



Board of Ordained Ministry

West Virginia Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEMINARY COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

¶324.4, 2016 *Book of Discipline*

Every candidate pursuing ordination as elder or deacon must review the sub-paragraphs of ¶324 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. For a candidate to be qualified for ordination (either deacon or elder) in the UMC, he or she must have taken courses covering the following basic graduate theological studies:

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Theology
- church history
- mission of the church in the world
- evangelism
- worship/liturgy
- United Methodist doctrine*
- UM polity*
- UM history*

**the UM courses are sometimes combined in some way.*

In the West Virginia Conference, candidates on the elder track must have also taken courses covering the following studies⁺:

- Church administration (may be titled differently, but include themes of leadership styles and organizational systems)
- Pastoral care*
- Preaching*

⁺See WV Journal Rule III.6. on Licensed & Ordained Ministry, relating to pre-requisites for elders in full connection within the WV Conference.

**Pastoral care and Preaching courses must be taken in “residential” courses (not online) as defined by the Association of Theological Schools (when the majority, over 50%, of instructor-directed learning occurs in situations where both faculty and students are present, either at the main campus or at an extension site approved for the school to offer the full degree).*