Great Plains Process for Licensed and Ordained Ministry

Inquiring candidate exploring call

- Contact District Superintendent, pastor or another deacon or elder
  - Encouraged to read, *The Christian as Minister*

Declared Candidate wants to explore further and more seriously

- Meets with District Superintendent. Writes DS requesting to officially be admitted to the candidacy program/process
  - Includes a statement of call
  - DS invites candidate to UMCARES and assigns Conference Registrar as initial mentor
- Respond to invitation to UMCARES. Follow instructions provided in email from Conference Registrar for steps to complete in UMCARES.
- Register for the Candidacy Summit. Follow instructions from Conference Registrar and in the Step-by-Step Guide to prepare for the Summit.
- Candidate consults with pastor to request S/PPRC meeting and approval. After SPPRC approval, candidate meets with Church Conference for recommendation. (May be completed before or after Candidacy Summit)

Declared Candidate, continued

- Candidate attends Candidacy Summit in January or June for orientation to ministry, psychological assessment testing, beginning of background check, and assignment of candidacy mentor group/complete two mentor sessions
- Candidate meets with Summit mentor group using resources adopted by Conference BOOM. Following the Summit, mentor groups may meet in person or using technology (especially for candidates who live more than two hours from a meeting location).

Certified Candidate becomes an official candidate for ministry in the annual conference

Interview with DCOM with the following completed before the meeting.

- Complete all steps in the GBHEM and GP Candidacy tracks in UMCARES up to “DCOOM Meeting/Interview” including verification of at least one year as a professing member or baptized participant of a UM congregation or ministry setting; written response to questions about call, gifts, beliefs, experiences; completed background check; completed psychological assessment; Candidacy Mentor Report; verification of S/PPRC recommendation; verification of Church/Charge Conference approval; Theological Statement/Statement of Call; Candidate Disclosure Form, Medical Report, Biographical Information Form, Application for Clergy Relationship, District Superintendent & Sending/Supervising Pastor Report
- May request approval for license as a local pastor during the same DCCOM interview/meeting with no additional requirements; additional steps required if requesting approval for license at a different time
- If approved (3/4 majority, written ballot), candidate will move to a Preparation for Ministry or Practice of Ministry mentoring group
Different Paths to Take

Certified Candidate

Meet annually with DCOM. Complete required steps in UMCARES Continued Candidacy track that includes:

- Application
- Annual recommendation of charge conference
- Mentor report (Preparation for or Practice of Ministry)
- DS/Sending Pastor reports (both)
- Verification of satisfactory progress in studies (submit a transcript)
- Evidence of continued growth in faith and competencies (annual questions)

Maximum of 12 years as a Certified Candidate

Local Pastor

- Progress in educational studies (Bachelor, Course of Study or seminary)
- Annual interview with DCOOM (Complete required steps in UMCARES)
- Two-year Residency program after completion of COS (FL only; PL invited but not required to participate) if not continuing to ACOS

Associate Member

- Completed COS program
- At least 35 years of age at time of being certified as a candidate
- Served 4 yrs FT
- Completed at least 60 hours of undergraduate education
- Completed Residency program (if completing COS after 7/1/17)
- Complete steps in UMCARES track
- Recommended by DCOOM
- Recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry

Provisional Member (Alt. Route)

- Completed COS program
- Completed Advanced COS
- Served 4 yrs FT or equivalent as a local pastor
- Completed bachelor degree (or waiver from GBHEM with at least 60 hours of bachelor)
- Complete all steps in UMCARES track
- Recommended by DCOOM
- Recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry

Provisional Membership

(Traditional Route)

Deacon (Traditional Route)

- Completed a bachelor’s degree
- Certified as a candidate before 7/1/17: completed at least ½ required education; Certified as a candidate after 7/1/17: be in final year of required education or prior graduate

Deacon (Alternative Route)

- At least 35 years of age at time of being certified as a candidate
- Complete bachelor’s degree
- Received professional certification or license in area of service
- Certified as a candidate before 7/1/17: completed at least ½ required theological education; Certified as a candidate after 7/1/17: be in final year of required education

Provisional Membership (Traditional Route)

- Background check, psych assessment, notarized statement of felonies and misdemeanors; certificate of good health (update required if any are > 7 years old)
- Complete steps in UMCARES including theological questions, curriculum evaluation, sermon/proclamation, service setting report, DS report and supervising pastor report (if applicable)
- Recommended by at least 3/4 of DCOOM to Board of Ordained Ministry
- Recommended by at least 3/4 of Conference Board to the Clergy Session

Elder (Traditional Route)

- Completed a bachelor’s degree
- Certified as a candidate before 7/1/17: completed at least ½ required education; Certified as a candidate after 7/1/17: be in final year of required education or prior graduate

Provisional Deacon (Traditional or Alternative Route) and Provisional Elder (Traditional or Alternative Route)

- Background check, psych assessment, notarized statement of felonies and misdemeanors; certificate of good health (update required if any are > 7 years old)
- Complete steps in UMCARES including theological questions, curriculum evaluation, sermon/proclamation, service setting report, DS report and supervising pastor report (if applicable)
- Recommended by at least 3/4 of DCOOM to Board of Ordained Ministry
- Recommended by at least 3/4 of Conference Board to the Clergy Session
Continued Provisional Deacon/Elder
(maximum of eight years as a provisional member)

**Year 1**
- Focus on demonstrating increasing qualities of a fruitful, transformational leader (readiness to effectiveness)
- Annual interview with the Board (regional format).
- Interview requirements include: DS report, Residency report, sermon/proclamation, ordination project proposal, ministry questions
- Approval by a majority of the Board

**Year 2+**
- Focus on demonstrating increasing qualities of a fruitful, transformational leader (readiness to effectiveness)
- Annual interview with the Board (regional format)
- Interview requirements include: DS report, Residency report (Yr2) or continuing education/coaching report (Yr3+), sermon/proclamation, ordination project reflection (Yr2), ministry questions
- Approval by a majority of the

**Full Deacon/Elder**

Served full-time (or the equivalent) for at least 2 years after completion of educational requirements

Participated in 2 years of the residency program

been supervised by DS and Board

Annual interview with the Board

For full membership and ordination, interview requirements include:
- Background check, psych assessment, notarized statement of felonies and misdemeanors; certificate of good health (update required if any are > 7 years old)
- Complete steps in UMCARES including theological questions, sermon/proclamation, Bible study, DS report and supervising pastor report (if applicable), ordination project reflection (if not submitted during continued provisional membership), Residency report (or approved continuing education/coaching report), and ministry questions
- For Elder only: If appointed in extension ministry, a 1-2 page statement detailing your service as it relates to Word, Sacrament, Order and Service

*Basic Graduate Theological Studies (required courses for all deacons and elders)*
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Theology
- Church history
- Mission of church in the world
- Evangelism
- Worship/liturgy
- UM doctrine
- UM polity
- UM history