



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 United Methodist Church, 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*
- ☐ United Methodist Polity*
- ☐ United Methodist History*

**The United Methodist courses are sometimes offered in combination for less than 3 credits.*

For candidates on the elder track: The West Virginia Conference requires that candidates on the elder track must also complete the following courses prior to ordination:

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

In keeping with the University Senate guidelines, West Virginia Conference students may engage in fully online courses only at one of the 13 United Methodist seminaries (or Asbury Seminary). Students attending a non-United Methodist seminary accredited by the University Senate may participate in courses by distance learning format that includes at least 50% face-to-face interaction.

*For more information, see West Virginia Conference **Miscellaneous Rules, Section XI, Part B.III. on Licensed or Ordained Ministry** in the conference journal, found on the conference website. These rules were updated in June 2023.*