

Missouri Annual Conference Candidacy Guide (Local Pastor Track)

Candidate's name: _____

"Candidacy" is part of a lifelong spiritual journey of discerning God's callings in our lives. The Missouri Conference is excited about its enhanced program for persons in the process. Beginning January 1, 2012, all inquiring candidates will be informed of the Candidacy Summit requirements leading to certification.

The "Candidacy Summit" is a time for candidates to pause, gather with other travelers and those who have traveled on the journey, and overlook the different routes to which God might be calling. Representatives of the Missouri Annual Conference, Board of Ordained Ministry, and Center for Pastoral Excellence are working on this Candidacy Summit to offer accurate information about the entire candidacy process and opportunities for serious discernment. It is meant to inform, support, and encourage persons in the early stages of the journey of discernment. This process aims to clarify roles and expectations of ministry in the greater community.

Step 1. Beginning Candidacy: 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶310.1,a-c (apply & enroll)

- Perceive call to ministry
- Contact the pastor in the local church, another deacon or elder, or the DS
- Read the *Christian as Minister* (recommended, not required) or www.thecalltoministry.org
- Be a member of the United Methodist Church or baptized participant of a recognized United Methodist campus ministry or other United Methodist ministry for one (1) year
- Apply to DS, in writing, for admission to candidacy program and be assigned a candidacy mentor; include statement of call (half-page)
- Attend interview with District Superintendent and receive Candidacy Summit application. Interview Date: _____/_____/_____

Step 2. Candidacy Summit Registration

- An email from the General Board of Higher Education with a link to enroll as a candidate with The United Methodist Church through the UMCARES Candidacy system will be sent after your District Superintendent enters you into the UMCARES system. Read the email immediately and pay \$75 application fee. Once the fee is received, you can download or receive by mail the Candidacy Guidebook.
- In *Fulfilling God's Call*, read pages 11-27. Read and respond to question on pages 33-47. Read and respond to questions on pages 79-97
- Send completed and DS signed candidacy summit application (<http://www.moumethodist.org/events/detail/2900>) to the Conference office along with \$125 registration fee
- Complete DISC profile (link will be emailed you from Jenny Gragg, jgragg@moumethodist.org) You must bring the results to the retreat

Step 3. Candidacy Summit Attendance (Summer or Winter)

- Photograph taken when checking-in
- Take psychological testing (Send reference requests required by psychologist prior to Summit)
- Attend mentor meetings
- Attend forums and receive answers to ministry setting questions etc.

Step 4. Post-Candidacy Summit

- Mentoring Meetings
- After the peer group work is complete, the Candidate returns to the full care of dCOM (and district liaison)
- Meet with psychologist in either St. Louis, Columbia, Springfield or Kansas City
- Complete required documents for district file
 - Medical Form 103
 - Biographical Form 102
 - Candidate's Disclosure Form 114
 - Waiver of Access to file
 - Missouri Conference Safe Sanctuary Letter
 - Missouri Conference BOM screening packet
- Keep copies of all forms completed and work submitted

Step 5. Declaring Candidacy: ¶310.1d,e (declaring)

- Mentor marks task as complete in UMCARES after all meetings attended
- Consult with pastor or equivalent in ministry setting and request recommendation from S/P-PRC or equivalent. (The candidate shall have graduated from an accredited high school or certificate of equivalency.)
- Submit transcript or copy of diploma providing proof of graduation or equivalent
- Written statement of call; responses to Wesley's historic question in ¶310; and interview by Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee or equivalent. Candidate agrees to make a complete dedication of themselves to the highest ideals of the Christian life.

Step 6. dCOM Interview

- Certify
- Delayed (not yet; specific focus areas may be assigned)
- Discontinue
- After interview, meet with dCOM chair to discuss next steps
- Continue ministry as laity

Step 7. Continuing Candidacy for: Local Pastor

- Completed candidacy certification and licensing is assigned a clergy mentor ¶311
 - Annual recommendation by charge conference
 - Annual interview and approval by dCOM
 - Annual report of satisfactory progress of studies and copy of transcripts from Course of Study
- Licensing school
 - All newly certified candidates (or will be certified prior to the school) and who will be appointed to serve as a local pastor during the next conference year, must attend Licensing School. The only exception is for those people who have completed one-third of their seminary course work by Annual Conference.
 - Candidate completes application for Licensing school found at <http://www.moumethodist.org/pages/detail/1154>
 - Cost is \$200 - \$450 is covered by the Conference BOM, the balance would either be covered by the participant, the District or the local church.
 - Successful completion leads to licensing of candidate with an appointment for ministry
 - License issued by your District Superintendent.

- Course of Study
 - Full-time local pastors shall complete the five-year Course of Study curriculum within eight years; part-time local pastors shall complete the Course of Study curriculum within twelve years, unless family or other circumstances preclude the local pastor's ability to meet these requirements.
 - Class applications must be signed by your District Superintendent and the Local Pastor registrar
 - Candidate is reimbursed by the BOM at \$225/course with a passing grade.
 - Twenty courses make up the Course of Study curriculum

- Advanced Course of Study
 - The purpose of the Advanced Course of Study for Ordained Ministry is to provide a curriculum which will enable a local pastor to meet the educational requirements for provisional membership.

- Clergy Mentoring
 - All local pastors shall be assigned a clergy mentor by their district committee on ordained ministry and district superintendent until they have completed the five year Course of Study or Master of Divinity. Clergy mentors may be local pastors who have completed the five year Course of Study, associate members, or elders.