

Board of Ordained Ministry Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

Requirements for Ordination **Deacon in Full Connection**

- I. Service evaluation shall include:
 - A. A ten (10) to thirty (30) minute video which depicts the service ministry of the candidate. Try to include more than one setting or facet of your work. If any segment of your ministry requires confidentiality or clergy/client privilege, please note this in your video introduction and tape only those segments or happenings which do not breach confidentiality;
 - B. Form “D-3” or your agency’s or employer’s equivalent “rating/evaluation form” for the year immediately preceding your ordination interview;
 - C. A statement of how your experience in the years of provisional ministry have confirmed your resolve to serve the church and the world as a “Deacon in Full Connection”;
 - D. Copies of materials created or prepared by the candidate during their years of provisional residency in ministry (where available);
 - E. An “on-site” visit by a trained Observer designated by the Provisional Member Committee.
- II. Written work shall be submitted according to “The Guidelines for Written Work” of the Board of Ordained Ministry. ***Disciplinary Questions*** from the **2008 Discipline** paragraphs shall be answered as phrased below

¶330.4

1. Please articulate *your call to servant ministry and to the order of deacons and relate your call to the ‘Ministry of All Christians.’*
2. What is your *“covenantal relationship to God, the Church, and to the Order of Deacon?”*
3. What is your understanding of *diaconia and servant leadership?*
4. How are you as a servant of Christ helping to *link and relate the Church of Jesus Christ to the world?*

¶330.5

a) Theology

1. How has the practice of ministry affected your experience and understanding of God?
2. What effect has the practice of ministry had on your understanding of humanity and the need for divine grace?
3. What changes has the practice of ministry had on your understanding of (a) the “Lordship of Jesus Christ,” and (b) the work of the Holy Spirit?

4. The United Methodist Church holds that Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason are sources and norms for belief and practice, but that the Bible is primary among them. What is your understanding of this theological position of the Church?
5. How do you understand the following traditional evangelical doctrines: (a) repentance; (b) justification; (c) regeneration; (d) sanctification? What are the marks of the Christian life?
6. For the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness to the Christian gospel, and in consideration of your influence as an ordained minister, are you willing to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life; and to this end will you agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to physical health, intentional intellectual development, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, integrity in all personal relationships, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge of the love of God?
7. What is the meaning and significance of the sacraments?
8. Describe the nature and mission of the Church. What are its primary tasks today?
9. What is your understanding of: (a) the kingdom of God; (b) the Resurrection; (c) eternal life?

b. Vocation

1. How do you understand your vocation as an ordained deacon?

c. The Practice of Ministry

1. How has the practice of service ministry during the provisional period affected your understanding of ministry?
2. Do you offer yourself to be appointed by the bishop to a service ministry?
3. Describe and evaluate your personal gifts for ministry. What would be your areas of strength and areas in which you need to be strengthened?
4. Are you willing to relate yourself in ministry to all persons without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic condition, or disabilities?
5. Provide evidence of experience in peace and justice ministries.

III. A Bible study prepared for the church/charge to which you are accountable or an equivalent presentation including Bible references which you have prepared as part of your ministry beyond the local church. *(A 4 to 8 week study with sufficient documentation as to allow for a substitute teacher leading the class. Study needs to have a goal or purpose and show depth of Biblical research.)*

IV. All items on *Form 3 – Requirements Checklists for Deacons Orders* shall be in the candidate's file.