



Licensing School Writing Assignment 2024

For Projected Clergy with Complete UMC Required Coursework

Licensing School is a requirement of the United Methodist Church for all clergy projected for first-time appointment. Three core elements of this curriculum include: Methodist Tradition, Mission and Evangelism, and Education. In Virginia, these courses are completed online, prior to arriving at the in-person portion of Licensing School. Projected clergy who have completed these courses at United Methodist approved seminaries may present their transcripts and receive an exemption from taking these online courses.

Those who are exempted from these online courses must submit a response to the following questions. Responses should be 1-3 paragraphs in length. Completed assignments should be emailed to Rev. LynHarding@vaumc.org

1. **In the United Methodist Church, the practice of itinerancy is fundamental to its placement of clergy and mission in the greater world. Cite one or more scriptural foundations for this practice and briefly describe the role of itinerancy in the Early Church.**

Knowledge: To develop an awareness that Methodist polity is rooted in the biblical tradition.

Skill: To make connections between United Methodist denominational history, church history and the scriptures which give foundational meaning to the church in its current mission and ministry.

Citations: The Bible

2. An excerpt from the Social Principles reads: *The United Methodist Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The church helps us think and act out of a faith perspective, not just responding to all the other 'mind-makers-up' that exist in our society.*

The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016. Copyright © 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House.

Describe the potential consequences and outcomes for an institution which seeks to “care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex.”

Knowledge: To further competency on the UM Book of Resolutions including the denominational stance that the issues of the day require our response as faithful people of God.

Skill: To demonstrate a willingness to engage in modern issues by example and by inviting the people in their ministry to engage as well both as faith formation and as a response to the world in which we live.

Citations: No specific resources are required.