

## Candidacy Process for the Deacon, Elder, and Local Pastor

### Inquiring Candidate: 2004 Book of Discipline ¶311.1

1. Contact the pastor in the local church, another deacon or elder, or the DS
2. Read *The Christian as Minister* (recommended, not required)
3. Participate in *Ministry Inquiry Process* (recommended, not required)

### Phase One: ¶311.1 (apply & enroll)

1. Member of The United Methodist Church for two (2) years immediately preceding application for candidacy, including a year of service in some form of congregational leadership
2. Apply to DS, in writing, for admission to candidacy program and be assigned a candidacy mentor by DS/dCOM
3. Work with mentor to apply online to GBHEM for *Candidacy Guidebook*.
4. Complete exploration of candidacy with the mentor (the first two sections of the *Candidacy Guidebook*)

### Phase Two: ¶311.2 (declaring)

1. Consult with pastor and request for recommendation from S/P-PRC
2. High school degree or equivalent
3. Written statement of call and interview by Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee
4. Recommendation by charge conference
5. Continue candidacy program with candidacy mentor and academic requirements

### Certified Candidate: ¶311.3

Completion of the following:

1. Written response to ministry questions (¶311.3b & c)
2. Psychological assessment and report
3. Provide other information upon request
4. Agree to make a complete dedication of themselves to the highest ideals of the Christian life
5. Examination and approval by dCOM

Local Pastor - Completed candidacy certification, licensed, and assigned a clergy mentor ¶315.

### Continuation of Candidacy: ¶312

1. Annual recommendation by charge conference
2. Annual interview and approval by dCOM
3. Annual report of satisfactory progress of studies and copy of transcripts from university or school of theology

### Completion of Candidacy: ¶324

1. Certified candidate for minimum of one (1) year, maximum twelve (12) years
2. One (1) year in service ministry
3. Completion of academic requirements
4. Health certificate completed by medical doctor
5. Written and oral doctrinal exam and written autobiographical statement
6. Interview and recommendation by three-fourths vote of dCOM
7. Notarized statement certifying that the candidate has neither been accused in writing nor convicted of a felony, misdemeanor, or any incident of sexual misconduct or child abuse
8. Interview and recommendation by the BOM
9. Election to probationary membership by clergy session

## Commissioning to specialized ministry as probationary member