
Candidacy Summit

Charge/Church Conference Interview of a Candidate for Ministry

To: Members of the Charge/Church Conference

Thank you for your faithfulness in meeting with this candidate. You have been charged with a very important task, deciding whether this candidate should be recommended to the district committee on ordained ministry as a certified candidate for licensed or ordained ministry. This is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly, and you should feel satisfied that the candidate is truly called to credentialed (licensed or ordained) ministry in the United Methodist Church.

The following is from the *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, 2012, ¶310.1d. It reflects the long tradition of examination of those who would be called as ordained persons in the Church, and should be used as a guide for your conversation with the candidate who is now before you:

BOD ¶310.1d (Wesley's historic questions)

1. Do they know God as pardoning God? Have they the love of God abiding in them? Do they desire nothing but God? Are they holy in all manner of conversation?
2. Have they gifts, as well as evidence of God's grace, for the work? Have they a clear, sound understanding; a right judgment in the things of God; a just conception of salvation by faith? Do they speak justly, readily, clearly?
3. Have they fruit? Have any been truly convinced of sin and converted to God, and are believers edified by their service?

As long as these marks occur in them, we believe they are called of God to serve. These we receive as sufficient proof that they are moved by the Holy Spirit.

The following are from the BOD ¶310.2a (i-vi). They should also be incorporated into your dialogue/questions with the candidate.

BOD ¶310.2a (i-vi)

- i. The most formative experience of their Christian life;
- ii. God's call to licensed or ordained ministry and the role of the church in their call
- iii. their beliefs as a Christian
- iv. their gifts for ministry
- v. their present understanding of their call to ministry as elder, deacon, or licensed ministry; and
- vi. their support system;

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Charge Conference Interview

(Form 104 should be used to record the decision of the Charge/Church Conference.)

1. Explain the process and what this means to the candidate. (The Charge/Church Conference is either recommending or not recommending the candidate to the district Committee on Ordained Ministry for consideration as a certified candidate for ministry. (¶310.1e *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, 2012)
2. Determine that someone will take minutes, especially to record the vote using Form 104.
3. Open with prayer
4. Chair of the PPRC should report the result of the PPRC meeting with the candidate.
5. BOD questions ¶310.1d (Wesley's historic questions) and BOD ¶301.2a (i-vi) may be handed out to the members of the Charge Conference. This is meant to help guide the dialogue with the candidate. Adequate time for dialogue with the candidate should be allowed.
6. When conversation is complete, the candidate should be excused while the vote is taken.
7. With candidate out of the room, the facilitator should instruct the charge conference members in the voting process. A helpful question for committee members to ask themselves as they consider their vote is, "Would I want this person as my minister?"
8. A time for silent prayer may be offered before members record their votes.
9. Vote is to be taken by WRITTEN ballot. A TWO THIRDS VOTE IS NEEDED FOR RECOMMENDATION. (BOD ¶310.1e)
10. A person designated by the facilitator should collect and tally the votes.
11. The candidate is called back and the vote announced.
12. The facilitator should thank those who came to the Charge/Church Conference and conclude the meeting with prayer.
13. The Presiding Elder should complete Form #104 and return both the form and minutes to the district office.