

Section XI, III. RULES RELATING TO LICENSED AND ORDAINED MINISTRY

1. Rules.

All rules relating to licensed and ordained ministry shall be presented to and voted on by an executive session of the clergy of the annual conference prior to being presented to and voted on by a plenary session of the annual conference. The voting response of the executive session shall be reported to the plenary session of the annual conference by the conference Rules Committee.

2. The Candidacy Process. (§§310-312)

3. Pastoral Ministry Licensing Schools. (§§311, 312, 315-319)

The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry shall be authorized to develop and conduct Pastoral Ministry Licensing Schools for the West Virginia Annual Conference. Those who are candidates for licensing shall attend the West Virginia Annual Conference Pastoral Ministry Licensing School unless permission is given by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry at the request of the cabinet. A person seeking a license under the provisions of §311 and §315 must have completed the requirements for candidacy and be certified as a candidate for ordained ministry by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry in order to be eligible to attend Pastoral Ministry Licensing School.

4. Licensed Local Pastors. (§§316-320, 323)

Persons appointed for the first time as local pastors shall complete the first-year requirements of the Course of Study school within 18 months of that appointment. Pastoral charges shall allow local pastors who are under new appointments to attend the Course of Study school in the first and subsequent years of appointment so they can comply with requirements of (§319.1 and §319.2.) and this rule. Local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall follow the appropriate guidelines for continuing formation.

5. Associate Membership. (§§321-323—Fellowship of LP & AM)

6. Requirements for Ordination.

Provisional Membership and Commissioning (§§324-327)

Deacon in Full Connection (§§328-331)

Elder in Full Connection (§§332-335)

The West Virginia Conference requires these additional courses for those on the elder track: Preaching; Pastoral Care; and Church Administration.

7. Residency Program. (§326)

All provisional members shall be a part of the residency program during the first three years of provisional membership. The residency program will count as continuing formation.

8. Mentoring. (§348)

9. Covenant and Mutual Support for Licensed and Ordained Clergy

The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members. (§323)

The Meaning of Ordination, The Order of Deacons, and The Order of Elders. (§§301-309, 635)

10. Recognition of Orders from Other Denominations. (§§346-347)

11. Continuing Formation.(¶350.2)

All full, provisional and associate members of the annual conference, who are in an effective relationship with the annual conference, and full-time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study, shall be granted at least one week each year and at least one month each quadrennium for continuing formation. Such leaves shall not be considered as part of the clergy person's vacation. In addition, all full, provisional and associate members who are in an effective relationship with the annual conference, and full time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall be required to participate in and complete 4 CEU's of continuing formation (or its equivalent of 40 contact hours) every two years under the accountability of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Order of Deacons, Order of Elders, or the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors. Certificates of completion are required.

12. District Committee on Ordained Ministry. (¶666)

When possible, a minimum of one and a maximum of three associate members and/or local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall be included as members of each District Committee on Ordained Ministry. A quorum for all District Committees on Ordained Ministry shall consist of fifty percent of those persons eligible to vote.

13. Vacation.

All full members of the annual conference, provisional members, associate members, and full-time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study school shall be entitled to four weeks 'vacation with pay (four Sundays), each appointive year (July 1-June 30). Licensed local pastors, part-time and full-time, who have not completed the Course of Study school shall be entitled to two weeks (two Sundays).

14. Parsonage.

A parsonage shall be provided for each active pastor serving a charge as elder, associate member, provisional member moving toward ordination as an elder, and full-time local pastor. Each is required to live in a parsonage unless permission to live elsewhere has been granted by the cabinet. Exceptions to this requirement may be granted by the cabinet after consultation with the Pastor-Parish Relations committee of the involved church or charge. A retired pastor serving full time shall also have the option of living in a parsonage.