

**Board of Ordained Ministry
Missouri Conference, The United Methodist Church**

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP

The *Discipline* lists the following specific course requirements that must be included in graduate theological education prior to provisional membership in the United Methodist Church. Note that the Missouri Conference requires completion of at least one-half of educational requirements prior to commissioning and provisional membership. In addition, completion of an undergraduate (bachelor's) degree is required prior to any graduate theological course work.

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Theology
- Church history
- Mission of the church in the world
- Worship/liturgy
- Evangelism
- A minimum of two semester or three-quarter hours in each of the fields of United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity.

The Missouri Conference Board of Ordained Ministry strongly encourages completion of United Methodist doctrine prior to applying for provisional membership.

The Missouri Conference Board of Ordained Ministry allows up to 2/3 of all course work to be completed online. The United Methodist Church allows online courses to be taken only at one of the 13 official United Methodist seminaries or Asbury Theological Seminary. Online courses are those in which the students and faculty are not in the same location. Hybrid courses are those in which both students and faculty are in person a majority of the time on the school's main or approved extension campus.

Although each seminary has the responsibility to designate which basic courses meet the core requirements and advise students of these courses, the conference Board of Ordained Ministry will have the final authority to approve academic studies.

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