

**Board of Ordained Ministry
Susquehanna Conference, The United Methodist Church**

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP

The *Book of Discipline* lists specific course requirements that must be included in graduate theological education prior to provisional membership in the United Methodist Church:

These basic graduate theological studies must include courses in Old Testament; New Testament; theology; church history; mission of the church in the world; evangelism; worship/liturgy; and United Methodist doctrine, polity and history. (§324.4.a)

In the course of fulfilling requirements for the Master of Divinity Degree, candidates for elder from the Susquehanna Conference must *also include* the following in their studies:

1. 2 Courses in Preaching
2. 1 Course in Leadership
3. 1 Bible Course (beyond survey/introduction level) in Old Testament
4. 1 Bible Course (beyond survey/introduction level) in New Testament

Candidates for Deacon: carefully review *Book of Discipline* ¶324.4.a, ¶324.4.c, ¶324.5

Questions on whether specific courses satisfy a requirement should be directed to the Board of Ordained Ministry Elders or Deacons Registrar.

Distance Education

1. University Senate guidelines state that **credit for online education for UM students will only be granted for classes taken at one of the 13 UM theological schools or at Asbury Theological Seminary.**
2. All United Methodist seminaries and Asbury Theological Seminary are allowed to offer **up to two-thirds of the Master of Divinity degree as distance education** (as defined by 2012 Association of Theological Schools Standard ES.4), with **one-third of the degree required to be campus-based** (as defined by 2012 Association of Theological Schools Standard ES.2).