



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Action Outline #3 Local Pastor – Approval of License for Pastoral Ministry

Action: The dCOM certifies the completion of the prescribed requirements, and the candidate is to be listed in the conference journal as eligible to be appointed as local pastor.

The bishop awards the license for pastoral ministry only when an appointment to a pastoral charge is made (see ¶316). The license is effective only when an appointment is being served.

Suggested Motion: Move that _____ be recognized as having completed the prescribed requirements to receive a license for pastoral ministry (pending completion of those studies and/or the Orientation to Ministry), that he/she be listed in the conference journal as eligible for appointment, and that the bishop award the license for pastoral ministry and list this candidate as a local pastor if and when appointed.

Note: “Pending completion of those studies...” shown above in parentheses should be included when action is taken before the candidate has completed licensing school and/or Orientation to Ministry.

Requirements (¶315):

1. Certified as a candidate for ministry (¶310)
2. Completed the Orientation to Ministry
3. Completed studies for the license as a local pastor or one-third of the work for a master of divinity degree (at a University Senate-approved seminary)
4. Examined (interviewed) by the dCOM
5. Submitted criminal background and credit checks, notarized statement, and certificate of good health
6. Received three-fourths majority dCOM recommendation
7. Received three-fourths majority BOM recommendation and Clergy Session approval

Local pastors shall be classified as one of the following:

1. Full-time local pastor (¶318.1)
2. Part-time local pastor (¶318.2)
3. Student local pastor (¶318.3)

Note: Approval for licensing must be renewed annually (see Continuance as a Local Pastor, ¶319).