

Louisiana Conference
Board of Ordained Ministry
Division of Elders
Policy Number 205
Requirements for Elders or Ordained Clergy from Other Methodist
Denominations serving in the Louisiana Conference

This information is from ¶346 of the 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

Ordained clergy or provisional members from other annual conferences and Other Methodist Denominations may receive an appointment in the annual conference in the following manner:

With approval and consent of the bishops or other judicatory authorities involved, ordained clergy or provisional members of other annual conferences or other Methodist churches may receive appointments in the annual or missionary conference while retaining their home conference membership or denominational affiliation. Appointments are to be made by the resident bishop of the conference in which the clergy person is to serve. If appointment is to a missionary conference, the terms of the appointment shall be as provided in ¶ 586.4. Otherwise upon the recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry, clergy in such appointments may be granted voice but not vote in the annual conference to which they are appointed. Their membership on conference boards and agencies is restricted to the conference of which they are a member.

They shall be compensated no less than the equitable salary provisions of the annual conference in which they serve and participate in the pension and insurance programs of that annual conference. Such appointments are renewable annually. Furthermore, it shall be the responsibility of the board of pensions of the annual conference in which the appointment is received to enroll such clergy in the Clergy Retirement Security Program or any successor retirement plan and the Comprehensive Protection Plan or any successor welfare plan.

Between conference sessions, the Board of Ordained Ministry may approve them for appointment pending the recognition of their orders. The bishop may make ad interim recognition of valid ordination after consultation with the cabinet and executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, pending recognition by the vote of the clergy members in full connection. In every case, prior examination shall be made of the ordained minister's understanding, acceptance, and willingness to support and maintain United Methodist doctrine, discipline, and polity.

¶ 347 Ordained clergy or provisional members from other annual conference of The United Methodist Church may be received by transfer into provisional or full membership with the consent of the bishops involved. Recommendation by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and approval of the clergy session shall take place prior to the transfer.

Ordained elders or ordained clergy from other Methodist churches may be received by transfer into provisional or full conference membership or as local pastors, with the consent of the bishops or other authorities involved, without going through the process required for ministers from other denominations. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall establish a list of denominations that meet the definition. Prior consultation with the chairperson or

executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be held in order to determine that the minister meets the standards of conference membership established by the Discipline and the annual conference. A psychological report, criminal background and credit check, and reports of sexual misconduct and/or child abuse shall be required. They shall submit, on a form provided by the conference Board of Ordained Ministry

1. They will meet with the district superintendent and the bishop.
2. They shall present their credentials for examination by the bishop and Board of Ordained Ministry and give assurance of their Christian faith and experience. 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.

The candidate's credentials include proof of ordination and all educational transcripts included in the information sent to be evaluated by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church.

- ❖ If the ministry candidate has a M.Div. from a University Senate approved seminary they can work toward becoming a full member of the annual conference.
 - ❖ If the ministry candidate does not have the educational requirements they may serve as a Local Pastor and attend the United Methodist Course of Study.
3. They will meet with the Louisiana Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.
 - ❖ They shall give evidence of their agreement with and willingness to support and maintain United Methodist doctrine, discipline, and polity.
 - ❖ They shall provide a biographical statement on the prescribed form.
 - ❖ They shall present a satisfactory certificate of good health on the prescribed form from a physician.
 - ❖ They shall present a notarized affidavit on the prescribed form certifying that the person has not been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, or accused in writing of sexual misconduct or child abuse or detailing any convictions for felony or misdemeanor or written accusations of sexual misconduct or child abuse.
 - ❖ They shall release required psychological reports, criminal background and credit checks, and reports of sexual misconduct and/or child abuse.

The rights of a clergy person under appointment in The United Methodist Church from another denomination.

When the Board of Ordained Ministry certifies that the clergy person's credentials are at least equal to those of United Methodist Elders, they may be accorded the right of vote in the annual conference on all matters except the following:

- (a) constitutional amendments;
- (b) election of delegates to the general and jurisdictional or central conferences;
- (c) all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of ministers.

They may serve on any board, commission, or committee of an annual conference, except the Board of Ordained Ministry and Board of Trustees.

They shall not be eligible for election as delegates to the general, jurisdictional, or central conferences.

They shall also be subject to the provisions governing sabbatical leave, leave of absence, location, retirement, minimum salary, and pension. They shall not have security of appointment.

They shall attend the “United Methodist Studies School” sponsored by the College of Bishops of the South Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church with the purpose to educate and spiritually form persons entering United Methodist Ministry from other denominations. Or, they shall complete the United Methodist courses in history, doctrine, and polity at a University Senate approved seminary or through the GBHEM on-line courses within 3 years of their serving within the Louisiana Conference.

When the Board of Ordained Ministry certifies their credentials are at least equal to those of United Methodist Local Pastors, they will need to commit to the responsibilities of a Local Pastor.

Policy adopted by the Division of Elders on January 23, 2006

Policy approved by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry on January 24, 2006 and amended January 23, 2007.

Revised wording to be consistent with the 2016 Book of Discipline on March 1, 2018