

CLERGY OF OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS (§346- §348)

A. Approval for Appointment (§346.2)

1. Before service in the Annual Conference begins the District Superintendent shall review and have in his or her possession copies of the following documents:

- a) The pastor's ministerial credentials
- b) Resume and biographical statement, including the assurance of Christian faith
- c) Personnel File from the home judicatory
- d) A statement from the pastor's most recent appropriate judicatory representative or immediate supervisor describing the standing of the pastor with the his/her denomination and an assessment of the pastor's work in the denomination.

(note the following documents are required of pastors from other Christian Denominations and not other Annual Conferences of the UMC)

- e) A psychological report (§346.2)
- f) Criminal background and credit check (§346.2)
- g) Report of sexual misconduct and/or child abuse (§346.2)
- h) Seminary and college transcripts
- i) A statement from the pastor indicating understanding, acceptance and willingness to support and maintain United Methodist doctrine, discipline and polity (§346.2)

2. Before service begins, the pastor shall be declared eligible to serve in the Annual Conference by clergy members in full connection (§ 346.2) or, between sessions of the Annual Conference, by the Board of Ordained Ministry (§346.3). The eligibility to serve must be renewed annually (§346.2). This eligibility allows an ordained member of another Christian Denomination to serve in the Annual Conference and does not assume eventual membership in the Conference.

3. When the above steps have taken place, a pastor from another Christian Denomination may be appointed to serve within the Annual Conference.

B. Recognition of Orders:

Upon recommendation by the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Bishop, following examination of their credentials, the clergy members in full connection may recognize the orders of clergy from other Christian Denominations (§347.1). This step is taken when the pastor intends to peruse membership in the Annual Conference.

1. A pastor may request recognition of orders and admission as a provisional member or as a local pastor in the annual conference following approved service (§346.2) for **one** year within the annual conference.

2. The Pastor shall present
 - i) his/her credentials for examination by the Bishop and the Board of Ordained Ministry **and**
 - ii) a satisfactory statement of good health on the prescribed form by a physician approved by the Board of Ordained ministry (§347.3)
3. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall certify the satisfaction of educational requirements for conference membership. (§347.2.c); and
4. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall confirm any past relationship with any annual conference of The United Methodist Church or one of its legal predecessors, and if so, when and under what circumstances the ordained minister's connection with such annual conference was severed. (§347.4)

NOTE: When pastors are from other Christian Denominations, the **Recognition of Orders** is made by the clergy members in full connection upon the recommendation of the Bishop and the Board of Ordained Ministry. (§347.3) Pastors whose orders are recognized are **not** conference members until the completion of provisional membership described below.

C. Admission as a Provisional Membership or as Local Pastor:

1. When the Orders of Clergy from another Christian Denomination have been recognized, the clergy members in full connection may receive the clergy into provisional membership or as a local pastor upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained ministry (§347.3). Clergy from other Christian Denominations shall serve as provisional members for at least two years and complete all the requirements of §335. (§347.3b)

NOTE: When pastors are from other Christian Denomination, **Admission** as provisional member or local pastor is made by clergy members in full connection, upon the recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry.