed within eight years. §319.3)
 - ii. Making progress towards completion of a minimum of sixty semester/ninety quarter hours towards the B.A. or equivalent degree in an accredited college or university or option as noted in §318.3.
 - b. Part-time Local Pastor (318.2)
 - i. Completed annually a minimum of **two courses** in the Ministerial Course of Study (§318.2) until completion of the five-year program. (must be completed within twelve years. §319.3)
 - ii. Making progress towards completion of minimum of sixty semester/ninety quarter hours towards the B.A. or equivalent degree in an accredited college or university.
- e. If received as a Provisional Member of the SCAC, clergy will
 - i. participate in the SCAC Formation in Ministry program designed by the Committee on Formation in Ministry and approved by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. The provisional Formation Program includes both a two-year Residency program and a continuing support program.” The two-year “Formation in Ministry” program, for

Provisional Members may be satisfied by at least ten years prior service as an active clergy in good standing. In cases where the Formation in Ministry program is not required, a clergy mentor shall be assigned by the dCOM.

- ii. Will serve, proceed and be afforded the rights of provisional membership under ¶s 326 & 327 (Including the eight year time limit in which they must apply for full conference membership under the Conference policy).
 - iii. Provisional Members shall be required to meet annually with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry of the district under which they are appointed for support and nurture. DCOM shall submit an observation report on the annual meeting to the Office of Clergy Services.
 - iv. The BOM shall review written Annual Report from the Mentor and a copy of the report shall be sent to the Conference Associate Registrar for Clergy Mentors.
- f. Following at least two years as a provisional member (no more than eight) the clergy may apply for full conference membership and must meet all Disciplinary requirements for full membership outlined in paragraph 335 and the additional requirements for full membership of the SCUMC...including the response to the Disciplinary Questions, submission of a Bible Study, Sermon and Fruitfulness Project.