

508. HISTORIC QUESTIONS.

In addition to whatever other questions may be asked, persons seeking ordination as deacon shall be evaluated during their interview by the annual conference board of ministry or equivalent based upon their answers related to the following historic questions first asked about those desiring to be “traveling preachers:”

“(1) Do they know God as pardoning God? Have they the love of God abiding in them? Do they desire nothing but God? Are they holy in all manner of conversation?”

(2) Have they gifts, as well as evidence of God’s grace, for the work? Have they a clear, sound understanding; a right judgment in the things of God; a just conception of salvation by faith? Do they speak justly, readily, clearly?

(3) Have they fruit? Have any been truly convinced of sin and converted to God, and are believers edified by their service? As long as these marks occur in them, we believe that they are called of God to serve. These we receive as sufficient proof that they are moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Prior to ordination as elder, candidates shall provide the board of ministry with written answers to the following questions historically asked by bishops since the time of John Wesley:

(1) Have you faith in Christ?

(2) Are you going on to perfection?

(3) Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?

(4) Are you earnestly striving after perfection in love?

(5) Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and to God’s work?

(6) Do you know the General Rules of our Church?

(7) Will you keep the General Rules of our Church?

(8) Have you studied the doctrines of the Global Methodist Church?

(9) After full examination do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?

(10) Will you preach and maintain them?

(11) Have you studied our form of church discipline and polity?

(12) Do you approve our church government and polity?

(13) Will you support and maintain them?

(14) Will you exercise the ministry of compassion? 2024 Book of Doctrines and Discipline 69

(15) Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?

(16) Will you visit from house to house?

(17) Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?

(18) Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?

(19) Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?

(20) Will you observe the following directions?

(a) Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.

(b) Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time.

(c) And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience’ sake.

509. ORDINATION AS DEACON.

Within the Global Methodist Church, certified candidates must first be ordained as deacons and, after ordination as deacons, may be ordained as elders.

1. *Ordination Questions.* Upon completion of the educational requirements of ¶507.3, a candidate for ordination as deacon shall be interviewed by the annual conference board of ministry or equivalent. Prior to the interview, the candidates shall be asked to respond in writing to the following questions:

- (a) *What is your personal experience of God?*
- (b) *What is your understanding of evil?*
- (c) *What is your understanding of grace?*
- (d) *How do you understand the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers and in the Church?*
- (e) *What is your understanding of the Kingdom of God?*
- (f) *What significance do you believe that the resurrection holds?*
- (g) *What is your understanding of the nature and authority of Scripture?*
- (h) *What is your understanding of the nature and mission of the Church?*
- (i) *What gifts and graces do you bring to the work of ministry?*
- (j) *What is the meaning of ordination?*
- (k) *What is the role and significance of the sacraments?*
- (l) *Have you studied our form of church discipline and polity and will you support and maintain it?*
- (m) *For the sake of the church's witness, are you willing to dedicate yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life, exercising self-control in your personal habits, integrity in all of your relationships and if married, fidelity in your covenant with your spouse, or if single, chastity in your personal conduct?*

The annual conference board of ministry shall evaluate whether the candidate evidences a sufficient foundation in and commitment to the doctrine, ethical principles, and discipline of the Global Methodist Church.

2. The annual conference board of ministry or equivalent will interview the candidate for ordination as a deacon. After being interviewed and individually recommended by the annual conference board of ministry by a two-thirds vote and approved by a two-thirds vote of the clergy of the annual conference in clergy session and by the bishop, a certified candidate for ordination shall become a full member of the annual conference and be ordained as deacon by *2024 Book of Doctrines and Discipline* 70 the bishop through the laying on of hands. The clergy session may determine by majority vote to act on candidates individually or as part of a group.

3. Deacons are clergy members in full connection of the annual conference with full voice and vote on all matters except the ordination and conference relation of elders. Deacons not serving under appointment shall be classified as inactive and shall have no voting rights in the annual conference, except as provided for in 520.

4. Deacons may be appointed to serve as part of a ministry team in a local church (including as a pastor) or another ministry setting by the bishop, or they may secure their own position with the approval and appointment of the bishop.

5. Deacons considering a call to ordination as an elder, or in whom the gifts and graces for the ministry of elder are recognized by a bishop or presiding elder, may be appointed to the office of pastor in a local church. If such an appointment is more than temporary, a deacon who accepts such an appointment must declare candidacy for ordination as an elder and begin the process toward such ordination following the completion of all educational requirements as a deacon.

6. Where applicable by national or local laws, inactive deacons serving in a ministry setting outside the connectional structure of the Global Methodist Church shall insure themselves with a package of insurance coverage (including limits) determined by their conference board of ministry and cabinet. Such insurance shall include, but not be limited to professional liability and misconduct. Each inactive deacon shall annually submit to the cabinet and board of ministry a certificate of insurance showing their annual conference listed as an additional insured.