

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

This information is from ¶346 of the 2012 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

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

On recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the clergy members in full connection may approve annually clergy in good standing in other Christian denominations to serve appointments or ecumenical ministries within the bounds of the annual conference while retaining their denominational affiliation;

Provided they present suitable credentials, give assurance of their Christian faith and experience, and other qualifications.

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 an 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 an 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 correspondence 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 2012 Book of Discipline on March 1, 2013