

Fitness, Readiness, Effectiveness Credentialing Criteria

Description		Fitness	Readiness	Effectiveness
<p>Call & Disciplined Life focuses on the person requesting credentialing and includes personal characteristics/abilities, understanding of call to ministry, relationships, commitment to UMC, and academic work</p>	Call	Basic understanding of gifts/abilities for ministry; ability to share their statement of call (oral & written)	Greater understanding of call & credentialing process influenced by education and/or experience in ministry	Clearly defined & articulated call that is affirmed by a demonstration of effectiveness in ministry (fruitfulness)
	Disciplined Life	Basic fitness (mental, physical, emotional, spiritual, and relational) per the Behavioral Health Guidelines	Greater understanding of and lived out “wholeness” in ministry (relationships, health, boundaries, etc.)	Evidence of on-going practice of self-care; demonstration of self-awareness
<p>Proclamation & Discipleship focuses on the practice of ministry that invites others to enter into discipleship. At a minimum, it includes proclamation of scripture (preaching & teaching), leadership and service to others/the world. For Elders/Local Pastors it also includes a focus on the ordering of the church and administration of the sacraments. For Deacons, it also includes a focus on justice and compassion.</p>	Proclamation	Basic willingness and ability to share scripture in worship & other settings	Increasing knowledge and implementation of proclamation skills (study of scripture, proclamation)	Proclamation of the Word that invites, engages and challenges listeners to grow in discipleship
	Discipleship	Ability to share about personal experience(s) of discipleship such as ministerial leadership, Christian education, pastoral care and mission/outreach	Increasing education and/or practice of ministry that demonstrates a potential for effective and fruitful ministerial leadership and discipleship	Demonstrated evidence of transformative leadership in ministry that invites and develops disciples with a contagious love of God
<p>Theology & Doctrine focuses on a United Methodist understanding scripture, God, sacraments, sin, grace, marks of the Christian life, kingdom of God, resurrection/eternal life, nature/mission of the church as well as a commitment to the United Methodist connection as it relates to the doctrinal standards set forth in Part III of the <i>Book of Discipline, 2016</i> (paragraphs 102-105).</p>	Theology	Ability to share about their personal relationship with God and basic understanding of scripture	Ability to share a deeper understanding of the work of God based on further education and experience	Integration of education and experience in theological understanding that results in greater effectiveness in ministry
	Doctrine	Ability to name or share about basic understandings of the UMC including sacraments and grace; why they are United Methodist	Ability to discuss in greater depth the topics of Part III Doctrinal Standards (<i>2016 Book of Discipline</i>)	Ability to communicate how doctrine/theological understanding impacts/has impacted the practice of ministry