# United Methodist Church

## Resources

- *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2012*
- General Board of Higher Education and Ministry’s “Candidacy” website: [http://www.gbhem.org/clergy/candidacy](http://www.gbhem.org/clergy/candidacy)

## Contacts:

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## Overview of Ordination Process & Requirements*

1. Write letter to District Superintendent (cc pastor and DCOM chair), stating interest in ordained ministry, you have meet with your pastor to discuss *Christian as Minister*, and your call narrative.
2. Work with assigned mentor on Candidacy Guidebook, register with General Board of Higher Education, register with Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM).
3. Declare call publicly before pastor and staff/parish relations committee (of local church), who will vote to recommend you to Charge Conference (local church), who will vote to recommend you to District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM).
4. Meet with DCOM, submit to them required writing, have background check, complete psychological exam, and attend UMC sexual ethics and anti-racism trainings. Gain DCOM approval.
5. Gain (first) BOOM approval.
6. Finish seminary with required coursework and trainings.
7. Voted on at Clergy Session of Annual Conference.
8. Commissioned by the Bishop of Annual Conference, thus becoming a Provisional Member of Annual Conference.
9. Go through residency program in your annual conference (usually 2-3 years after completing seminary, although it varies) and gain (second) BOOM approval.
10. Elected by the Clergy Session into full membership of the Annual Conference. Ordained as an Elder by a Bishop.†

* Based on summary provided by Rev. Dr. James (K) Karpen. While procedures are denomination-wide, requirements may vary slightly by conference.

† Ordination as Deacon follows a similar process.

## Coursework Required

- United Methodist doctrine, polity, and history (6 credits)
- Evangelism and the mission of the church in the world (not necessarily “Methodist”)
- Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)*
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Theology
- Church history
- Worship/liturgy
- Sexual Ethics/Boundary training (one day, provided by UMC)
- Anti-racism training†

* CPE is required in the New York Conference for ordination as Elder.
† Required along with completion of Masters of Divinity prior to Commissioning in New York (see steps 6-8).