

2022 Provisional Continuance Examination

Western North Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

Paragraph 327 of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church requires that the Board of Ordained Ministry of each Annual Conference examine provisional members yearly as they make their way to full connection. While a clergy person is a provisional member they are on probation as to character, how they model servant leadership and show effectiveness in ministry. Continuance interviews are conducted for any resident that is not meeting for Full Connection or presenting their FLiM. Continuance is contingent upon meeting these requirements successfully.

A provisional continuance interview is an opportunity for the Board to monitor your progress and offer you guidance on your journey. The Board will use a variety of resources to support your continued growth and development. Utilizing the foundational document, [Whom Shall I Send, A Portrait of Fruitful Clergy Leadership](#), you will answer questions tied to this document and have an interview that asks you to reflect upon your progress. Your best work is expected. You will receive appropriate feedback.

To prepare for a continuance interview a resident is asked to submit a self-assessment paper to be no less than 3 pages and no more than 5 pages. This is a formal paper, similar to what is expected at provisional interviews and full connection interviews. Please include:

- A cover page stating your name, address, contact phone number, email address, date and include your order—Provisional Deacon or Provisional Elder. The cover page is not included in the page count. Number all your pages.
- A bibliography which is not included in the page count.
- Restate the questions before providing your answer.
- Acceptable font types are 12-point Times New Roman or 12-point Cambria with 1-inch margins.
- Double space with exception of footnotes.
- Footnotes (endnotes are not acceptable) should be in clear style that clearly provides your sources, and there should be ample sources noted.

Papers are due by **January 4, 2022**. You will be notified in the fall to whom you should send your paper. The interviews will be held in Gastonia, NC.

Answer the following questions thoughtfully and carefully. The discernment team will use your answers as a starting point in your interview with them.

1. Looking at the 12 items listed under the document, [Whom Shall I Send](#), what is your current focus in terms of growing into the faithful leader God is calling you to be and what are you doing to grow in this area?
2. As a leader currently leading through uncertain times, how do you help your congregation and community as they face uncertain events, and how are you dealing with your own uncertainties?
3. Describe the experience you are having in living into the diversity of the community of faith in your setting, and the importance of embracing diversity.