

Missouri Annual Conference
Candidacy Summit

“Candidacy” is part of a lifelong spiritual journey of discerning God’s callings in our lives. The Missouri Conference is excited about its enhanced program for persons in the process. Beginning January 1, 2012, all inquiring candidates will be informed of the Candidacy Summit requirements leading to certification.

The “Candidacy Summit” is a time for candidates to pause, gather with other travelers and those who have traveled on the journey, and overlook the different routes to which God might be calling. Representatives of the Missouri Annual Conference, Board of Ordained Ministry, and Center for Pastoral Excellence are working on this Candidacy Summit to offer accurate information about the entire candidacy process and opportunities for serious discernment. It is meant to inform, support, and encourage persons in the early stages of the journey of discernment. This process aims to clarify roles and expectations of ministry in the greater community.

During the Summit, candidates will meet for a total of six hours with their candidacy mentor and a small affinity group of candidates. After, the Candidacy Summit, the group will continue to meet with their Mentor (in person and in on-line meetings) for six months to work through the steps on the Candidacy Checklist.

Inquiring Candidate: 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶310

1. Contact the pastor in the local church, another deacon or elder, or the DS
2. Read the Christian as Minister (recommended, not required)
3. Participate in Ministry Inquire Process (recommended, not required)

Beginning Candidacy: ¶310.1,a-c (apply & enroll)

1. Member of the United Methodist Church or baptized participant of a recognized United Methodist campus ministry or other United Methodist ministry setting for one (1) year.
2. Apply to DS, in writing, for admission to candidacy program and be assigned a candidacy mentor**; included statement of call
3. Complete candidacy online enrollment through GBHEM and \$75 payment. Apply for Candidacy Summit (\$125 registration fee.)
4. Complete beginning stages of candidacy with district.

Declaring Candidacy:¶310.1d,e (declaring)

1. Consult with pastor or equivalent in ministry setting and request recommendation from S/P-PRC or equivalent
2. High school degree or equivalent
3. Written statement of call; responses to Wesley’s historic question in ¶310; and interview by Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee or equivalent
4. Recommendation by charge conference or equivalent as specified by district committee
5. Continue candidacy program with candidacy mentor and academic requirements

Who attends:

After January 1, 2012, District Superintendents will refer all new candidates to the Candidacy Summit.

Other notes:

- After July 1, 2012 the Candidacy Summit shall be attended prior to becoming a Certified Candidate.
- It would be helpful for dCOMs to consider scheduling the interview/certification interviews for late Spring each year (Late March/April)
- Consider a District representative to share in lunch with district candidates.
- The Center for Pastoral Excellence will send a follow-up letter after the retreat and encourage the district committees to do the same.

**When entering a candidate for the first time into the GBHEM website, please enter David Scott as the mentor. David is assigning mentors for the Candidacy Summit.