

CERTIFICATION INTERVIEW BY dCOM (¶310.2)

For the interviewer: The key question you are trying to answer for yourself is:
“Does this person demonstrate a fitness for ministry?”

Requirements Prior to Interview

1. Introductory interview with District Superintendent and dCOM
2. Completion of the candidacy process, including psychological assessment
3. Submitted proof of high school graduation or equivalent
4. Completed medical report on Forms 102, 103, 114 and wavier (see Section D, Resources)
5. Obtained PPRC approval, Charge Conference approval and written requirements as outlined below

Best Practices

- Confirm with the registrar that the candidate's file is complete, including written confirmation from PPR interview and Charge Conference approval.
- The psychological, criminal and financial reports should be read in advance by the DS and a dCOM member. Careful consideration should be given to the results. In particular, take seriously recommendations regarding any areas of needed growth as well as any indications of merely “acceptable” or “acceptable but less than average” ratings by the Ministerial Assessment Specialists (Referring to the “Summary and Recommendations Section” of the report).
- How does the team show radical hospitality throughout the candidate's experience?
- The interview should be focused on discernment of a clear call to ministry and whether or not the candidate has potential and promise for effective and fruitful ministry.
- Keep the interview stage-level appropriate. Highly developed and clearly articulated theology is not required at this stage.
- Remind the interview team about confidentiality.
- Respond promptly to the candidate.
- The nine questions should be 5-10 pages in length, 12-point font and double-spaced.

Required Questions

1. Please tell us about the most formative experience in your life as a Christian.
2. Please tell us about God’s call to licensed or ordained ministry and the role of the church in your call.
3. How do you understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
4. We each have gifts for ministry. Please tell us what gifts you have exercised and how effective/fruitful they have been.
5. What is your present understanding of your call to ministry as elder, deacon or to licensed ministry?
6. What is your support system and how has that helped you in your growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ?
7. Why are you choosing to live out your call in the United Methodist Church?
8. Having read *United Methodist Beliefs, A Brief Introduction* by William Willimon, how do you explain God’s grace?

9. Having read *United Methodist Beliefs, A Brief Introduction* by William Willimon, what is your understanding of the United Methodist practice of the sacraments of Holy Communion and Holy Baptism?

Action Required

- $\frac{3}{4}$ majority written ballot required for certification.
- **dCOM Secretary:** Send minutes within 14 days to dCOM members, the district office and the Conference Candidacy Coordinator (Jenny Gragg - jgragg@moumethodist.org), including After Interview Action reports for all candidates.
- **dCOM Registrar/Chair:** Send follow-up letter to candidate. Place dCOM Action Report and follow-up letter into the file.

CERTIFICATION INTERVIEW BY DCOM (¶310.2)

For the interviewer: The key question you are trying to answer for yourself is:
“Does this person demonstrate a fitness for ministry?”

District: _____ Date: _____

Candidate: _____

On Ordination Track (circle one) Yes No If yes, which track? Deacon Elder

Candidate's Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date Certified: _____ Date Licensed: _____

Highest level of education (check one):

- GED High School Diploma Undergrad (Years completed: _____)
- Master of Divinity (Years completed: _____)
- Master of Theology Studies (Years completed: _____) D. Min. Th. D. Ph. D.

Name of School (if attending): _____

Names of Interview Team:

The dCOM took the following action regarding the person listed above (check all that apply):

- Granted certified candidate status by $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote by written ballot (¶666.6)
- Recommends licensing pending successful completion of the studies for licensing as a local pastor
- Not granted certified candidate status by $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote by written ballot (¶666.6)

Interview Summary:

Notes, Recommendations or Requirements for follow-up: