

# IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE ORDAINED?



### Deacon

Connects the church to the world through specialized ministry.

Forms the faith of the community by serving the church & world.

### Elder

Orders the sacramental & administrative life of the church community.

### The Three C's!

*Candidacy, Candidates & Certified:* **Candidacy** is the process for those who want to serve the UMC as deacons or elders. A **candidate** is the person in this process. **Certified** means the church approved the candidate.

## WHERE DO I BEGIN?

**1**  
Talk with your minister & read *The Christian as Minister*.

**2**  
Check your conference website for how to start & who to contact.

**3**  
Write a letter to your district superintendent to apply.

**4**  
Once a candidate, you'll be assigned a **mentor** — an ordained person trained to guide you through the process.

A district superintendent (DS) oversees the churches in an area.

**Not UMC?**  
Ask your campus minister how to join!

For more on deacon education, check out [www.gbhem.org/deacons!](http://www.gbhem.org/deacons!)

There are 13 United Methodist Theological Schools. Find them here! [www.gbhem.org/seminaries](http://www.gbhem.org/seminaries)

**Deacons** may earn (1) a master's in theology or (2) a master's in a specialized field plus required theology courses.

**Elders** need a master of divinity from a seminary approved by the church.

## EDUCATION

## MONEY

Each **conference** has a Board of Ordained Ministry to help candidates during the process. Check with your BOM about seminary scholarships!

Find **scholarships & loans** at [www.gbhem.org/loansand-scholarships](http://www.gbhem.org/loansand-scholarships).

Contact the financial aid office of the schools you want to attend for their scholarship info.

**Hint:**  
More scholarships are available if you're certified!

