



## *Hints for Candidates from Those Who Have Completed the Process*

- ❖ Keep hard copies and computer copies of everything.
- ❖ Take initiative to ask about the aspects of the process you need to know. Ask the Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committee what they are looking for in ordained clergy. Ask them for recommendations on how you can best develop and prepare to become a clergy person. Find someone who is a good writer to proofread your papers.
- ❖ Don't be afraid to say, "This is not for me," or "I need to slow down my process."
- ❖ Have a mentor read your materials and do practice interviews
- ❖ Being proactive, being your own advocate, and taking initiative are the big ones! I think we, as candidates, forget how much it is our job to get ourselves through the process and not the other way around. Also, don't be afraid to say it's not for me or acknowledge that something has changed in your call!
- ❖ No matter how well you know one or more of the members, remember these are interviews from beginning to end. Be professional. Be prepared. And don't be afraid to think about a question that's been asked before you start to answer.
- ❖ Let go of any sense of entitlement. As strongly as you may feel God's call, the church's affirmation of your choice to answer the call in a particular way is the subject at hand.
- ❖ Before you begin, understand what "itineracy" means.
- ❖ Pray. Keep a journal. Stay focused on God.
- ❖ Return phone calls (e.g. from your mentor, from your D.S., or from the BOM/dCOM).
- ❖ Before your interviews, think of three or four things about your leadership that you want the Board to know, and work them into your answers (or question time at the end). Have a couple of questions ready for them in case they give you that opportunity—questions like, “What kind of leadership does the Board think the church needs in the future?” or “What do they find to be the most rewarding aspects of their ministry?” This is not to ‘turn the tables,’ but to demonstrate that you care about your own development and how you will be part of the community of clergy.
- ❖ Have someone proof any work you submit for typos and incorrect grammar. Also ask a couple of people who have previously served on a BOM to read and share with you what they would ask.
- ❖ Be able to articulate an authentic call story.
- ❖ If your mentor isn't helpful, ask for a new one or seek out an additional one.