



United Methodist Endorsing Agency

General Board of Higher Education & Ministry Division of Ordained Ministry

www.gbhem.org/chaplains • umea@gbhem.org • 615-340-7411

Information for District Superintendents

Ecclesiastical endorsement is affirmation that a person is performing a valid ministry of The United Methodist Church and has presented evidence of the special education, training, skills, and, when required, professional certification necessary to perform that ministry. The authority is granted by the denomination to be appointed to and provide ministry in a specific setting.

Ecclesiastical approval is required for persons who want to serve in voluntary chaplaincies, such as a Civil Air Patrol, law enforcement, or fire. Ecclesiastical approval is also provided for licensed local pastors seeking appointment in extension ministry. UMEA will email the required DS report to you.

Endorsement

Interviews are held in Nashville, Tenn. three times a year. A reference report from the applicant's District Superintendent (DS) is required. UMEA will email the required DS report to you. These appointments are category B for elders in provisional, full connection, and associate members (§344.1b); provisional and full connection deacons (§331.1a)

Examples of appointments requiring endorsement include: children's home, clinical pastoral education supervisor, corrections, hospital, hospice, life coach, marriage and family therapy, mental health, military, pastoral counseling, prison/correctional institution, retirement community, substance abuse, Veterans Health Administration, and workplace.

Paragraphs in the *2012 Book of Discipline*

1421.5	327.5	344.1(b),(d)
258.2	338.2	350.2
326.3	343	355.10

Provisional members

Provisional members who have completed seminary may be endorsed and appointed to extension ministry. For civilian settings: this endorsement is "provisional" pending continued

progress toward ordination. Provisional members on the elder track may serve in the reserve/guard components of the military. Ordination as an elder is required for voluntary active duty chaplain service.

Chaplain Candidate Program for the Armed Forces

This is a student program to introduce seminarians to the military chaplaincy. UMEA will email the required DS report to you.

Please contact UMEA with any questions.

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For more information: www.gbhem.org/chaplains

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