

One Year in the Life of a District Committee on Ordained Ministry

July – Getting Organized

Who is on the district committee?
List and review clergy and candidates
Match candidates with candidacy mentors
Match local pastors with clergy mentors
Review important dates and set schedule for year
Discuss recruiting/enlistment strategies – Ministry Sunday
Schedule Introductory Interviews

August/September – Provisional and Associate Preparation

Interviews – Conference Board is looking for **readiness for ministry**
Readiness is evaluated in four areas: call, theology, personal growth and practice
Review educational requirements with candidate carefully
Ask questions that would integrate their theology with their practice of ministry
Does the candidate understand the difference between Deacon and Elder tracks?
Letter from the district chair is a critical part of the candidate's files
***DCOM Fall Report due to Office of Ministerial Services by September 1.**

December

Interview candidates on seminary break

January/February – Local Pastor Continuance

Interviews – Looking for **satisfactory progress** in studies and performance
Candidacy mentor letter should be included
Look for areas of strength and areas of growth during interviews
How did you empower the laity over the past year?
What are the plans for the candidate's future?
Requires majority vote of the committee, specifying annually full time, part time or student

March/April and ongoing – Candidacy Certification

Looking for **fitness for ministry**
Review the candidacy checklist to make sure all requirements are complete
Candidacy mentor letter should be included
Look for evidence of a clear call to ministry
Explore leadership experiences
Educational requirements should be carefully reviewed and discussed
Member of a UM church for two years with at least one year in leadership
Psychological Assessment report completed and discussed

Background checks completed

Recommendation by candidate's home church

Register for local licensing school

***DCOM Spring Report due to Office of Ministerial Services by March 1.**

Summer

Interview candidates home from school