Upper NY Conference
MISSION PROJECT GUIDELINES
For Candidates Seeking
Full Membership and Ordination

Order of Deacon and **Order of Elder**

Provisional members applying for full membership in the Upper NY Annual Conference and ordination as a Deacon or Elder in the United Methodist Church are required to participate in a mission project. The UNYAC Mission Project requirement fulfills the mandate for ordination as set forth in the *Book of Discipline* (2016) in paragraphs 330.4(4) for Deacon and 335(7) for Elder. This requirement must be completed during your provisional period, and the report must be submitted by the UMCares Plus Deadline Date of the year candidates come for the ordination interview (For ordination in 2019, the deadline is January 8, 2019).

There are four basic requirements for your mission project:
1. It must be at least 5 days in length, not including travel. Please pay close attention to the levels of immersion described later in this document as you select your mission project.
2. It must take place during the time you are a provisional member.
3. After completing the mission work, you must give a presentation to a group, either within or outside your local church congregation.
4. You must write a report, which is due by the UMCares Plus Deadline Date of the year candidates come for the ordination interview (For ordination in 2019, the deadline is January 8, 2019).
Your report should include the following items:

- Name your report *Your Last Name Your first initial 2019 Mission Project* on UMCares Plus.
- Describe the nature of the mission project in which you took part. (Please limit this section to no more than 2 paragraphs.) Reflect on how this experience did or did not meet your expectations.
- Why did you choose this particular mission experience? What factors went into your decision?
- Describe a theological issue you encountered through your participation in this project. What resources helped you reflect on this theological issue?
- Describe the cultural context in which you have been in mission. How is it different from your own?
- Describe any significant cross-cultural learning that resulted from your participation in this experience.
- What familiar experiences do you notice in the lives of folks you encountered?
- How has your being in that place impacted the lives of those you encountered?
- How has your being in that place impacted your own life? How are you different? What changes will you make because of this experience?
- What effect did your participation in this mission project have on your understanding of faith and ministry?
- How did your experience impact the way that you understand God and Humanity?
- How has your experience impacted the way that you will behave toward others?
- How will your experience impact the way that you lead people in Christian ministry?
- How did you or will you bring your congregation or ministry setting into this experience?

Don’t forget: Name your report *Your Last Name Your First Initial 2019 Mission Project* on UMCares Plus.

The Board of Ordained Ministry recognizes three possible levels of immersion in your mission experience:

1. A completely cross-cultural international mission project working with people of a different ethnic background who speak a different language. Some examples are: a VIM (Volunteers-in-Mission) trip, a medical mission trip.
2. A significantly cross-cultural domestic mission project working with people who are of a different ethnic background, who may or may not speak English. Some examples are: missions work in a Native American community, missions work in an inner-city setting outside of UNY Conference.
3. A minimally cross-cultural local mission project working with people from a different ethnic or economic background who live in or near the bounds of our annual conference. Some examples are: Red Bird mission trip, missions work in an inner-city setting inside UNY Conference. This option is provided and intended for those with limiting life circumstances.

That said, the Board also encourages you to stretch yourself. Be creative. Open yourself to doing the work that the Holy Spirit is calling you to do. Allow for the possibility of a life-changing experience.

If you have any questions, please contact the Rev. Eleanor Collinsworth, Chair of the Division of Standards and Qualifications of the UNY Board of Ordained Ministry at egcollinsworth@gmail.com

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Division of Standards & Qualifications