



Theology Guidelines
Local Pastor Applications

Your responses should be in compliance with the BOM Writing Guidelines. We will return these materials to you unread if they are not in compliance with the following standards:

- Do not exceed the page limit.
 - Local Pastors: 25 pages*Your bibliography is not included in this page count.*

The purpose of the Theology questions is to give you the opportunity to demonstrate a balance between your theological understanding and your ability to integrate your theology into your personal experience in ministry. Demonstrate a balance among theological, historical, biblical and personal sources with each question, being careful to give credit where credit is due. We expect your finest work. It is highly advised that you have a mentor, friend, pastor, or family member proof read your work before you submit it. The quality of your writing will be evaluated and is expected to be reflective of your education level.

Grammar Expectations for ALL Groups:

- Correct spelling
- Clear paragraph structure
- Basic written argument structure (Introduction, supporting paragraphs, conclusion)
- Consistency in citations and abbreviations
- Answer the questions and follow the instructions including use of inclusive language
- Use the correct citation form (*Chicago Manual of Style*) for footnotes and bibliography. Do not use endnotes.

Local Pastor Standards

Standard: Certified Candidates and Candidates seeking Licensing as Local Pastors should demonstrate, through written and oral examination, a Wesleyan theological understanding and ability to articulate their Christian faith.

- Minimum 20 and maximum 25 pages, not including bibliography
- Standards: *Living Our Beliefs the United Methodist Way* by Kenneth Carder; A Wesleyan understanding of Theology.
- Strongly suggest having someone review your paperwork for grammar, typos, and making sure the paragraphs flow well.

The readers will be looking for sources that are used in the local church: confirmation materials, Disciple I materials, hymnbooks, creeds, Book of Discipline, Book of Worship, Wesley's sermons, This Holy Mystery, <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/communion-this-holy-mystery> By Water and the Spirit <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/by-water-and-the-spirit-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-baptism>.

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Theology Questions
Local Pastor Application

****Please note: the resources included here serve as a supplement to the Suggested Reading List for theology. They are neither required nor exhaustive. We encourage you to be reading from a variety of sources, including authors from outside your own social location**

1. Describe your understanding of the nature and attributes of God you derive from Biblical and historical sources (e.g., creeds, hymns, etc.)?
 - *United Methodist Hymnal* (Charles Wesley's hymns)
 - Apostles' Creed
 - Nicene Creed
 - *Wearing God* by Lauren Winner
2. Who is Jesus Christ? How is he Lord and Savior?
 - Apostles' Creed
 - Nicene Creed
 - "And Can It Be?" (hymn) by Charles Wesley
 - Philippians 2:5-11, John 1, Colossians 1
 - *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman
3. Describe your personal experience and understanding of the Holy Spirit.
 - *The Holy Spirit* by Stanley Hauerwas and Will Willimon
4. What is the meaning and significance of the sacraments in the United Methodist tradition?
 - *This Holy Mystery*, <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/communion-this-holy-mystery>
 - *By Water and the Spirit* <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/by-water-and-the-spirit-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-baptism>.
5. What is your understanding of the Kingdom of God? Use one of Jesus' parables to illustrate one aspect of the Kingdom of God.
 - *The Very Good Gospel* by Lisa Sharon Harper
6. What is the church called to be and to do?
 - The Great Commission - Matthew 28:18-20
 - Mission and Purpose from the Book of Discipline
7. Discuss the authority of Scripture and how the Bible communicates truth.
 - *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans
8. How do you understand resurrection and eternal life?

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The Florida Conference

OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- Resurrection stories from the Gospels
 - John 3:16
 - John 5:24
9. What is your understanding of the Wesleyan concept of grace?
- *The Way to Heaven: The Gospel According to John Wesley* by Steve Harper
10. What is your understanding of suffering and evil in the world and God's response to it?
- *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James Cone
 - *What Shall We Say? Evil, Suffering, and the Crisis of Faith* by Thomas Long

Additional General Resources:

- *Living Our Beliefs* by Kenneth Carder
- *Christian Doctrine* by Shirley C. Guthrie
- *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* by Donald K. McKim
- *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*, ed. by Albert C. Outler and Richard P. Heitzenrater

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