

507. Educational Requirements for Ordination

4. Elders' Educational Requirements. Individuals who have been previously ordained as a deacon in the GMC may be eligible to be ordained as an elder in the GMC following the completion of at least ten additional courses, including eight required courses as follows:

- History of Christianity through the Reformation
- History of Christianity, Reformation to the present
- Apologetics
- Wesleyan Discipleship and Spiritual Formation
- Christian Leadership and Conflict Resolution
- An additional Old Testament Class
- An additional New Testament Class
- Ministry of The Holy Spirit

Elective Courses may be chosen from among the following areas:

- Mission of the Church and Church Renewal
- Cross Cultural Ministry and Evangelism
- Advanced Preaching
- Hebrew or Greek language studies
- Pastoral Counseling
- Church Finance and Administration
- Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in a hospital or similar setting
- Philosophy of Religion
- Field Study in Israel
- Theology Electives
- Theology of Worship
- Children or Youth Ministry
- Gospel Vision for Justice
- Mission and Church Renewal
- Media and Modern Applications
- Directed Internship or independent study

5. Global Education Committee. A Global Education Committee shall be formed as part of the Commission on Ministry and Higher Education that shall serve to encourage and connect Wesleyan theological education in the varying regions around the world, ensuring consistent standards for training clergy that align with the missional and theological aims of the Global Methodist Church.

6. Continuing Education for Clergy. Following ordination as a deacon or elder, clergy are expected to continue learning throughout their lifetimes by means of classes, retreats, seminars, and study leaves on at least an annual basis wherever possible. Time in continuing education shall not be counted as vacation or personal time.

7. Certification of Classes and Non-Degree Certificate of Pastoral Studies Programs.

The Commission on Ministry and Higher Education will determine whether courses at a given institution meet the requirements listed in this paragraph. Each annual conference board of ministry shall certify that the courses taken by a person correspond sufficiently to these areas. The Commission on Ministry and Higher Education will recommend competencies and courses *2024 Book of Doctrines and Discipline* 68 for ministerial training, as well as establish standards for and supervise approved non-degree certificate of pastoral studies programs in conjunction with the annual conference boards of ministry.

8. Changes in Requirements. In the event of a change in educational requirements within the Global Methodist Church, candidates in process shall be allowed to complete their educational program as per the requirements specified in the *Book of Doctrine and Disciplines* (including the *Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline*) in effect at the time they began their studies, provided that the candidate demonstrates adequate progress toward the completion of their education.

9. Review of Courses. The Commission on Ministry and Higher Education shall complete a review of the courses required for ordination in consultation with the Advisory Committee to the Committee on Approval and representatives from the Boards of Ministry and bring recommendations to the 2026 General Conference.