

INTERVIEW GUIDELINES FOR STAFF PARISH COMMITTEES
WHEN INTERVIEWING A CANDIDATE FOR MINISTRY
IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CANDIDATE: Please send your written responses to the questions below, along with a copy of this entire form, to your Staff Parish Committee at least 30 days prior to the actual interview.

- What are the most formative experiences of your Christian life
- Describe your call to ordained ministry and the role of the church in your call
- Reflect on your experience in leadership in the congregation (at least one year)
- How do you see your future service as a minister in The United Methodist church
- What are your personal beliefs as a Christian
- What are your personal gifts for ministry
- Share how your personal relationships may affect your future ministry
- What is your understanding of itinerancy and a) its potential impact on your spouse,
- b) your children and c) your personal relationships with friends and parishioners.
- What is the difference between the ministry of the Deacon and the ministry of the Elder within the United Methodist Church

Other information may be required for determining gifts, evidence of God's grace, fruit and demonstration of your call for to ministry as a Deacon or Elder.

Do you "Agree for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness of the gospel, and in consideration of their influence of ministers, to make a complete dedication of themselves to the highest ideals of the Christian life as set forth in ¶¶101-103, ¶¶160-166. To this end agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God."

I do so agree,

Signature _____ Date _____

Parts A, B and C of Form 104 should accompany you when you submit your answers to the Staff Parish Committee. All parts of the form should accompany you when you meet with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry for your certification interview. Prior to interviewing with the District Committee, you must have completed the required psychological testing process including the psychological assessment interview by an Indiana Conference Board of Ordained Ministry authorized Ministerial Assessment Specialist.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE TO ASK THE CANDIDATE

1. Have you been a member of a United Methodist Church or Ministry Setting for at least one year?
2. Tell us about yourself—church background, experience, plans for the future
3. Tell us about your church leadership experience and what you feel you have learned about leadership.
4. Share about your devotional life and how you are growing spiritually.
5. Tell us about your spiritual journey.
6. Why do you feel called into ministry?
7. What does it mean to you to be a United Methodist?

QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE TO ASK THEMSELVES AFTER THE INTERVIEW

1. How comfortable did the candidate feel in answering the questions?
2. Were the answers, in the committee's understanding, psychologically sound, theologically sound, and true to what you know of the person?
3. Is this a person of high integrity as proven by their involvement in the life of the church and community?
4. Is this person an ethical, compassionate and just person?
5. If trained and prepared, would this be a person that this church would accept as its spiritual leader, whether as pastor, or in some other capacity?
6. Candidacy is a time of discernment—whether to ordained or lay ministry. If you have any reservations about whether this person can ever be effective as an ordained leader of the church, please make those reservations known to the candidate in a very honest way. Candidly sharing with them now can prevent devastating effects later.