

WRITTEN MATERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Doctrinal Examination for Provisional Membership

Candidates for Provisional Membership are required to write papers in areas specified by the 2008 Book of Discipline, paragraph 324.9. Written work should reflect the candidate's best efforts, keeping in mind that grammar and punctuation will be considered. Should the Board deem written work unsatisfactory, the process will be terminated without an interview. All answers should be complete. Each document should be double spaced with the candidate's name in the upper right hand corner of each page. Each question should be a separate document, with the question included at the beginning of each answer. The length of an answer is dependent on each individual response to the question. Recognizing that some questions require more reflection than others, most readers look for 2-3 pages per question. Each question should be separate and distinct from all other questions, i.e., started on a new page. Submit one (1) CD containing all documents. (Word/WordPerfect format.)

Biographical Material

This includes completion of the Biographical Summary Form and receipt of the Health Certificate, Transcripts, Personal References, Application for Admission, and Permanent Record Form. The forms are available online.

Sermon

A sermon on one of the texts listed below, submitted on the informational CD, and five (5) copies of the sermon on DVD. The purpose of the video is to help in the evaluation of as many of the components of delivery as possible. Therefore, it is important to preach the sermon, rather than read it. The strong preference is that this be a video of your preaching in an actual preaching service, e.g., morning worship, vespers. Other settings, such as groups, preaching class, or even alone, are acceptable if absolutely necessary. Should this be the case, deliver the sermon as if preaching to a full house!

In addition, the following must accompany the video and manuscript:

1. An order of worship, which you have developed to support your sermon with all the elements of the worship service (preferably the actual order used when the sermon is preached-either way, it should be your authorship).
2. A 200-word statement on your theology of worship.
3. An Exegetical paper. 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 to accomplish? (b) Why did you select this text? (c) What exegetical questions interested you in the passage?
4. A statement describing the situation in which the sermon was taped (this could be either at the beginning of the tape or in writing at the beginning of the sermon manuscript/transcript).

Sermon Texts

1. Matthew 26:20-29, Luke 22:1-23, John 13:1-30, 1 Corinthians 11 (Theme: Holy Communion)
2. Acts 2:1-21 (Theme: Pentecost)
3. Exodus 3 and 4:1-20, Isaiah 6:1-8, Matthew 4:18-22 (Theme: Call and Commitment)
4. Matthew 3 (Theme: Baptism)
5. John 3:16-21, Exodus 20:1-17 (Theme: Theology)
6. Matthew 28:1-10 (Theme: Easter)
7. Matthew 25:31-46 (Theme: Judgment)
8. Matthew 28:16-20 (Theme: Great Commission/Mission and Evangelism)
9. Genesis 3:1-7 (Theme: Problem of Evil)
10. Acts 9:1-9 (Theme: Conversion)
11. Romans 12 (Theme: Calling)
12. Isaiah 58:1-12, Luke 4, 18-19, James 1:27 (Theme: Social Justice)

Doctrinal Exam

- (1) Describe your personal experience of God and the understanding of God you derive from biblical, theological, and historical sources.
- (2) What is your understanding of evil as it exists in the world?
- (3) What is your understanding of humanity, and the human need for divine grace?
- (4) How do you interpret the statement Jesus Christ is Lord?
- (5) What is your conception of the activity of the Holy Spirit in personal faith, in the community of believers, and in responsible living in the world?
- (6) What is your understanding of the kingdom of God; the Resurrection; eternal life?
- (7) How do you intend to affirm, teach and apply Part II of the Discipline (Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task) in your work in the ministry to which you have been called?
- (8) The United Methodist Church holds that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason. What is your understanding of this theological position of the Church?
- (9) Describe the nature and mission of the Church. What are its primary tasks today?
- (10) Discuss your understanding of the primary characteristics of United Methodist polity.
- (11) How do you perceive yourself, your gifts, your motives, your role, and your commitment as a probationary member and commissioned minister in The United Methodist Church?
- (12) Describe your understanding of *diakonia*, the servant ministry of the church, and the servant ministry of the probationary member and commissioned minister.
- (13) What is the meaning of ordination in the context of the general ministry of the Church?
- (14) Describe your understanding of an inclusive church and ministry.
- (15) You have agreed as a candidate for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness of the gospel, and in consideration of their influence as ministers, to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life, and to this end agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all personal relationships, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God. What is your understanding of this agreement?
- (16) Explain the role and significance of the sacraments in the ministry to which you have been called.

Plan for Teaching

Present a six- to twelve-week study on a book of the Bible. The study should be “ready-to-go” 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.

Conclusion

Your written work should be from your own perspective, understanding and commitment. Do not try to respond to what you think the Board wants to hear.

You may send all your work, except videos of your sermon, by e-mail to the registrar. Send 5 copies of the DVDs of your sermon and the informational CD, to be in the hands of the Registrar, no later than **December 1, 2010**, to:

Rev. Stewart Lewis, Registrar
5540 E. Main St.
Mesa, AZ 85205
(480)832-2111
(Fax)(480)981-0128
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.
2. Each document should have the candidate’s name and subject in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
3. Send five (5) copies of the DVD should be sent. Please check to make sure that the audio portion is understandable. We want to see your facial expressions, if possible, so please have it videoed accordingly.
4. Please consider delays in mailing, etc., as all material must be in the hands of the registrar on December 1, 2009. There will be no extensions.
5. Please note that we are asking for a current photo. It should be no larger than 4 x 6 and preferably in color. A “head-and-shoulders” shot will work wonderfully. You may submit it as a graphic on your CD.