

(SPRC) Staff-Parish Relations Committee Interview of Candidate for Ministry

(Facilitated by pastor or SPRC Chair)

Introduce yourself, or have the pastor introduce you, to the SPRC.

Begin with prayer.

Explain that in order for anyone to be licensed or ordained into ministry in the United Methodist Church, they must have a recommendation from their SPRC and Church/Charge Conference.

- a. The Book of Discipline, 2016 ¶310.1d states that: The candidate will consult with the pastor or equivalent in a ministry setting specified by the district committee on ordained ministry to request a meeting of the pastor-parish relations committee or equivalent body specified by the district committee on ordained ministry to consider the statement of call and to be interviewed in light of Wesley's historic questions.
- b. The discernment of the local church about this particular candidate's gifts and grace for ministry is a vital part of the process in determining the candidate's fitness for ministry. This is holy work and should be done carefully, thoughtfully and prayerfully.

The SPRC Chair should appoint a person to record the outcome of the meeting, particularly the vote that will be taken.

The facilitator should have paper ballots.

Prior to the interview, the candidate is expected to provide the SPRC, dCOM Chair, and dCOM Registrar written responses to questions found in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶310.1d, ¶310.2a (i-vi), as well as a written agreement to the highest ideals of the Christian life in ¶310.2d. (see questions below to guide conversation)

*The candidate's responses should provide the framework for the interview conversation.

Please excuse the candidate to another room, so that the SPRC will have an opportunity to discuss the interview and take a vote. The vote is not to be a rubber stamp, but an honest appraisal of the gifts and grace of the candidate.

- a. The vote is to be taken by written ballot. With this vote, you will recommend, or not recommend the candidate to your Charge/Church Conference. Please spend a few moments in quiet prayer as you consider your vote.
- b. Once the vote is taken and the ballots are tallied, bring the candidate in and report the results.
- c. Please use Form #102 to report the outcomes of the SPRC interview. Send Form #102 and the minutes to the District Office.

After the appropriate concluding remarks about the candidate or the process, thank the SPRC and the candidate for their time and work.

Close the meeting with prayer.

BOD ¶310.1d (Wesley's historic questions)

1. Do they know God as pardoning God? Have they the love of God abiding in them? Do they desire nothing but God? Are they holy in all manner of conversation?
2. Have they gifts, as well as evidence of God's grace, for the work? Have they a clear, sound understanding; a right judgment in the things of God; a just conception of salvation by faith? Do they speak justly, readily, clearly?
3. Have they fruit? Have any been truly convinced of sin and converted to God, and are believers edified by their service?

As long as these marks occur in them, we believe they are called of God to serve. These we receive as sufficient proof that they are moved by the Holy Spirit.

BOD ¶310.2a (i-vi)

- i. The most formative experience of their Christian life;
- ii. God's call to licensed or ordained ministry and the role of the church in their call
- iii. their beliefs as a Christian
- iv. their gifts for ministry
- v. their present understanding of their call to ministry as elder, deacon, or licensed ministry; and
- vi. their support system;

BOD ¶310.2d

Agree for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness of the gospel, and in consideration of their influence as clergy, to make a complete dedication of themselves to the highest ideals of the Christian life as set forth in ¶103-105;160-166. To this end they shall agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God.

Form for the Recommendation of Renewal of a candidate for ministry can be found on the [flumc.org](http://tools.flumc.org) website under Charge Conference Forms

http://tools.flumc.org/console/files/oCharge_Conference/15_candidacy_for_ministry_XY6G8XYJ.pdf