

## Journey Toward Ordained Ministry Interview Tips

### **Image And Appearance**

- Express optimism.
- Have energy.
- Don't forget to smile.
- Be confident.

### **Body Language**

- Use your body to communicate:
  - Openness
  - Receptiveness
  - Interest
  - Enthusiasm
  - Confidence
  - Attentiveness
- Use appropriate facial expressions.
- Maintain poise and appear relaxed (even if you're not)
- Make eye contact with each person on the interview team.

### **Verbal Communication**

- Keep your answers concise and organized.
- Speak clearly.
- Incorporate your strengths, skills, and accomplishments in your answers. Explain how you are using your gifts in your context.
- Discuss your weaknesses honestly. Your weaknesses are NOT your strengths.
- Ask clarifying questions if you need to. Make sure to understand the question they are asking.
- Do not be afraid of taking a pause before or during your answers.
- Use Methodist buzz-words in responses (e.g. self-care, set apart, open table, quadrilateral...)
- Use "I" language. The interview is about telling them who you are.

## **Content**

- Be prepared. Review your written answers before the interview.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the question being asked.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the content of your answer.
- Answer with a humble spirit that is willing to learn.
- Include personal narratives. Put yourself (or someone else) in the answer... BUT keep it in check. It's not ALL about you. It is some about Jesus.
- Use examples out of your personal context.
- Condensing your answer is not always the best choice.
- Reference theologians in your responses. It's easier to disagree with you than it is to disagree with Moltmann or Hauerwas.
- Think your answers through using a Wesleyan framework.

## **Other Cool Stuff Someone Said That I Need To Remember**

- Bring in something to write with and write on.
- Don't be late.
- You know more than you think you know. Trust in your ability to answer the questions.
- Practicing with someone helps you know how you appear to someone else.
- Practice more than once.
- Be flexible and roll with it during the interview.