

Keystone Conference Ministerial Development Process Guide

Ordination as a Free Methodist Elder – Stage 3

The primary focus of the third stage of discerning a ministry call is the drawing of the heart and head together in serving with the Hands: purposeful and consistent ministry is engaged in, the wide and varied aspects of a vocational call are explored through disciplines such as preaching, guiding worship and discipling others, and the fruitfulness of ministry is evaluated to determine calling.

The mentor continues to support the candidate through this time, though in a more advisory role, while the Ministerial Education and Guidance Board has oversight of the process and ministry location. During this time the Conference Credentialing Coach will meet with the Conference CMC candidates monthly often via video conferencing.

The following is a step-by-step guide to Stage 3 in the ministerial credentialing process of a potential candidate to help them become an Ordained Elder in the Free Methodist church.

1. Have three years of appointed service as a CMC. (Prior ministry experience may be considered.)
2. Complete the Introduction to Christian Doctrine Class and the Wesleyan Theology class offered in the Conference or an approved equivalent course by May 1 of potential year of ordination.
3. Submit all updated education transcripts and or affirmation of completed credentialing classes to the Conference Credentialing Coach. A list of required courses for ordination is available on the Conference website (www.keystonefmc.org).
4. Submit to the Conference Credentialing Coach your current Personal Formation Plan addressing all 15 areas (Heart, Head, & Hands) as well as a record of prior completed plans showing areas of growth
5. Completed CMC Theological Proficiency Assessment submitted to the Conference Credentialing Coach.
6. A recommendation from the Conference Credentialing Coach that you are ready for an Elders interview with the Ministerial Education and Guidance Board.
7. Complete the mental-health screening process by scheduling an appointment with the approved clinician as directed by the MEG Board. Take a completed Personal History Form to your appointment. The clinician's confidential report will be reviewed by the MEG Board and held at the Conference office as part of your confidential file.
8. Work with your Conference Credentialing Coach to schedule an Elder's interview with the MEG Board.
9. Following the MEG Board interview one of the following will be decided:
 - a. You will be recommended to the Annual Conference for full membership in the Keystone Conference and ordination as an Elder.
 - b. You will be advised to take additional time in the preparation process with the Conference Credentialing Coach to address areas identified.