

An Overview of Ministry in The United Methodist Church

Ministry Type	Ministry Requirements	Shape of ministry	Boundaries of Ministry
Laity	Confirmation / new member class	Carry the Gospel into the world	Co-lead the Church at all levels in collaboration with clergy
Local pastor	Certified Candidacy; licensing school; Orientation to Ministry; Course of Study (completed within 8 years for full-time, 12 for part-time); dCOM/BOM recommendation; Clergy Session approval	Word, Sacrament, Order and Service within the context of their appointment	Exercise of ministry and license bounded to and dependent upon appointment; limitations on voting and in some cases voice; unable to serve as General or jurisdictional conference delegates; retirement as laity unless appointed
Associate member	Reached age 40; served 4 years as full-time local pastor; completed COS and licensing school; 60 hours of undergraduate education; dCOM/BOM recommendation; Clergy Session approval	Word, Sacrament, Order and Service within the context of their appointment; similar security of appointment guarantees and itinerant responsibilities as Full member elder	Limitations on voting: constitutional amendments, clergy relations; cannot serve as General or jurisdictional conference delegates but may elect clergy delegates
Provisional member	Candidacy; undergraduate degree; seminary training <i>or</i> Basic Course of Study and 32 hours of Advanced Course of Study; interviews and dCOM/BOM recommendation; Clergy Session approval	Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice (Provisional Deacon) Itinerant Word, Sacrament, Order and Service (Provisional Elder)	Limitations on voting; constitutional amendments, clergy relations; cannot serve as General or jurisdictional conference delegates but may elect clergy delegates upon completion of education; maximum of 8 years as provisional member; exercise of ministry bounded to and dependent upon appointment
Full-connection member	Served minimum 2 years as provisional member; all requirements of provisional membership and faithful completion of the provisional process; completion of all educational requirements; BOM recommendation; Clergy Session approval	Word, Service, Compassion and Justice (deacon); Itinerant Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service (elder)	