

REGARDING MEMBERSHIP IN FULL CONNECTION

This process is designed to give members of the Board of Ordained Ministry optimal understanding of your gifts for ministry. At the Provisional Membership level the emphasis is on readiness for ministry, at the Elder level the Board is looking for effectiveness in expressing your call to ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church. The Board wants your thoughts. In your written work, the Board will look for: a) clarity, consistency and conciseness of thought; b) your use of scripture, tradition, reason and experience in your responses.

2. How your papers are handled: Your papers are assigned to a reading team. Your papers will be returned to you, with comments, by the team leader by February, 2010. All comments by team members will be forwarded to the team leader and the registrar for discussion by the full Board. If you do not hear from your team leader, please call the Registrar.

Prior to your personal interview, the Board will spend as much time as necessary to hear from each reader regarding strengths and weaknesses and to prepare to assist the candidate in responding to areas of questions as well as points of strength.

3. The Board will send an On-Site Interview Team to spend approximately four hours within your Charge. The Team will visit your Charge and will expect to see you participating in worship in your normal worship role. Some senior pastors will let you preach but that is not a requirement. If you are not in a church, your work-site will be visited. You will be notified of the date.

You will need to gather a group of people together who can reflect, with the visitation team, on your ministry in your current appointment. Suggestions are: PPRC Chairperson, Ministry Team leaders, Senior Pastor, laity who are excited about what you are doing, etc. This is not an exhaustive list.

The Interview Team will report to the entire Board and may make one of two recommendations following review of your papers and the personal interview: (1) Continue your candidacy, or (2) Membership in Full Connection and Elder's Orders (A two-thirds vote is required in order to recommend). In some instances the Board may place specific conditions upon the action which must be satisfied prior to the following Annual Conference or face discontinuance. In some instances the Board may make strong recommendations which should be discussed and responded to with the help of a Board Advisor.

4. Following Board action you will receive a letter of confirmation of actions from the Chair of the Board.
5. If at any time you have a concern about the process as it applies to you, please contact the Registrar.
6. It is the candidate's responsibility to be familiar with the Discipline and to assure proper completion of all requirements.
7. The Board makes every effort to respect the confidentiality of information in its possession and to limit its dissemination. If you feel a breach of confidence has occurred, you are encouraged to report this to the Board Chairperson for investigation.