



## 2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 666 – District Committee on Ordained Ministry

¶ 666. There shall be a district committee on ordained ministry.

1. The district committee on ordained ministry shall be amenable to the annual conference through the Board of Ordained Ministry. All members shall be nominated annually by the district superintendent in consultation with the chairperson or executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the annual conference. Interim vacancies shall be filled by the district superintendent. The committee shall be ~~comprised~~ **composed** of at least three professing members of local churches, a representative from the Board of Ordained Ministry who may be named chairperson; the district superintendent, ~~who may serve as the executive secretary~~ **who shall not be the chairperson** and at least six other clergy in the district. The clergy shall include elders and deacons, and where possible, women and ethnic clergy, a deacon or elder who is age 35 or younger, an associate member, and may include one local pastor who has completed the Course of Study. All persons named to the district committee on ordained ministry shall be members with vote. The conference Board of Ordained Ministry shall provide orientation for new members, including education regarding the ministry and roles of all clergy and distribution of any available written guidelines.
2. The district committee on ordained ministry shall elect its officers at the first meeting following the annual conference session when the members are elected.
3. The committee shall maintain a list of all persons who have declared their candidacy for the ordained ministry and are pursuing candidacy studies with a candidacy mentor. A duplicate list shall be forwarded to the annual conference registrar for candidacy; such list being made current at least prior to each session of the annual conference.
4. **The committee, through the Board of Ordained Ministry, shall seek ways to make reasonable accommodations for cultural and ethnic/racial realities and language translations as candidates meet the requirements for candidacy, including interviews, psychological assessments, criminal background, and credit checks.**
5. ~~4.~~ The committee shall offer counsel to candidates regarding pre-theological studies.
6. ~~5.~~ The committee shall supervise all matters dealing with candidacy for the ordained ministry and with the license for local pastor.
7. ~~6.~~ The vote of the committee on matters of candidacy shall be by individual written ballot of the committee present. A three-fourths majority vote is required for certification. All other matters of candidacy shall be by a simple majority vote.
8. ~~7.~~ The committee shall maintain a service record and file on every local pastor and candidate for the ordained ministry until the individual becomes an associate or provisional member of the annual conference, at which time a copy of the files shall be forwarded to the registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The records and files of the committee are kept on behalf of the annual conference and shall be maintained under guidelines provided by the General Council on



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Finance and Administration in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

**9.** ~~8.~~ The committee shall recommend to the Board of Ordained Ministry those persons who qualify for associate and provisional membership, for license or continuance as local pastors, and for restoration of credentials. All persons shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church or a baptized participant of a recognized United Methodist campus ministry or other United Methodist ministry setting for a minimum of one (1) year.

**10.** ~~9.~~ The committee shall examine all persons who apply in writing for certification or renewal of certificate. Where there is evidence that their gifts, evidence of God's grace, and usefulness warrant and that they are qualified under ¶ 315-319, and on recommendation of their charge conference or the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the committee shall issue or renew their certificate.

**11.** ~~10.~~ The committee shall examine all persons who apply in writing to be certified as lay ministers. When there is evidence that their gifts, evidence of God's grace and usefulness, warrant and that they are qualified under ¶ 271, and on recommendation of their charge conference, the committee shall recommend their certification or recertification. The district committee shall report annually to the annual conference through the annual conference Board of Ordained Ministry a roster of all persons certified as lay ministers.

**12.** ~~11.~~ All persons interviewed by the district committee shall be informed of decisions and recommendations as soon as possible, both orally and in writing.

**13.** ~~12.~~ The committee shall assist the conference Board of Ordained Ministry in providing support services for all clergy under appointment within the district.