

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

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.
6. Please give us examples of ministries you are engaged in that “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Plan for Teaching

Present a six- to eight-week study of your development from one of the Gospels that leads us to an understanding of what it means to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. 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 2008 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?
 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 on a CD containing the doctrinal examination, your pastoral care examination and your sermon. Also include five (5) DVDs of your sermon, no later than January 13, 2012, to:

Rev. Stewart Lewis, Registrar
5540 E. Main Street
Mesa, AZ 85205
(480) 832-2111
stewart@veldarose.org

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING MATERIAL

1. All material should be submitted in Word or WordPerfect format. Each question should be entered as a separate document. Documents should be double-spaced. All material should be submitted on one (1) CD. Please do not send extra disks, CDs, etc.
2. Each document should have the candidate's name and subject in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
3. Five (5) copies of the video should be sent. Please send in DVD format. Please check to make sure that the audio portion is understandable. We want to see your facial expressions, if possible.
4. Please consider delays in mailing, etc., as all material must be in the hands of the registrar on January 13, 2012. There will be no extensions.