



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CLERGY TRANSFERS

The Board of Ordained Ministry shall “be in consultation with the bishop through the chairperson or the executive committee regarding transfers.” This consultation is to be at the bishop’s initiative and, where possible, to take place prior to transfers into the annual conference.” (§ 635.2.n)

Clergy from other Methodist denominations do not go through the same process as clergy from non-Methodist denominations. (§ 347.2)

Candidate and clergy documents held by the annual conference are the property of the annual conference.

TRANSFERS FROM METHODIST DENOMINATIONS (§ 347.2)

- Clergy person notifies the conference of their intent to transfer.
- Bishops provide consent.
- BOM chairperson or executive committee shall be consulted to determine if the clergy person meets the standards for conference membership. Determination involves these documents:
 - The list of “other Methodist denominations” is the World Methodist Council list. (<https://worldmethodistcouncil.org/member-churches/>) [At this time, The Global Methodist Church is not listed.]
 - Psychological report
 - Criminal background report
 - Credit Check report
 - Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse report
 - Notarized statement detailing convictions or felonies
 - Notarized statement certifying the clergy person has not been convicted of felonies, misdemeanors, sexual misconduct, or child abuse.
- GBHEM certifies the satisfaction of the clergy person’s educational requirements.
- BOM executive committee makes a recommendation to the clergy session.
- Clergy session votes on the BOM recommendation.
- Clergy person may be received as a Local Pastor, Provisional Member, or Member in Full Connection.



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TRANSFERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS (§ 347.3)

- Clergy person notifies the conference of their intent to transfer.
- Clergy person presents credentials to the bishop and the BOM.
- Clergy person “gives assurance” of their Christian faith and experience.
- Clergy person “gives evidence” of their agreement and willingness to support and maintain UM doctrine, discipline, and polity.
- BOM chairperson or executive committee shall be consulted to determine if the clergy person meets the standards for conference membership. Determination involves these documents:
 - Certificate of good health
 - Psychological report
 - Criminal background report
 - Credit Check report
 - Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse report
 - Notarized statement detailing convictions or felonies
 - Notarized statement certifying the clergy person has not been convicted of felonies, misdemeanors, sexual misconduct, or child abuse
- BOM, in consultation with GBHEM, certifies the satisfaction of the clergy person’s educational requirements.
- BOM executive committee makes a recommendation to the clergy session.
- Clergy session votes on the BOM recommendation.
- Clergy person may be received as a Local Pastor or Provisional Member.
- Clergy person serves as a Provisional Member for at least 2 years.
- Clergy person completes all requirements of § 335, including courses in UM history, doctrine, and polity, before being admitted into Full Connection.
- After admittance into full membership, the ordination credential submitted at the beginning of this process is returned to the clergy person with the inscription indicated in § 347.6.
- Bishop signs and provides the clergy person a certificate of “recognition of orders”.



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WITHDRAWAL TO UNITE WITH ANOTHER DENOMINATION (§ 360.1)

- Clergy person submits a written request to withdrawal to the conference secretary.
- Clergy person submits their certificate of conference membership (different than a certificate of ordination) to the conference secretary, thus terminating their conference membership but not their ordination.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ORDAINED MINISTERIAL OFFICE (§ 360.2)

- Clergy person submits a written request to withdrawal to their district superintendent for deposit with the conference secretary.
- Clergy person submits their certificate of conference membership to their district superintendent for deposit with the conference secretary.
- Clergy person submits their certificate of ordination to their district superintendent for deposit with the conference secretary.
- Clergy session votes to approve the withdrawal request.

WITHDRAWAL BETWEEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS (§ 360.4)

- Clergy submits a written request to withdrawal to their district superintendent or bishop for deposit with the conference secretary.
- Clergy submits their certificate of conference membership to their district superintendent or bishop for deposit with the conference secretary.
- Clergy person submits their certificate of ordination to their district superintendent or bishop for deposit with the conference secretary.
- BOM reports the withdrawal to the clergy session at the next annual conference session.

The effective date of withdrawal is the date the written request was received (*JCD 691*).

The certificate of membership and certificate of ordination are distinct and tangible documents.



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GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH | TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS (*Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline*, ¶ 417)

The Transitional Leadership Council can alter these requirements or processes without notification or oversight.

If the ordained clergy person's annual conference affiliates with the GMC...

- Ordained clergy person automatically becomes a member of the GMC and (1) must affirm their doctrines, Social Witness, and discipline or (2) may choose to align with a different expression of Methodism.

If the ordained clergy person's annual conference does not affiliate with the GMC...

- Ordained clergy person applies to the Transitional Leadership Council (¶ 703.2h) through its designated process to be received by transfer.
- Ordained clergy person provides the TLC a copy of all personnel files maintained by their former annual conference, bishop's or district office, or board of ordained ministry.
- Ordained clergy person must affirm the GMC's doctrines, Social Witness, and discipline.
- TLC reviews the request and makes a ruling.
- If approved, the ordained clergy person will be assigned or may move to a GMC-affiliated annual conference.

If the associate member or licensed local pastor's annual conference affiliates with the GMC...

- GMC's BOM will evaluate associate members and licensed local pastors requesting membership.



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If the associate member or licensed local pastor's annual conference does not affiliate with the GMC...

- Associate member or licensed local pastor applies to the Transitional Leadership Council (§ 703.2h) through its designated process to be received by transfer.
- Associate member or licensed local pastor provides the TLC a copy of all personnel files maintained by their former annual conference, bishop's or district office, or board of ordained ministry.
- Bishop approves TLC recommendation.
- Annual conference session votes on TLC recommendation.
- If approved, the associate member or licensed local pastor is ordained (as a deacon) at the next annual conference session.
- If the associate member or a licensed local pastor meets the educational requirements to be ordained as an elder and has served in The United Methodist Church for at least two years, the two-year period of minimum service as an ordained deacon shall be waived. If not, they can serve the 5-year transition period under the UMC-issued license (completing the educational requirements in 2 years).
- Associate member or a licensed local pastor will be voted on at the clergy session.
- If passed, they shall immediately be ordained as a deacon and then as an elder at the same annual conference session.

If UMC candidates desire to join...

- Candidate applies to the Transitional Leadership Council's body managing candidates.
- Candidate must have been a UMC member for at least one year.
- Candidate requests copies of all candidacy and personnel files held by their former district or annual conference be forwarded to the body credentialing candidates.
- Candidates eligible to be ordained may move toward ordination at the next annual conference session.