

Texas Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry *A few important Conference Policies for Candidates*

Approved Seminaries

In order to be considered for commissioning and probationary/provisional membership which can lead to ordination as an elder and full membership in the Texas Annual Conference, candidates must graduate with “a Master of Divinity degree from a school of theology listed by the University Senate” (*Discipline 2008*, ¶ 255.3.b, page 244). Deacon candidates must graduate with “a Master of Divinity degree from a school of theology listed by the University Senate, or a master’s degree in an area of specialized ministry” (*Discipline 2008*, ¶ 330.3.b, page 233). The additional theological requirements must be taken through a University Senate-approved seminary. A list of **University Senate-approved** seminaries is available on-line at www.gbhem.org. Please note: At this time, Houston Graduate School of Theology and Fuller’s Houston satellite program are not University Senate-approved.

Long-distance or On-line Learning

No more than **one third** of academic hours required for the Master of Divinity or any equivalent degree may be taken in long-distance or on-line learning. (CBOM, March 2006)

Commissioning as a Deacon or Elder

All candidates for commissioning as a deacon or elder and probationary/provisional membership in the Texas Annual Conference shall have completed courses in **United Methodist doctrine, history, and polity** before they are properly before the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for interviews. (CBOM, April 1990) Auditing is not permitted, but courses taken through Houston Graduate School of Theology or by correspondence are acceptable.

All candidates for commissioning as an elder or deacon and probationary/provisional membership in the Texas Annual Conference shall have **completed all educational requirements** prior to commissioning. (CBOM, October 2008)

Candidates recommended by the Texas Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for commissioning as a deacon or elder and probationary/provisional membership must have **received an Episcopal appointment** prior to commissioning. (CBOM, October 2008)

Ordination as an Elder or Deacon

All probationary/provisional candidates for ordination as an elder or deacon shall have completed **one course in worship and two courses in homiletics** (one basic course and one advanced course, together equaling six semester or six quarter hours). (CBOM, rev. Sept. 1991)

Sexual Ethics

A sexual ethics course is required for all appointed clergy—student local pastors, part and full time local pastors, probationary/provisional members, deacons, and elders—before or within the first year of a first appointment, and once every four years under appointment. To register for a sexual ethics course, go to the Texas Annual Conference website www.txcumc.org or contact Rev. Mary Tumulty at marytumulty@gmail.com.

For additional candidacy policies, please consult with your mentor; your District office; your District Committee on Ministry chairperson or registrar; the road map in this binder; and *The Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008* (¶ 310–344 or pages 209–260).

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