

Journey Toward Ordained Ministry
Interview Questions

Candidate - asked by the district Committee on Ordained Ministry

Book of Discipline 2016, Paragraph 310.2.a

1. What has been the most formative experience of your Christian life?
2. Describe God's call to licensed or ordained ministry and role of the church in your call.
3. What are your beliefs as a Christian?
4. What are your gifts for ministry?
5. What is your present understanding of your call to ministry as elder, deacon, or licensed ministry?
6. Describe your support system.

Provisional Member - asked by the conference Board of Ordained Ministry

Book of Discipline 2016, Paragraph 324.9

1. Describe your personal experience of God and the understanding of God you derive from biblical, theological, and historical sources.
2. What is your understanding of evil as it exists in the world?
3. What is your understanding of humanity, and the human need for divine grace?
4. How do you interpret the statement Jesus Christ is Lord?
5. What is your conception of the activity of the Holy Spirit in personal faith, in the community of believers, and in responsible living in the world?
6. What is your understanding of the kingdom of God; the Resurrection; eternal life?
7. How do you intend to affirm, teach, and apply Part III of the *Discipline* (Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task) in your work in the ministry to which you have been called?
8. The United Methodist Church holds that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason. What is your understanding of this theological position of the Church?
9. Describe the nature and mission of the Church. What are its primary tasks today?
10. Discuss your understanding of the primary characteristics of United Methodist polity.
11. Explain your understanding of the distinctive vocations of the order of elder and the order of deacon. How do you perceive yourself, your gifts, your motives, your role, and your commitment as a provisional deacon or provisional elder in The United Methodist Church?
12. Describe your understanding of *diakonia*, the servant ministry of the church, and the servant ministry of the provisional member.
13. What is the meaning of ordination in the context of the general ministry of the Church?
14. Describe your understanding of an inclusive church and ministry.
15. You have agreed as a candidate for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness of the gospel, and in consideration of their influence as ministers, to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life, and to this end agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all personal relationships, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God. What is your understanding of this agreement?

16. Explain the role and significance of the sacraments in the ministry to which you have been called.

Member In Full Connection - asked by the conference Board of Ordained Ministry

Book of Discipline 2016, Paragraph 330.5.a-c

Leadership

1. Discuss the most constructive criticism or feedback you have received from a mistake you have made. How did you address it? What did you learn from it?
2. What book has recently shaped your understanding and practice of leadership and how?
3. Describe a project you were a part of or led that was not a success. What did you learn from that experience?

Theology

1. Give examples of how the practice of ministry has affected your experience and understanding of: (a) God; (b) Humanity; (c) The need for divine grace; (d) The Lordship of Jesus Christ; (e) The work of the Holy Spirit; (f) The meaning and significance of the Sacraments; (g) The kingdom of God; (h) Resurrection and eternal life.
2. How do you understand the following traditional evangelical doctrines: (a) repentance; (b) justification; (c) regeneration; (d) sanctification? What are the marks of the Christian life?
3. How has the practice of ministry informed your understanding of the nature and mission of the Church? What are its primary challenges today?
4. The United Methodist Church holds that Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason are sources and norms for belief and practice, but that the Bible is primary among them. What is your understanding of this theological position of the Church, and how has your practice of ministry been affected by this understanding?

Call

1. How has the experience of ministry shaped your understanding of your vocation as an ordained deacon?
2. What kind of support structure do you have as you enter vocational ministry?
3. What spiritual development practices do you find most helpful? Least helpful?
4. Have you ever doubted your call? If so, how did you handle that experience? (hint – we all doubt our call)

Service and Discipline

1. Do you offer yourself to be appointed by the bishop to a service ministry?
2. Describe and evaluate your personal gifts for ministry and how they have resulted in fruitful ministry. What would be your areas of strength and areas in which you need to be strengthened in order to be more fruitful in ministry?
3. For the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness to the Christian gospel, and in consideration of your influence as an ordained minister, are you willing to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life; and to this end will you agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to physical health, intentional intellectual development, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness,

integrity in all personal relationships, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge of the love of God?

4. Provide evidence of your willingness to relate yourself in ministry to all persons without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic condition, or disability.
5. Will you regard all pastoral conversations of a confessional nature as a trust between the person concerned and God?
6. Provide evidence of experience in peace and justice ministries.

Historic Questions For Admission Into Full Connection - asked by Clergy Session of AC
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Book of Discipline 2016, Paragraph 330.5.d

1. Have you faith in Christ?
2. Are you going on to perfection?
3. Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
4. Are you earnestly striving after perfection in love?
5. Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and God's work?
6. Do you know the General Rules of our Church?
7. Will you keep the General Rules of our Church?
8. Have you studied the doctrines of The United Methodist Church?
9. After full examination do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?
10. Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?
11. Do you approve our Church government and polity?
12. Will you support and maintain them?
13. Will you exercise the ministry of compassion?
14. Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
15. Will you visit from house to house?
16. Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?
17. Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?
18. Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?
19. Will you observe the following directions?
 - a. Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.
 - b. Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.