

RESIDENCY IN MINISTRY

“During the provisional period, arrangements shall be offered by the Board of Ordained Ministry for all provisional members to be involved in a residency curriculum that extends theological education by using covenant groups and mentoring to support the practice and work of their ministry as servant leaders, to contemplate the grounding of ordained ministry, and to understand covenant ministry in the life of the conference.” The Book of Discipline, ¶1326

Components

1. Provisional members (residents) are a part of the Residency in Ministry program for a minimum of two years. Persons are to serve the equivalent of two consecutive years in the same full-time appointment before recommendation for ordination/full-connection.
2. Residents are supervised by both the district superintendent and the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.
3. All residents will fulfill RE community expectations — including retreats, days apart and small groups. Unexcused absences will not meet the requirements of this paragraph and may extend the provisional process.
4. Residents will meet regularly with a mentor in a covenant of mutual accountability for the duration of residency. In January of each year, the resident and mentor will submit a report describing their work together for the year.
5. First-year residents may select a “coach” for six sessions in their first nine months. The Center for Leadership Excellence and the Board of Ministry provide the resources to secure coaches for this time period. See Coaches and Biographies listed on the Conference website for coach suggestions (www.moumethodist.org/coaching). A person may secure a coach outside this list for a limited grant.

Benchmarks of the Residents in Ministry Program

The RIM process aims to equip its residents with experience, resources, training and mentoring in the following ways:

1. The ability to articulate the gospel clearly and a lifestyle that demonstrates such.
2. Exploration of disciplines in spiritual, emotional, relational, intellectual, and physical health and growth.
3. Participation in a covenant group where the resident is held accountable for the development and implementation of comprehensive personal and ministry (operational, administrative and financial) development plans.
4. The demonstration of radical hospitality personally and within the life of the church.
5. Passionate worship displayed in worship design, preaching and sacramental ministry.
6. Intentional faith development: implementation of a holistic discipleship system
7. Risk-taking mission and service: personal and corporate mission/evangelism/outreach development and implementation
8. Extravagant generosity: personal stewardship plan as well as the ability to lead a successful stewardship program
9. Demonstrate ability to identify and equip strong lay leaders and to develop and implement a major visioning and strategic planning process.