AR 042 Candidacy Discernment Assignment ¶310.d

Written Reflections based on Wesley's Historic Questions & dCOM requirements

UNITED METHODISTS OF Arkansas BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Candidacy Assignment

- *This assignment is part of the requirements outlined in 2016 Discipline ¶310.1b, 310.1d, 310.2a, 310.2d*
- *This reflection paper will "grow with you" as you continue to discern God's call to ministry. Along the candidacy journey, you will be submitting updated versions of this assignment as you meet with mentors, different committees, and church leaders.*

SHARE YOUR STATEMENT OF CALL *(update your Orientation to Ministry Assignment ¶310.1b, Form AR041)*

A. Please share an introductory paragraph to describe yourself and your stage of life. *(ex. "I am a sophomore student at Philander Smith College"," I am an empty nester and longtime member of First UMC".)*

B. Describe your call to ministry. Please include how the church fits into the call you have discerned. C. How do you currently understand your call to relate to Licensed or Ordained Ministry in the United Methodist Church (elder, deacon, or licensed local pastor)?

D. Describe your support system as you pursue candidacy.

WESLEYAN QUESTIONS (¶310.d1-d3)

I. THE NATURE OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

A. What is the most formative experience as a Christian disciple?

B. How do you know God as forgiving and pardoning?

C. How do you believe that others know that the love of Christ abides in you? Share some examples of how you discipline yourself to be "holy in all manner of conversation?"

II. GIFTS AND GRACE FOR MINISTRY

A. What are the gifts and grace for ministry that the Holy Spirit has given you to fulfill his work and mission? Share some examples of times when you felt your gifts for ministry were used by God.

B. Please share how you believe that your theology and understanding of Christ's saving grace are in alignment with historic United Methodist teachings.

III. FRUITFULNESS IN MINISTRY

A. How have you made and nurtured disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? Please share some recent examples of your fruitfulness in ministry as a layperson (ex: organizing a mission trip, leading a Bible Study or small group, sharing your faith, etc.)

B. What have you learned about yourself and God through your service?

THE MORAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF LICENSED AND ORDAINED MINISTERS ¶310.2d

Candidates seeking to become certified for licensed or ordained ministry shall… agree 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 clergy, to make a complete dedication of themselves to the highest ideals of the Christian life as set forth in ¶¶ 103-105; 160-164. To this end, they shall agree to exercise responsible self-control 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? How do you plan on supporting and living by this agreement?

Directions for Submitting Arkansas Conference Written Assignments to the District Registrar:

Format on letter sized 8.5x11. Please use double-spaced 12 pt. readable font (Times New Roman, Arial, etc), use one inch margins.
Type the question in bold before providing each answer. The entire assignment should total about 8-12 pages.
Include a header with your name and district, and include a footer with the date and page numbers
Please note that this reflection paper becomes a part of your file as a candidate and stays with you throughout your process. Take special care to use appropriate grammar and spelling. *Submit to Amy Shores at amy.shores@arumc.org.*