Great Plains
UNITED METHODISTS

Ordination Project General Information

Introduction

The 2012 *Book of Discipline* requires each candidate for ordination to complete a project demonstrating fruitfulness in carrying out the mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (¶330 and ¶335).

The biblical emphasis upon fruitfulness is clear. Jesus spoke of his disciples being known by their fruitfulness. John Wesley asked his ministers again and again, "Are there fruits?" We are accountable for achieving outcomes that move us toward our mission.

The Ordination Project should demonstrate your leadership skills, your understanding of your ministry setting, your ability to work with others, and your understanding of what fruitfulness is and how it is achieved. You will need to define what aspect of disciple-making your project highlights. Is it the recruiting of disciples, the connecting of disciples with the Body of Christ, the training of disciples, or the sending of disciples into the world to serve and witness? You will also need to describe how you intend for your project to result in the transformation of some aspect of the world around your ministry setting. What about the interrelatedness of disciple-making and transformation?

The Board of Ordained Ministry Competency Team and/or Project Proposal Review Team will oversee and assist in the completion of this requirement, but questions concerning the administration aspects of the process can be addressed to the BOOM Registrar.

What is an Ordination Project?

The project should be limited in scope to something the Provisional Member hopes to accomplish during the time appointed between the initial interview for continuation as a provisional member and the deadline for submission of materials for a full membership/ordination request. This is NOT routine work, support or maintenance. The work can be part of something bigger, perhaps that has already been started, or will continue beyond this time, but there should be a clear piece of work carved out of the larger effort that has a clear objective and metrics demonstrating fruitfulness in ministry.

Process and Timeline
- Overview of the Ordination Project presented to Provisional Members at initial First Year Residency Retreat by BOOM Registrar or member of the BOOM Competency Team; time is provided to discuss during Residency Mentoring (Mentors will have additional training provided by Competency Team/Registrar prior to the retreat)
- Provisional Member will complete and submit Project Proposal
  - Due with Continuation of Provisional Membership materials
- Members of the Project Proposal Review Team will review all Project Proposals. The review team will be composed of BOOM members, particularly persons who are assigned to the Proclamation & Discipleship interview teams
  - Provisional Members will be notified by BOOM Registrar no later than January 1 if project is approved or if revisions are required. The Registrar will provide a copy of the completed Ordination Proposal Rubric used by the Review Team. Any required revisions are generally due no later than January 15 with a BOOM response to be made no later than February 1. If further revisions are required by the Review Team, the provisional member may be delayed in requesting full membership/ordination.

- Provisional Member works to complete approved project, documenting the work as instructed.
- Provisional Member will submit Project Reflection
  - Due with Full Membership/Ordination materials
- Project Proposal and Project Reflection reviewed by Proclamation and Discipleship Interview Team during BOOM Interview Week as one piece of the overall material submitted for the Full Membership request

Tips for Choosing an Ordination Project
- The project selected should be a new ministry or a new initiative within an existing ministry intended to bring forth fruit.
- It should involve others, including lay persons, in your ministry setting. You do not have to be the "star" of the project.
- It should involve needs within the ministry setting that are not currently being met.
- There should be a distinct difference between what you are doing and a project that might be done by any civic organization. That is, your project should visibly be a ministry of Christ.
- It may be a one-time event or a short series of events. Take on a project that is manageable in the coming months or year. If it is a one-time event, you will want to plan a preparation phase, an implementation phase, and follow-up phase to insure that disciple-making and transformation occur.
- Find a focus where your passion and that of the congregation/ministry setting converge, or a place where the Spirit is already moving in the form of readiness, or where there is a consensus on the need for change.

Ministry Project Ideas/Example Titles
- Begin a new worship service
- Start a new prayer ministry
- Create and teach an ecumenical Bible Study to a marginalized group
- Begin a ministry to the homeless
- Start a soup kitchen/food closet
- Establish a youth group
- Start a Stephen Ministry
- Begin and Implement the *Alpha* or similar program
- Establish a small group ministry
- Improve hospitality function
- Program to retain connections with college students
- Plan and hold an interchurch ministry fair to share ideas
- Start with a "help with homework" ministry in a needy neighborhood
- Lead a mission trip
- Start a prison fellowship ministry
- Find ways to turn families of pre-school children into church members
- Collaborate with other local churches on a ministry with young adults
- Start a health ministry
- Program for reaching out to the unchurched in your area
- Hold a contemporary Christian music concert outside
- Establish a summer service schedule at a nearby campsite
- Hold an event involving servant evangelism
- Discontinue a revered ministry

What might the Project Proposal Review Team consider in evaluating the Project Proposal?

The Project Proposal Review Team members evaluating project proposals might consider the following in their evaluation process. A copy of the rubric used by the Review Team is included at the end of this document.

- Is the proposal clear and does it address all the questions adequately?
- Does it meet the definition of a "project"? Does it have a beginning and an end and stand apart from the normal routine?
- Is it of manageable size/scope to be completed in roughly one year, along with other ministry responsibilities (and credentialing requirements)? Is this central to the person's ministry appointment?
- Does it pass the "reasonableness" test? Does your gut say this could work?
- If it does not work as intended, can any harm result?
- Is it clear what will change as a result of doing this piece of work?
- How does this fit with the vision/mission of the ministry setting?
- How likely is the provisional member to get the community to embrace this work?
- Who will be involved in the work?
- Who will be impacted by the work?
- How does "successful completion" of the project look?
- How will the provisional member evaluate the project's effectiveness? Do you agree with this method of evaluation?
- How will this project challenge the provisional member as a leader?
- Can you hear a passion for this kind of work in the proposal?
- Does it connect the ministry setting with the community in some way?
- How will this project use the provisional member's gifts and strengths?

Not all of these questions will be asked or answered with each project, but these questions will be the primary guide for the Project Proposal Review Team as it evaluates projects for approval.

What might the Proclamation and Discipleship Interview Team consider in evaluation the Project Reflection?

- How well did the provisional member articulate the manner in which the Ordination Project makes disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?
- How did the Provisional Member demonstrate people leadership skills?
- How did the Provisional Member demonstrate organizational skills?
- Was the work "fruitful" in some way – either the way intended by the Provisional Member or through their learning experience?
- What is the Provisional Member's affinity for risk-taking as evidenced in the work?
- How did the Provisional Member react to set-backs or when a project doesn't go as planned?
- Does the write-up illustrate a mature self-awareness of leadership capabilities and development needs?

Closing

In general, when assessing the Project Proposal, the Review Team is assessing WHAT work will be done. In assessing the Project Reflection, the Proclamation & Discipleship Interview Team is assessing HOW the project was executed.

It is understood and expected that minor, and sometimes major, changes will happen between the Project Proposal and Project Reflection. If the Provisional Member decides to change projects after a proposal has been approved, a new Project Proposal will need to be submitted to the Board Registrar for consideration by the Review Team. Depending on the timing of the new submission, this may cause

a delay in the Provisional Member's eligibility to request full membership/ordination. A general recommendation is to avoid this possibility by selecting project that can be completed between January 1 and July 1. If in doubt, ask the BOOM Registrar.

If a Provisional Member requesting Full Membership/Ordination is deferred by the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Proclamation & Discipleship Interview Team's evaluation of the Project Reflection will determine if a new project and/or project reflection is required the following year. If a provisional member requesting continuation of provisional status submits the Ordination Project Reflection (second or more year of provisional membership), the regional interview team will evaluate the Project Reflection to determine if the requirement is complete or if a new project and/or project reflection is required. This information will be communicated in the confirmation letter following the Board interview and action.

Content adapted from materials created by the Pennisula-Delaware Conference, South Georgia Conference and North Georgia Conference for fulfillment of the 2012 BOD Fruitfulness Project ordination requirement

Ordination Project Proposal Rubric

Applicant Name:

Title of Project:

According to the Ordination Project General Instructions (Form 14-3A), not every project proposal will include answers to all criteria listed below. These are not the specific questions that are asked in the Project Proposal (Form 14-4B). However, these do reflect the possible criteria included in Form 14-4A.

Criteria	Yes	No	Notes
Is the proposal clear?			
Does it answer all required questions in Part I adequately?			
Does it answer all required questions in Part II adequately?			
Does the project have a beginning, middle and end?			
Is the project of manageable size/scope as described?			
Does your gut say this could work? Does it pass the "reasonableness" test?			
Is it clear what will change/is expected to change as a result of this project?			
Does the project "fit" with the vision/mission of the ministry setting?			
Are others from the ministry setting involved in the planning or implementation of this project?			
Are others from outside the ministry setting involved in the planning or implementation of this project?			
Who will be impacted by this work?			
What determines "successful completion" of the project?			
How will the project be evaluated for effectiveness? Does this seem to be a valid method of evaluation?			
How will this project challenge the applicant as a leader?			
Is passion for the project/ministry apparent?			
Does the project connect the ministry setting with the community?			
How will this project use the applicant's gifts and abilities?			
If this does not work as intended, could it result in harm?			