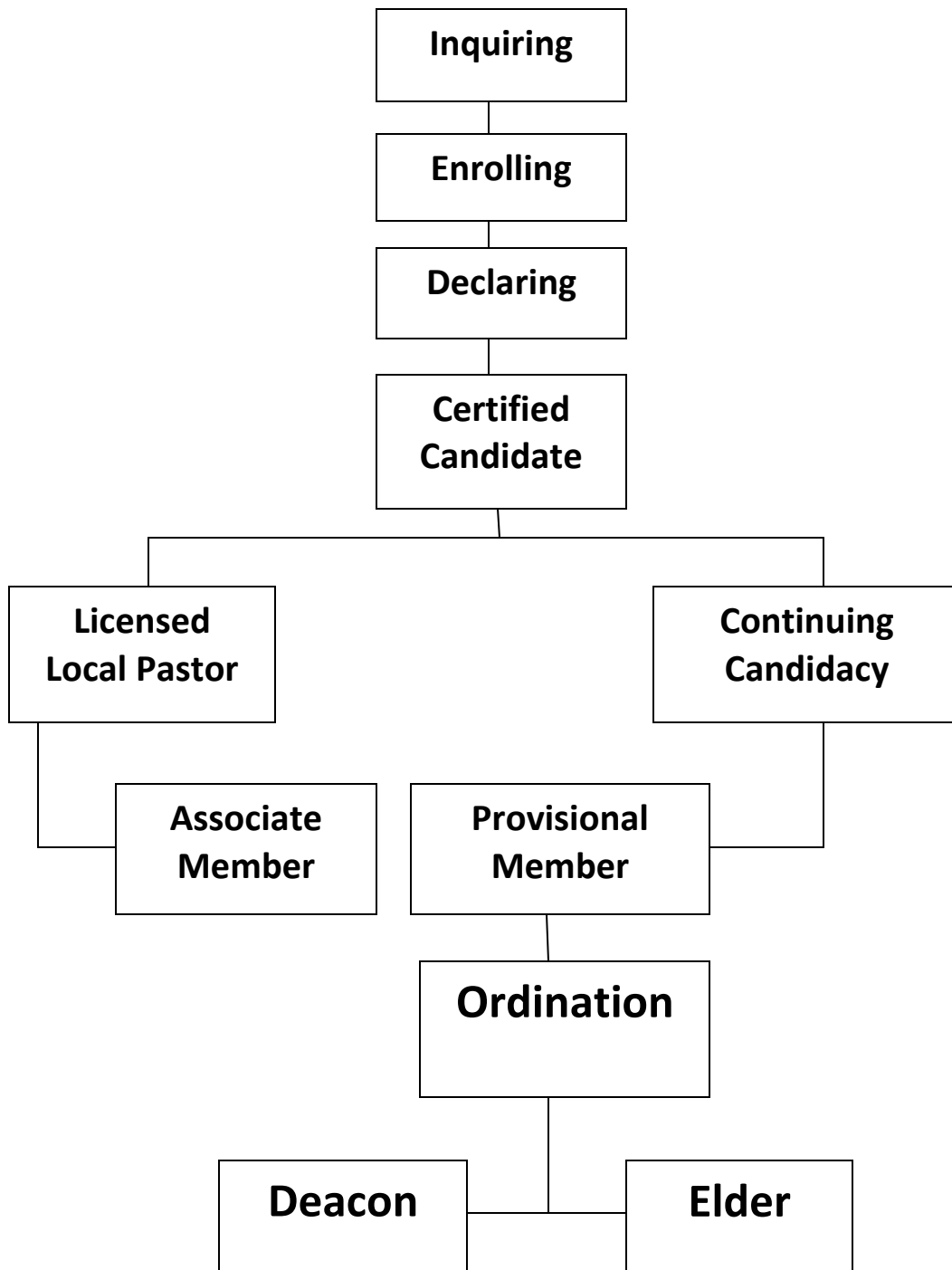


An Overview of the Candidacy Process



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Inquiring

Those interested in the ministry contact their local church pastor, another deacon or elder, or their district superintendent.

Recommended reading: “The Christian as Minister” and “Ministry Inquiry Process”

Enrolling

A mentor contacts the inquirer and helps them enroll in the candidacy process.

The mentor provides the Web address for the online enrollment application.

Declaring

Candidates must have completed high school.

Must submit written statement of call and get recommendation from their SPRC.

Use Form 104 to declare their candidacy. Home church charge conference must recommend candidate by vote of 2/3 present, then in writing.

Continue candidacy studies with mentor and required education (MDiv required by RMC before seeking commissioning).

**Certified
Candidate**

Candidates submit written responses to questions in Paragraph 311.2(b) &(c) in the Book of Discipline.

Provide other information upon request.

Agree to highest ideals of Christian life as set forth in Paragraphs 102-104; 160-166.

Meet with District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM) and obtain its approval to become a certified candidate (could take several meetings).

**Licensed
Local Pastor**

**Continuing
Candidacy**

At this point, candidates can take the Course of Study to become a Licensed Local Pastor, or they can opt to continue their candidacy by seeking commissioning toward deacon's or elder's orders.

If they choose to seek commissioning, they seek the DCOM's recommendation to the BOM. Once the DCOM agrees to recommend the candidate, a set of paperwork must be completed and filed with the Registrar by January 31.

**Associate
Member**

Local Pastors who are 40 or older, have served at least 4 years, completed Licensing School and Course of Study, and at least 60 semester hours toward a bachelor's degree.

Retain their Local Pastor status but enter into the itinerant ministry. Upon retirement, retain their license for pastoral ministry and relationship as retired clergy members.

Provisional Member

In March, at the BOM meeting in Colorado Springs, candidates seeking commissioning will interview with a team from the board, which has read their paperwork.

That team will recommend to the full board whether the BOM should recommend commissioning to the Clergy Session at Annual Conference or tell the candidate “not yet” and send them back to the DCOM for more discernment.

First-year paperwork

Once a candidate has been commissioned by the Clergy Session at Annual Conference, a minimum two-year process toward ordination begins.

In year one, the candidate must complete a specific set of paperwork, including papers on their involvement in the local church and the Word, Order and Pastoral functions of ministry. This paperwork is sent to the Registrar by the January 31 deadline.

First-year check-in meetings

The Registrar forwards completed paperwork to the interview teams for reading.

At the March BOM meeting in Colorado Springs, candidates who are in the middle of their process toward ordination meet with the members of their interview team and “check in” on their progress and answer any questions their interview team members may have based on the paperwork they submitted.

Second-year paperwork

In the second year of paperwork (for those seeking ordination the following June), candidates must have completed a mission experience they did not lead, write a Bible study outline and submit both written and DVD sermons, in addition to other paperwork.

That paperwork is due by November 1. The Registrar then sends it to the interview teams for review before on-site interviews.

Ordination

The on-site interview

The candidate's contact person sets up an on-site interview at the candidate for ordination's ministry setting. (Generally a Sunday evening or weekday evening timeframe)

The interview process begins with an interview team meeting, followed by dinner with the candidate (and spouse, if married).

The team then meets with key leaders from the church or ministry setting, including SPR, lay leader, etc.

The interview team also meets separately with the senior pastor or ministry setting supervisor.

After another brief interview team meeting, the candidate is brought in and the team discusses its recommendation to the BOM with the candidate.

A brief interview team report is filed with the Registrar summarizing the on-site interview and the team's recommendation to the BOM.

March BOM ordination vote

At the March meeting before ordination is anticipated in June, the full BOM hears the report of each interview team that conducted an on-site interview.

Based on the interview team's recommendation and the full BOM's discussion, a recommendation is made to the Clergy Session at Annual Conference for ordination and full connection (or another "not yet" recommendation is made).

Deacon

Elder

Becoming an elder or deacon

Candidates for ordination are presented by the BOM to the Clergy Session at Annual Conference in June.

Once approved by the Clergy Session, the candidates go through an ordination service that concludes Annual Conference.

At that point, their process ends, and they are officially part of the Order of Deacons or Order of Elders and members of the conference in full connection.