

Upper NY Conference
REQUIRED WORK FOR CANDIDATES SEEKING
FULL MEMBERSHIP AND ORDINATION

Order of Elder

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Due Date: on or before **January 12, 2026**. It is the policy of the Board of Ordained Ministry to accept nothing submitted after 11:59 pm on January 12. No exceptions will be granted.
2. Upload the work below onto the Passage UMC web site. You will be given instructions regarding how to do this by the Board of Ordained Ministry Registrar, Rev. Caroline Simmons, BOMregistrar@unyumc.org.
3. Bring one copy of the work below to your interview, for your own reference.
4. Familiarize yourself with all of Paragraph 335 of the *2020/2024 Book of Discipline* and be sure that you have completed all requirements. It is your responsibility to verify that all paperwork has been sent in by schools, physicians, District Committees on Ministry, District Superintendents, mentors, and others.

Written Questions Guidelines

1. Answer the questions found below.
2. Please state the question in your paper, then give your response.
3. Begin a new page for each new question.
4. Answer questions within the specified page limits.
5. Double space writing and number your pages.
6. Professional standards of English composition and sensitivity to inclusive language are required in the presentation of all materials.
7. Use proper bibliographic citation (for example, MLA or Turabian style) for all quotations and ideas of others (full, partial, or paraphrased) that you use. Include a properly formatted bibliography at the end of your questions.
8. When you upload your Discipline questions onto Passage UMC, upload them all as one document (do not upload each question separately). It will be helpful to give it a name that clearly can be tracked to you and this interview year, 2026. Therefore, please use the following file naming format: *Your last name Your first initial 2026 type of file*. For example: smithj2026writtenquestions.
9. Questions to ask yourself:
 - a. In the answers I've given, do I demonstrate knowledge of the biblical foundations and theological traditions of the United Methodist Church, and do I demonstrate how these interact with my personal beliefs? Am I able to answer affirmatively to each of the questions of the *Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection* (para.336)?

- b. How and to what extent do I show the ability to integrate my experience in ministry with my theological understandings?
- c. Do my answers express what I have learned or how I have changed since I was commissioned?
- d. What sense of me and my call to ordained ministry is revealed?
- e. Have I answered the whole question?
- f. Have I proofread everything?
- g. Is this work my own?

Written Questions

Within 1 page each, give examples of how the practice of ministry has affected your experience and understanding of:

- 1. God
- 2. humanity
- 3. the need for divine grace
- 4. the Lordship of Jesus Christ
- 5. the work of the Holy Spirit
- 6. the meaning and significance of the sacraments
- 7. the kingdom of God
- 8. Resurrection and eternal life

Answer the following question within 1 page:

- 9. How has the practice of ministry affected your understanding of the expectations and obligations of the itinerant system? Do you offer yourself without reserve to be appointed and to serve as the appointive authority may determine?

Answer each of the following questions within 2 pages:

- 10. How has the practice of ministry informed your understanding of the nature and mission of the Church? What are its primary challenges today?

11. How has the experience of ministry shaped your understanding of your vocation as an ordained elder?
12. How has the practice of ministry affected your understanding of one or more of the following traditional evangelical doctrines: (a) repentance; (b) justification; (c) regeneration; (d) sanctification?
13. Provide evidence of your willingness to relate yourself in ministry with all persons without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic condition, or disability.
14. Describe and evaluate your personal gifts for ministry and how they have resulted in fruitful ministry. What would be your areas of strength and areas in which you need to be strengthened in order to be more fruitful in ministry?
15. Provide evidence of experience in peace and justice ministries.

Answer the following questions with a 'yes' or 'no' and 3-5 clarifying sentences, if necessary:

16. For the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness to the Christian gospel and in consideration of your influence as an ordained minister, are you willing to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life; and to this end will you agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all personal relationships, social responsibility, faithful sexual intimacy expressed through fidelity, monogamy, commitment, mutual affection and respect, careful and honest communication, mutual consent, and growth in grace and in the knowledge and love of God?
17. Will you regard all pastoral conversations of a confessional nature as a trust between the person concerned and God?

Sermon

1. Prepare and preach a sermon or other oral proclamation based on the scripture passage of your choice.
2. Digitally record your sermon (both sound and sight).
3. Upload your sermon to this OneDrive folder: [BOM Video Inbox](#). If you have any issues, contact Mary Dalglish at marydalglish@unyumc.org.
4. Upload a manuscript or transcript of your sermon or other oral proclamation (double spaced). Name your file *Your Last Name Your First Initial 2026 sermon manuscript* on Passage UMC.

Fruitfulness Project

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 fruitfulness project during their provisional period based on:

Ordination requirement - Book of Discipline 2020/2024 in paragraphs 330.4(4) for Deacon and 335(7) for Elder: *“Presented a project that demonstrates fruitfulness in carrying out the church’s mission of “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.”*

As a part of the full membership application in the UNYAC, those seeking ordination will start a new ministry initiative grounded in (1) assessment, (2) implementation, and (3) reflection.

Fruitfulness has a clear emphasis both in scripture and the Wesleyan tradition; it moves us out of mere institutional maintenance into adventurous, organic, missional ministries. There are no experts on what “works.” The Fruitfulness Project is an opportunity for you to risk moving into unknown territory to do ministry in a new way for a new time. Your Fruitfulness Project will enable you and your ministry partners to move beyond “technical fixes” (improvements in format, technique, or style) toward “adaptive changes” that can usher in new ways of doing ministry that connect with the community, encourage spiritual development or equip disciples with the skills to engage people, even those who do not know the Gospel.

The Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) wants you to spend time during your provisional process on this in the following ways:

1. Discerning through prayer and careful analysis of the cultural and community context of your ministry setting what may be needed/useful
2. Creating a new project that can meet the contextual needs of the community and determining fruits that it may bear
3. Implementing the project- gathering people and resources to get started!
4. Reflecting on the fruitfulness- how has this project helped to make and grow disciples for Jesus?

Here are some suggestions to help you consider possibilities- this is not an exhaustive list:

- Launching a new worship service or developing teams to lead and revitalize an existing worship service
- Starting a new church or satellite ministry.
- Launching a major outreach project to address a social justice issue.
- Beginning a small group ministry to reach new people, new generations.
- Leading an immersion experience, mission trip.
- Developing a new curriculum that helps people think theologically about the critical issues of our day and equipping a group of leaders in that curriculum so they can lead it with others.

- Creating a new member process with other guides/mentors to new members that focus on faith formation and discovering gifts and calling.
- Designing and implementing a community focused ministry that meets a need such as free weekly dinners, or a drop in day center for elder care or before and after school care for elementary children.
- Developing a congregational care and/or prayer ministry that develops other leaders to extend the congregation's care.
- Creating faith-formation oriented retreat or workshops that has shared leadership.

Write a 2-3 page paper summary that:

1. Describes the project
2. Tells us why you chose it, who was involved in implementing it, and what the intended outcomes were
3. Shares the impact of the project on you, those you worked with and the ministry context you serve

Don't forget: Name your report *Your Last Name Your first initial 2026 Fruitfulness Project* on Passageumc.

Other Requirements

See the checklist available on the <https://www.unyumc.org> website, Board of Ordained Ministry page for the full list of requirements.