Path to Become
A PROVISIONAL MEMBER

☐ Be a licensed local pastor or become a certified candidate for at least one year by July 1 of the year in which you are applying for provisional membership.

☐ Complete a bachelor's degree from a college or university recognized by the University Senate. Exceptions to undergraduate degree may be made for missional purposes, but at least 60 credit hours must be completed.

For those pursuing ordination as an elder

☐ Complete a Masters of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary by May of the year in which you are applying. Your classes must meet the Educational Requirements as set forth by the UMC & VAUMC.

or

☐ Local pastors can meet this requirement by serving four years of full-time service and completing the Course of Study & Advanced Course of Study.

For those pursuing ordination as a deacon

☐ Complete a Masters of Divinity from an accredited seminary by May of the year in which you are applying. Your classes must meet the Educational Requirements as set forth by the UMC & VAUMC.

or

☐ Complete a master's degree in the area of specialized ministry in which the candidate will serve by May in the year in which you are applying. Your classes must meet the Educational Requirements as set forth by the UMC & VAUMC.

or

☐ Follow the professional certification process as outlined in paragraph 324.5 in the BOD. Your classes must meet the Educational Requirements as set forth by the UMC & VAUMC.
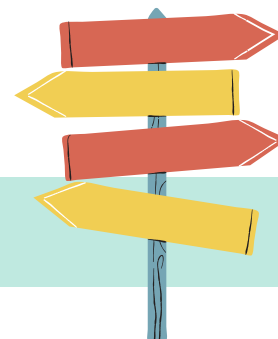
Questions? Contact the Center for Clergy Excellence
Jessie Colwell, Director of Clergy Excellence, jessiecolwell@vaumc.org
Jason Stanley, Director of Call & Candidacy, jasonstanley@vaumc.org
Lyn Harding, Program Admin Coordinator, lynharding@vaumc.org

updated 10/20/2024

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Path to Become
A PROVISIONAL MEMBER

For everyone

☐ Apply from July 1-31 through the online jotform application found at https://vaumc.org/bomapplications/. Application will include turning in official transcripts.

☐ Contact the chair of your dCom to schedule a recommendation for provisional membership interview.

☐ Submit written materials and turn into your dCom via jotform.

☐ Receive a recommendation for provisional membership from the dCom by October 1.

☐ Candidate is invited to the Provisional Track in Unity. (Checklist for additional materials tracked in Unity).

☐ Attend orientation to the provisional application process Zoom meeting.

Submit the following materials via the Unity Web Provisional Track

☐ Psychological assessment, if not completed within the past 5 years.

☐ Medical Report form, if not completed within the previous year.

☐ EQi (Emotional Intelligence Assessment) and debrief session.

☐ Field Education or equivalency

☐ Clinical Pastor Education (CPE) 0.5 units if completed (not due until ordination)

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updated 10/20/2024

Path to Become
A PROVISIONAL MEMBER
For everyone

☐ Theological School Recommendation.

☐ Papers on Call, Personal Growth and Development, Practice of Ministry and Theology.

☐ Sign and date the BOM's Plagiarism Policy.

☐ All materials are due the first week in December (date varies by year).

☐ If all materials meet the requirements as set in the application packet a provisional interview will be scheduled for the end of February (dates vary by year).

Questions? Contact the Center for Clergy Excellence

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updated 10/20/2024

Virginia Conference UMC Educational Requirements 2024

To apply for provisional membership (deacon or elder), students must complete The Basic Graduate Theological Studies (BGTS) (¶324.4 The Book of Discipline) by May of the application year in which they apply. These courses must be completed at a UMC University Senate-approved seminary: https://www.gbhem.org/education/list-of-approved-seminaries/.

Classes can be completed in person or *entirely online.

*On Jan. 26, 2023, the University Senate voted to approve a policy change that allows United Methodist students the opportunity to engage in a fully online Master of Divinity degree program. This policy change is effective immediately for all 13 United Methodist seminaries and Asbury Theological Seminary.

<u>All courses must be taken for a letter grade (NOT pass/fail). A "C" or better is required.</u>

See the class requirements below:

● Old Testament

● New Testament

● Theology

● Church history

● Mission of the church in the world

● Worship/liturgy

● Evangelism

● A minimum of two semester or three quarter hours in each of the fields of United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity (6 credits total). The Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry strongly encourages completion of United Methodist doctrine before applying for provisional membership.

● The Virginia Conference requires a course in preaching.

The Board recommends courses in Christian education and systematic theology for all candidates.

Clinical Pastoral Education Requirement at Full Membership
In addition to the above requirements, the Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry requires that all candidates for full membership and ordination complete at least ½ unit (0.5 unit) of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) by the application deadline for ordination as a deacon or elder and/or full membership in the conference. The Board strongly encourages completion of CPE before applying for provisional membership. CPE must be taken at an accredited ACPE program and can be completed in person or online (i.e., GBHEM).

Virginia Conference UMC Educational Requirements 2024

Candidate's Name: _____

Applying for: _____

Date: _____

As you complete your seminary degree, you can keep track of your classes below.

Please indicate below the course number, course title, # credits, name of approved seminary, and grade for each required course.

	Course #	Course Title	# Credits	Grade	Name of Approved Seminary
Old Testament					
New Testament					
Theology					
Church History					
Mission					
Evangelism					
Worship/Liturgy					
Preaching					
UM Doctrine					
UM Polity					
UM History					