

Time extension to complete the Course of Study - ¾ majority vote

¶319.3 under License for Pastoral Ministry — “A full-time local pastor shall complete the Course of Study curriculum within eight years and a part-time pastor within 12, unless a family situation or other circumstance precludes the local pastor’s opportunity to meet said requirements. The local pastor may be granted an annual extension beyond the prescribed limit upon a ¾ vote of the district committee on ordained ministry, recommendation by the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and the vote of the clergy members in full connection.”

Certification renewal, initial, license renewal, & other district level candidacy matters – simple majority vote

¶666.7 under District Committee on Ordained Ministry— “The vote of the committee on matters of candidacy shall be by individual written ballot of the committee present. A ¾ majority vote is required for certification. All other matters of candidacy shall be by a simple majority vote.”

Other places in The Book of Discipline which talk about renewal do not list percentages: ¶313, ¶666.9 should default to majority vote.

According to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, no Annual Conference has the authority to change or strengthen the percentage of the votes required by The Book of Discipline.

IDENTIFYING EDUCATIONAL GOALS FOR LAY CERTIFICATION INTERVIEWS

As part of any lay certification interview, identify a goal that will best support the growth and development for serving in this role. The goal can be individualized to best support the lay person and will be completed within the two-year renewal cycle. Suggestions include:

- Take any lay education course.
- Take a specific lay education course to strengthen an area (i.e. worship).
- Create a plan for spiritual disciplines and identify an accountability partner to support the plan.
- Identify an accountability partner or join an accountability group.
- Find a coach for preaching support.
- View the bonus videos of sermons from the Preaching course to explore styles, approaches and sermon development.
- Find a coach for a specific topic like worship development, administration skills, UM theology/ understanding, etc.
- Work with a mentor on a regular schedule and determine areas to seek support in.

This goal should be clearly articulated in the educational goal section on the appropriate after-interview action report page. Interview teams should follow-up on goals identified in the past to measure progress and growth.