

WRITTEN MATERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Doctrinal Examination for Full Connection

Content: This paper should be your original work. Each answer should be complete in and of itself. References to answers in other exams are not appropriate. **Form:** Responses should be double spaced with the question number and question included before each answer. **Length:** Answers are dependent on each individual response to the question. **Guideline:** Recognizing that some questions will require more of a response than others, most readers look for 2-3 pages per question. The Board is expecting your best scholarly work, which includes punctuation and grammar.

Theology

1. How has the practice of ministry affected your experience and understanding of God?
2. What effect has the practice of ministry had on your understanding of humanity and the need for divine grace?
3. What changes has the practice of ministry had on your understanding of (a) the "Lordship of Jesus Christ" and (b) the work of the Holy Spirit?
4. The United Methodist Church holds that Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason are the 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?
5. How do you understand the following traditional evangelical doctrines:
(a) repentance; (b) justification; (c) regeneration; (d) sanctification? What are the marks of the Christian life?
6. For the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness to the Christian gospel and in consideration of your influence as an ordained minister, are you willing to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life; and to this end will you agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to physical health, intentional intellectual development, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, integrity in all personal relationships, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God? Explain.
7. What are the meaning and significance of the Sacraments?
8. Describe the nature and mission of the church. What are its primary tasks today?
9. What is your understanding of: (1) the Kingdom of God, (2) the Resurrection, and (3) eternal life?
10. What two theologians, besides John Wesley, have greatly influenced your theological thinking. Please explain.

The Practice of Ministry

1. How has the practice of ordained (Elder) ministry or service (Deacon) ministry affected your understanding of the expectations and obligations of the itinerant system?
2. (Elder) Do you offer yourself without reserve to be appointed and to serve as the appointive authority may determine? (Deacon) Do you offer yourself to be appointed by the bishop to a service ministry? Please explain.
3. Are you willing to minister with all persons without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic condition, or disabilities? Reflect theologically on the issues in this paragraph and defend your position as a minister of Jesus Christ. Please give examples.
4. Will you regard your pastoral conversations of a confessional nature as a trust between the person concerned

7/08

and God? Are there any exceptions to this principle? Explain.

5. In your own ministry, what evidence is there of experience in ministries concerning peace and justice? Explain.

Plan for Teaching

Present a six- to twelve-week study of your development on a book of the Bible. This plan should be in “ready to use” form. The study should include:

1. Background of the book you are going to study.
2. The age group you are teaching, your method of teaching, goals of the study, times you will meet.
3. Specific theological concepts, Christology, or themes to be taught or explored in each session.
4. Include a brief bibliography that you use in your preparation.

Pastoral Care Examination

1. Comment on the 2004 Discipline par. 340. Which seem most important to you, and why? What qualities and attitudes do you feel a pastor needs in order to fulfill these expectations?
2. Based on your own theological position, describe behavior appropriate and inappropriate to the lifestyle of an ordained minister.
3. Please submit two actual verbatim, “a word-for-word transcript” of real pastoral experiences. These should be current experiences, i.e., taken from experiences following the time of your receiving this examination. The experiences you write up must be from two different categories suggested below. Along with each verbatim, please include your careful evaluation of your counseling opportunity. The verbatim are to be of the entire session, not just a summary of the session. An example is on our website at www.dswboom.org

Categories

marital
hospital or other illness situation
funeral
church conflict
teenage problem
para-church contact
draft
peer (other clergy)
family problems
coping difficulty

- A. Please change only the names to preserve confidentiality.
- B. Include background information on the person’s life circumstances, your history with the person, and the context/reason for the contact.
- C. Carefully evaluate the opportunities for ministry in the contact:
 1. What are the major theological issues that the person seems to be dealing with now?
 2. What were the possible outcomes in the situation?
 3. What did you do to heal, sustain, guide, reconcile, or nurture the individual?
 4. How did the person respond to your attempts to render pastoral care and why might these responses have occurred?
 5. What could you have done differently and why?

7/08

6. What might you do next time to promote continuity in the growth and support of the individual?
4. Are the areas of ministry not covered above that interest you?

Sermon (Elder or Deacon) or Deacon Project (Deacon Only)

1. Exegetical paper. Select a biblical text on a significant Christian theme, from which you will prepare your sermon. Write a brief exegetical paper on the text. At the conclusion of the paper, answer the following questions: (a) In one sentence, what do you want your sermon or project to accomplish? (b) Why did you select this text? (c) What exegetical questions interested you in the passage?
2. Sermon. It is expected that you preach the sermon or implement your project after the time you receive this examination..

Send all documents in a file folder containing your doctrinal examination, your pastoral care examination and your sermon. No hard cover notebooks please. Also include one DVD of your sermon and 1 CD with all papers, no later than January 30, 2009, to:

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