

Provisional Membership Doctrinal Questions

Assignment (§324) Requirements

Narratives are due to the District Registrar by July 15

- Name your PDF file using the following format: **Lastname.Firstname.Assignment.Year.pdf**.
Example: Doe.Jane.ProvisionalDoctrinalQuestions.2026.pdf
- Format your document on **8.5" × 11" letter-size paper**.
- Use **Times New Roman (or a similar font), 12-point font, 1.5-line spacing, and one-inch margins**.
- Include **your name and page number** on each page using the document's header or footer.
- Title the first page **Provisional Membership Doctrinal Questions**.
- Submit your assignment **only in PDF format**.
- Submit your assignment using your **ARUMC.org** email address.
- Email your completed assignment to **amy.shores@arumc.org**.
- Type each question and provide your response immediately following it.
- Answer each question thoroughly enough to demonstrate your theological understanding, show that you have engaged seriously with the question, and explain how your theology has developed. While textbook answers are not expected, thoughtful and complete responses are.
- Limit direct citations to **no more than 40%** of your responses.
- Limit the body of your paper to **28 pages**, not including the bibliography. Include appropriate citations and a formal bibliography. A general guideline is about 1 page per question.
- Use any recognized citation style, but apply it consistently throughout the entire paper.
- Answer the doctrinal questions found in **The 2020–2024 Book of Discipline, §324.7a–p**, which are also included in this document.

Important: Assignments that do not follow these submission requirements may not be distributed to Board of Ordained Ministry readers and may need to be resubmitted.

Questions to be answered (pulled from Paragraph 324 of the 2020-2024 Book of Discipline)

Each candidate shall respond to a written and oral doctrinal examination administered by the Board of Ordained Ministry. The examination shall cover the following:

- a) Describe your personal experience of God and the understanding of God you derive from biblical, theological, and historical sources.
- b) What is your understanding of evil as it exists in the world?
- c) What is your understanding of humanity, and the human need for divine grace?
- d) How do you interpret the statement Jesus Christ is Lord?
- e) What is your conception of the activity of the Holy Spirit in personal faith, in the community of believers, and in responsible living in the world?
- f) What is your understanding of the kingdom of God; the Resurrection; eternal life?
- g) How do you intend to affirm, teach, and apply Part III of the Discipline (Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task) in your work in the ministry to which you have been called?
- h) The United Methodist Church holds that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by Provisional Membership 251 ¶ 324 reason. What is your understanding of this theological position of the Church?
- i) Describe the nature and mission of the Church. What are its primary tasks today?
- j) Discuss your understanding of the primary characteristics of United Methodist polity.
- k) Explain your understanding of the distinctive vocations of the Order of Elders and the Order of Deacons. How do you perceive yourself, your gifts, your motives, your role, and your commitment as a provisional deacon or provisional elder in The United Methodist Church?
- l) Describe your understanding of diakonia, the servant ministry of the church, and the servant ministry of the provisional member.

- m) What is the meaning of ordination in the context of the general ministry of the Church?
- n) Describe your understanding of an inclusive church and ministry.
- o) You have agreed as a candidate for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness of the gospel, and in consideration of their influence as ministers, to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life, and to this end agree to exercise responsible selfcontrol by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all personal relationships, social responsibility, faithful sexual intimacy expressed through fidelity, monogamy, commitment, mutual affection and respect, careful and honest communication, mutual consent, and growth in grace and in the knowledge and love of God. What is your understanding of this agreement?
- p) Explain the role and significance of the sacraments in the ministry to which you have been called

In addition to the written narrative, these items must be in your file at least 2 weeks before your interview with dCOM.

- ☐ AR105 Change of Relationship Request submitted by **July 15.**
- ☐ Official Transcript of Bachelor's degree.
- ☐ Will have completed Master of Divinity (Elders) OR Completed Master's degree in area of specialized ministry (Deacon) by the session of Annual Conference seeking provisional membership
- ☐ Official Transcript of their MDiv or Masters.
- ☐ Basic Graduate Theological Studies in the Christian Faith (must have a "C" or better to be acceptable): Old Testament, New Testament, Theology, Church History, Mission of the church in the world, Evangelism, Worship/liturgy, United Methodist Doctrine, United Methodist Polity, United Methodist History
- ☐ Completed MAS Assessment Packet & MAS report in file.

All documents must be received at least 2 weeks prior to the interview.

Email all documents to Amy Shores at amy.shores@arumc.org