

Provisional Deacon Membership Candidates - 2020

Western North Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

Answer all of the following questions thoughtfully and carefully. Be faithful to the Scriptures. Review all previous educational work and readings. Read *The 2016 United Methodist Discipline* thoroughly (especially The Ministry of the Ordained, ¶301ff and ¶¶324-327). Review your candidacy guidebook. Explain your answers to give depth to your thoughts, feelings and convictions. The interview discernment team will use your answers as the starting point in your conversations with them.

Written Papers:

- Your entire written submission will be one large file (Word or PDF) submitted electronically to the Chair of the Discernment Team to which you will be assigned in the fall (not Kim Ingram). Include:
- A general cover page for all of your work stating your name, address, contact phone number, email address, date and include "Candidate for Provisional Deacon – 2020."
- Number all your pages - either consecutively throughout the document or each section can be numbered individually. The page count for each section does not include the cover page for each section.
- Add a footer on each page that includes your name and "Provisional Deacon."
- Create individual cover pages for each section. Instructions for each section are included within. Include: Vocation, Disciplined Life, Theology, Proclamation.
- A bibliography which is not included in any of the page counts.
- Throughout your paper, restate the entire question before providing your answer.
- No question may be answered simply "Yes" or "No."
- Acceptable font types are 12 point Times New Roman or 12 point Cambria with 1-inch margins.
- Double space all of your written work with exception of your footnotes.
- Footnotes (not endnotes) should be in a clear style that clearly provides your sources.
- Candidates submitting late or incomplete papers will not be granted an interview.

If you are returning to the board, you should only do the assignments indicated in your follow-up letter. If you have any questions, contact Kim Ingram. You will need to meet with the dCOM again in December for approval.

Assignments are due by **Monday, February 3, 2020**. You will be notified in the fall to whom you should send your materials. The interviews will be held in Gastonia, NC on **March 17-19, 2020**.

Provisional Deacon Membership Candidates - 2020 Vocation

For this section, your total answers should be at least 12 but no more than 15 pages. Create a cover page for this section stating your name, address, contact phone number, email address, date and "Candidate for Provisional Deacon – 2020 – Vocation."

1. Describe your call into ordained ministry. Include:
 - Experiences as a Christian prior to your call
 - God's influence and inspiration in how you experienced God's call
 - Influential relationships that shaped your call
 - Past and present church involvement that affirmed your call

2. Describe the meaning of commissioning as a provisional deacon in the context of the general ministry of the church. Reflect on the relationship of the two orders of deacons and elders within the ministry of the church. Include the concept of servant ministry.

3. Describe your strengths for ministry. How do you perceive yourself, your gifts, and your commitment as a provisional deacon in The United Methodist Church? What is your understanding of ordination? Elaborate on areas in which you need further maturation.

4. How will our polity affect your life as an ordained minister? What do you anticipate to be the risks, sacrifices, and rewards in serving in the United Methodist ordained ministry for you? If you are now working (or expect to be appointed) in a setting beyond the local church, please share your understanding of how your setting and ministry relate to the local church and the mission of the church, how you expect to be involved in worship, and how you will assist others at the work place to understand and claim their own ministry.

5. Describe where you have experienced personally another person who offered significant Christian leadership to a congregation, the church, or our culture. Speak with that person to gain their insights. What did you learn from their leadership? What would you have done differently? (You should not give the name of the person. Refer by first name only if needed.)

Provisional Deacon Membership Candidates - 2020 Disciplined Life

For this section, your total answers should be at least 6 but no more than 8 pages. Create a cover page for this section stating your name, address, contact phone number, email address, date and "Candidate for Provisional Deacon – 2020 – Disciplined Life."

1. You are called to dedicate yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life. Discuss your personal habits and disciplines to fulfill these highest ideals. Include:
 - a. Physical health (exercise, diet, physical exams)
 - b. Intellectual, emotional, and mental health (reading, continuing education, counseling)
 - c. Social justice
 - d. Spiritual disciplines and means of grace
 - e. Integrity in pastoral and personal relationships
 - i. Confidentiality in counseling
 - ii. Appropriate boundaries in family and work
 - iii. Celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage
2. What one success within your disciplined life do you most celebrate? Where are you most challenged? What do these answers reveal about you?
3. Discuss your personal financial stewardship, including your indebtedness, investments, and giving.
4. Describe your understanding of an inclusive church and ministry. How do you relate to and serve all persons without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic condition, or disability? How have you in your ministry, taught and encouraged your congregation/ministry setting to be welcoming and inclusive to all people?

Provisional Deacon Membership Candidates - 2020 Theology

For this section, your answers should be of sufficient length to state your position clearly and represent your best theological thinking. Your answers reflect your academic studies in historical and systematic theology, scripture, your understanding of *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*, and your own perspectives. Carefully review all sections of *The United Methodist Book of Discipline* that are related to these topics.

The length of this section should be no more than 24 double spaced pages utilizing footnotes appropriately. Create a cover page for this section stating your name, address, contact phone number, email address, date and "Candidate for Provisional Deacon – 2020 – Theology."

1. Describe your basic theological ideas regarding:
 - The Triune God
 - Nature of humanity
 - Sin and evil
 - The role of Jesus Christ
 - The activity of the Holy Spirit
 - Grace
 - The means of grace
 - The sacraments
 - The kingdom of God, the resurrection, and eternal life
 - The nature of the church and its primary mission and work today
 - Reflect on God's justice and love in the presence of evil in the world.
2. Discuss primary characteristics of United Methodist polity and the theology they reflect.
3. Describe the Wesleyan quadrilateral. Illustrate how it may be used to address a current ethical issue/debate.
4. Name and discuss the United Methodist way of salvation. How have you experienced it in your own spiritual journey?
5. How do you understand your tasks to affirm, teach, and apply Part III of *The United Methodist Book of Discipline* (Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task) in your work as a United Methodist minister?

Provisional Deacon Membership Candidates - 2020 Proclamation

Submit a servant leadership ministry project, event, or experience, created and led by you, that reflects your call to servant leadership as a deacon within the context and area of ministry to which you are called. Be creative to demonstrate your ministry and the equipping of others to claim their ministries of love, justice, compassion, and service to connect the church and the world. Do not use a curriculum from another source.

For this section, your total answers should be at least 8 but no more than 10 pages (not including a written document for your oral presentation). The video recorded presentation will be submitted using a YouTube account. Create a cover page for this section stating your name, address, contact phone number, email address, date and "Candidate for Provisional Deacon – 2020 – Proclamation." Include the link to the YouTube video on the cover page.

This project must be implemented between the dates of January 1 and December 31 of 2019. Work with at least one layperson in planning and implementing your project.

1. List and describe any training, workshops, and practical experience you have had in the area of your project (1 page).
2. Write an explanation and rationale of the project that includes its genesis, scope, outline, and reflections about how the project relates to your calling as a deacon in servant leadership in the world (4-5 pages).
3. In one sentence, what is the message you seek to convey in this project?
4. Describe the setting of your project such as the nature of the gathering and participants and why you chose the primary theme addressed (1 page).
5. Include a video recorded presentation (no more than one hour) presenting part or all of your project in your ministry setting. This recording will reflect your ability to communicate orally, especially your ability to proclaim the Gospel. If you worked with a manuscript or notes, please include those papers (12 point, double spaced. These pages are not included in the page count for this section).
6. Include, if appropriate, pictures and/or other supporting documents such as flyers, handouts, and brochures. Submit as pdf. These items do not count toward the 8-10 page limit.
7. Write a final evaluation of the project (2-3 pages). Reflect on the effectiveness of the ministry project with the leadership and the participants, including what went well and what you would do differently. Reflect how this project helped to shape the discipleship and ministry of the church.