

RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP INTERVIEW (¶322)

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

Requirements Prior to Interview

1. Annual renewal of license for pastoral ministry
2. 40 years of age or older
3. Served minimum of four years as a full-time local pastor (may equate part-time service toward full-time service requirement. See ¶322.2)
4. Completed the five year Course of Study with no more than one-half online or correspondence
5. Completed a minimum of 60 semester hours toward Bachelor’s Degree from University Senate approved college or university
6. Declared willingness to accept continuing full-time appointment while fully itinerant

Best Practices

- Confirm with the registrar that the file is complete and the candidate is eligible for application for associate membership to the Board of Ordained Ministry.
- How does the team show radical hospitality throughout the candidate’s experience?
- The interview should be focused on the candidate’s readiness for effective and fruitful ministry.
- Keep the interview stage-level appropriate.
- Remind the interview team about confidentiality.
- Respond promptly to the candidate.
- A limit of 5,000 words for all the writing is recommended.
- A 60-minute long interview is sufficient.
- Consider the number of dCOM members in each pre-commissioning interview, length of interview, introductory meet and greet session with the whole committee, etc. all should be decided by the dCOM committee. Each district will have needs and contexts that are unique to their districts.

Required Questions

Holy Living: The following questions are intended to help you convey your personal story: how you have come to faith, grown in faith, are nurtured in faith, have been called to ordained ministry, developed theologically – in short, how you are striving to live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Please keep your response to all questions 5,000 words total.

1. Describe God’s call in your life and how it has led you to seek ordination in the United Methodist Church. Be sure to articulate how your call to ordained ministry continues to be confirmed.
2. Describe your understanding of the meaning and roles of ordination to Deacon and to Elder. How are these orders interrelated? What distinguishes these orders?
3. Describe your community and/or family support system as you pursue this call on your life.
4. What spiritual disciplines pattern your life and how do they nourish your soul?

5. More specifically,
 - a. How do you engage in and demonstrate passionate worship in your life?
 - b. How do you intentionally develop your faith?
 - c. How are you practicing extravagant generosity?
 - d. How do you practice radical hospitality?
 - e. Where and how are you engaged in risk-taking mission?
6. What is your current understanding and experience of God?
7. What is your understanding of humanity, sin and the need for divine grace?
8. What is the Gospel of Jesus Christ and why does it matter to you?
9. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit at work in the world and in your life?
10. The United Methodist Church holds that Scripture, tradition, experience and reason are sources and norms for belief and practice but that the Bible is primary among them. What is your understanding of this theological position of the Church, and how has your practice of ministry been affected by this understanding?
11. How do you understand the following traditional evangelical doctrines:
 - a. Repentance
 - b. Justification
 - c. Regeneration (new birth)
 - d. Sanctification

Holy Leading: The following questions are intended to help you articulate how you put your faith into practice as a leader and provide examples of how others follow you and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

1. How do you lead others in passionate worship?
2. How do you foster intentional faith development for people in your care?
3. How do you nurture extravagant generosity in others?
4. How do you lead others in radical hospitality?
5. How do you challenge others to take risks in mission and service?
6. How do you teach and encourage others to share their faith?
7. Share some examples of your willingness to relate yourself in ministry to all persons without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic condition or disability.

Action Required

- $\frac{3}{4}$ majority written ballot required for recommendation
- **dCOM Secretary:** Send minutes within 14 days to dCOM members, the district office and the BOM staff liaison (Trudy McManus - tmcmanus@moumethodist.org), including the After Interview Action Reports and Associate Membership Recommendation letter.
- **dCOM Registrar/Chair:** Send follow-up letter to Candidate. Place dCOM Action Report, Associate Membership Recommendation and follow-up letter into the file.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP INTERVIEW (¶322)

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

District: _____ Date: _____

Candidate: _____

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):

- Recommended for interview with BOM for associate membership (¶322.1)
 Not recommended for interview with BOM for associate membership (¶322.1)

Interview Summary:

Notes, Recommendations or Requirements for follow-up: