

SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP AND COMMISSIONING

“Each candidate shall have demonstrated his or her gifts for ministries of service and leadership to the satisfaction of the district committee on ordained ministry as a condition for probationary membership and commissioning.” (*The United Methodist Discipline, 2012 - Paragraph 324.2*)

The following requirements shall fulfill the condition of the above paragraph for candidates within the Susquehanna Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

1. The service shall be a minimum of one hundred (100) hours and may be completed in one or more settings.
2. The “practice of servant leadership” provision is central to our understanding of this requirement. With that in mind, the service requirement may best be fulfilled in a setting that is community based rather than in a local church setting. Seminary field education outside a local church setting is acceptable. Possible settings would include: mental health agencies, crisis centers, community based work camps, Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries, Volunteers of America, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, food pantries, programs for unwed mothers, prison ministry, etc.
3. If possible, the setting should reflect a different life setting than that which is familiar to the candidate. (It must be considered, however, that candidates will not have equal access to service settings depending on geographical location, other employment, location of college or seminary, family priorities, etc.)
4. While this requirement would most likely be done on a volunteer basis, a paid position could meet the requirements.
5. The service requirement must be done after the candidate begins the candidacy process and prior to commissioning. Work done previously cannot be counted toward this requirement.
6. A unit of CPE could meet one half (1/2) of the service requirement.
7. Candidates should submit a written proposal outlining their plan for service. This proposal shall be submitted to the District office for approval by the District Committee on Ministry prior to the beginning of service.
8. The service setting should be monitored by the candidacy mentor and an on-site supervisor. A written report of service shall be given by the on-site supervisor, to be presented to the District Committee, for each service setting.
9. Candidates shall submit a brief statement of learning to the District Committee on Ministry.
10. Service requirements completed and approved in another district will be recognized by the District Committee on Ministry. If partial requirements have been met, the candidate will meet with the District Committee on Ministry to develop a satisfactory plan for completion.

Service Requirement
For
Probationary Membership and Commissioning

Standard Approval

The one hundred (100) hour service requirement for persons in candidacy for ministry must receive prior approval from the York District Committee on Ministry. Please complete this form and submit it to the District office 2550 Kingston Center Suite 115 York, PA 17402.

Name _____ Date _____

Service Setting

Describe the setting:

Area of community served

Supervisor

What needs of the community will be served

Number of hours anticipated

Proposed Starting Date _____ Anticipated Completion Date _____