

## **2023 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 is contingent upon meeting these requirements successfully. Continuance interviews are conducted yearly for any resident that is *not meeting with the BOM for Full Connection or presenting their FLiM.*

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 3, 2023**. You will be notified in the fall to whom you should send your paper. Continuance interviews will be held virtually.

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

1. How has your call or your understanding of your call changed during your residency?
2. What is your understanding of God's empathy toward humanity and God's desire to have a relationship with humanity? How has that understanding helped you and others face uncertainty?
3. How do you encourage innovative thinking with laity and staff? Share some examples of pitches or ideas and your initial response.
4. Share about a time when you had to persuade congregation members to accept a new course of action where there was no clear precedent and there were several options from which to choose. What did you learn from the experience and what will you do differently next time?