

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES FOR ELDER OR DEACON OR LOCAL PASTOR

License for Pastoral Ministry

Current rules of the Board of Ordained Ministry require attendance and satisfactory participation in the Local Pastors' Certification/Licensing School before a person may be issued a "license for pastoral ministry." (formerly called "local pastor's license") This requirement is in addition to the disciplinary requirements of candidacy certification and a place to be appointed.

This applies to everyone, regardless of how much of seminary has been completed. This is "stronger" than the disciplinary requirement of "one-third of their work for a Master of Divinity degree..."

When the requirements have been met, the "license for pastoral ministry" must be recommended by the District Committee on the Ministry (dcom) and approved by the Board of Ministry (BOM). The license is issued by the bishop when the appointment is made.

License for the Practice of Ministry

The Board of Ordained Ministry now requires all probationary deacons (PD) to attend a Formation Event before they may be issued a License for the Practice of Ministry. This license will allow them to register with the secretary of state to officiate weddings, visit in jails, etc. while they are in the probationary years (PD), before ordination as a deacon.

Exceptions can be made in consultation with Office of Ministry, i.e. the probationary (now called "provisional") deacon event offered by GBHEM may be attended instead of the Formation Event.

Please note! For probationary deacons with a part-time appointment, the appointment must be at least 20 hours a week. In addition, there should be at least 10 hours a week in other deacon work (secondary appointment or other).

If you have questions, call Office of Ministry
614-844-6200, 800-437-0028, sthomas@wocumc.org