

**Louisiana Conference
Board of Ordained Ministry
Policy Number 109
Transfers, Recognition, and Rights for Clergy from Other Denominations**

Ordained clergy from other Christian denominations may receive an appointment in the annual conference in the following manner:

1. They will meet with the District Superintendent and the Bishop.
2. They will provide suitable credentials; give assurance of their Christian faith and experience; and other qualifications.

**¶ 347.3-6 – 2016 Book of Discipline:
Transfers From Other Denominations**

1. On recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the clergy members in full connection may recognize the orders of elders or ordained clergy from other denominations and receive them as provisional members or local pastors.
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.
3. 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.
4. 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. Prior to admission as provisional members, they shall provide evidence of completion of courses in United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity as defined in ¶ 335.
5. A psychological report, criminal background and credit check, and reports of sexual misconduct and/or child abuse shall be required.
6. They shall submit, on a form provided by the conference Board of Ordained Ministry:
 - (a) a notarized statement detailing any convictions for felony or misdemeanor or written accusations of sexual misconduct of child abuse; or
 - (b) a notarized statement certifying that the candidate has not been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, or accused in writing of sexual misconduct or child abuse.
7. Ordained elders or ordained clergy from other Christian denominations shall serve as provisional members for at least two years and complete all the requirements of ¶335, including courses in United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity, before being admitted into full conference membership. Following the provisional member's election to full conference membership as a deacon or elder provided in ¶326, the bishop and secretary of the conference shall provide a certificate of full membership in the annual conference.

8. The Board of Ordained Ministry of an annual conference is required to ascertain from an ordained clergyperson seeking admission into its membership on credentials from another denomination whether or not membership in the effective relation was previously held in an annual conference of The United Methodist Church or one of its legal predecessors, and if so, when and under what circumstances the ordained minister's connection with such annual conference was severed.

9. Ordained clergy seeking admission into an annual conference on credentials from another denomination who have previously withdrawn from membership in the effective relation in an annual conference of The United Methodist Church or one of its legal predecessors shall not be admitted or readmitted without the consent of the annual conference from which they withdrew or its legal successor, or the annual conference of which the major portion of their former conference is a part, such consent to be granted upon recommendation of its Board of Ordained Ministry.

10. Clergy from other denominations may have their orders recognized by the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference after examination of their credentials by the bishop and Board of Ordained Ministry. Prior to admission to membership in the annual conference, such recognition of orders may be given upon recommendation of the bishop and Board of Ordained Ministry.

After the orders of an ordained minister of another church shall have been duly recognized, and the minister has been approved for full membership, the certificates of ordination by said church shall be returned to the minister with the following inscription written plainly on the back:

These orders are recognized by the _____ Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, this _____ day of _____, _____ [year].

_____, President

_____, Secretary

The ordained minister also will be furnished with a certificate of recognition of orders signed by the bishop.

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

- If the 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 candidate does not have the educational requirements, they may serve as a Local Pastor while meeting the educational requirements.

Additional Requirements:

1. The candidate shall meet with the District Committee on Ministry and the Louisiana Conference Board of Ordained Ministry annually.
2. The candidate shall provide a personal data inventory on the prescribed form.
3. The candidate shall present an Affidavit on the prescribed form.

4. The candidate shall make himself or herself available for additional psychological or aptitude tests and follow-up the Board may require.
5. Once the candidate is appointed to a local church, there shall be in-parish visits conducted by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.
6. The candidate shall provide a written autobiographical statement.
7. The candidate has a two-year time limit to complete United Methodist Doctrine, History, and Polity.

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.

¶ 346.2 2016 Book of Discipline Rights of a Clergy under appointment in the United Methodist Church from another denominations:

1. When the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry certifies that their credentials are at least equal to those of United Methodist elders, they may be accorded the right to 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 clergy.
2. They may serve on any board, commission, or committee of an annual conference, except the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Trustees.
3. They shall not be eligible for election as delegates to the general, jurisdictional, or central conferences.
4. 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.
5. When the Board of Ordained Ministry certifies that their credentials are at least equal to those of a United Methodist Local Pastor, then they will need to commit to the responsibilities of a Local Pastor.

Policy adopted by the Board of Ordained Ministry on January 25, 2010

Updated to be consistent with the 2012 Book of Discipline on March 1, 2013

Updated to be consistent with the 2016 Book of Discipline on February 2, 2017