

2025 Commissioning Written Work

Please review the following overall paperwork instructions:

- Please use 12-point Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri font with one-inch margins. Include your name and page number at the bottom of each page.
- Include each question/prompt within your paper (single-spaced) and respond utilizing double spacing. Page limits are listed within each section. The total page number per section includes prompts and should not exceed what is listed.
- Submit all four sections in ONE document, with any additional submissions (such as bulletins, handouts, etc.) saved within the same file.
- The worship service videos must be encoded in MP4 or MOV format to successfully upload to YouTube, Vimeo, or another online video service. Specific requirements can be found on each service's website.
- Please use the following as the title for your written work:

PMWrittenWork2025_LastName FirstName.docx

- Please submit the video link in a separate Word document with the title:

PMVideo2025_LastName FirstName
- Please e-mail all your written work to: registrar@nccumc.org by the deadline.

Section I – Leadership

(10-15 pages)

1. Describe your past leadership experiences, whether within or outside the church.
2. What have you learned about yourself from these leadership experiences? Please include at least two or three leadership strengths and two or three growing edges you have discovered within yourself as a developing leader.
3. Describe an experience when you were unable to accomplish your desired results. What did you learn from the experience?
4. Describe several leadership qualities that Jesus modeled.
5. Share a time when you, as part of a faith community, participated in the discerning of a vision for a new ministry endeavor. Explain the process of discernment and the steps toward implementing the new program, activity, or

experience. Reflect on your observations of the primary leader of this visioning process. What did you learn?

Section II – Lifestyle Choices

(10-15 pages)

1. From **BOD 2016** para 324.9. k: *“How do you perceive yourself, your gifts, your motives, your role, and your commitment as a provisional deacon or provisional elder in The United Methodist Church?”* Please answer this question using Romans 12, Ephesians 4 or 1 Corinthians 12.
2. From **BOD 2016** para 324.9 o: *“You have agreed as a candidate for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness of the gospel and in consideration of their influence as ministers, to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life, and to this end agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all personal relationships, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God. What is your understanding of this agreement?”* How do you live into this statement?
3. Reflect on generosity and stewardship from a biblical perspective and explain how you might engage in conversations (through preaching, teaching, and example) that will encourage your congregation(s) to grow in generosity.
4. Where are you in your commitment to an anti-racist ethic and way of life? What are you learning? How are you applying this learning to your daily life and within your ministry setting?
5. How do you understand your spiritual maturity and continued growth in grace, in knowledge and in love of God? What formative spiritual disciplines, including Sabbath-keeping, are contributing to this growth?
6. When are you most joyful in ministry? How is that joy evident?
7. What are your practices of a healthy lifestyle? How are you attentive to physical fitness, mental and emotional health, personal boundaries, and social media? How do your practices serve as a personal witness to your family, church, and community? Where might improvements be made?

Section III – Worship, Preaching and Teaching

(30-35 pages)

This section includes three (3) elements: Worship, Preaching and Teaching.

Written work should include an original sermon manuscript or detailed preaching outline noting references consulted, a detailed order of worship or bulletin used, an original four-session teaching lesson plan you have prepared and shared in your ministry context, as well as, the included reflection questions/prompts. The worship bulletin should not be a separate attachment and the sermon cannot use a text previously submitted to BOM. Additional instructions begin each section below.

- (1) Worship:** Prepare, lead, record and submit the entirety of a worship service that includes the celebration of the Lord's Supper. You should be the primary liturgist.
- a. If you are licensed,** you should preside at the Eucharist.
 - b. If you are not licensed,** you should be the primary liturgist and assist with administering the Eucharist.
 - c. If you serve as an associate minister or in a setting where you do not regularly order or lead worship,** you may choose a setting appropriate to your ministry context where you are able to design and lead worship. For instance, you might record a worship service in your ministry setting in the world, with a youth group, or, in a retreat setting with a church group.

Written reflections:

1. What is the purpose of worship?
2. Explain the role and significance of the sacraments in the ministry context to which you have been Called.
3. Detail the theological significance of each act of worship. Describe what is happening and why it is important in the worship service. Please be authentic to the worship pattern used in your ministry setting. If you do not follow the "Word and Table" format, please be prepared to articulate the basic pattern and understanding of each of the elements/movements of worship in your context.
4. Explain the following:
 - a. Why did you choose the music used in the context of this service?
 - b. What is the role and significance of lay leadership and participation within the service?
5. Describe your theological understanding of:

- a. Weddings
- b. Funerals
- c. The Christian Year

(2) Preaching: Submit a sermon you have prepared and preached.

- a. Choose a text for the worship service you will lead and preach to be shared with the Board of Ordained Ministry. After choosing the passage, develop your own sermon. Your sermon must reflect an understanding of the text and appropriate applications. We encourage you to preach a sermon that honors your worship context and natural preaching style.
- b. Provide a bibliography of the resources you have consulted for your sermon preparation.
- c. The sermon should be normal length for a worship service in your ministry context.
- d. If you serve in a non-English speaking context, and would prefer to preach in the primary language of your context, you may do so. Please include English subtitles in your video recording. If you need financial assistance in paying for a subtitle service, reach out to the Office of Clergy Life.
- e. It is preferable that you record and upload the full service of worship, in which you both preach and preside over the celebration of the Lord's Supper. If your sermon is preached at a service other than an Eucharistic service, edit the file so that you only upload the reading of scripture and preaching. In this case, you will be uploading two media files: one of your sermon and one of you leading a worship service and presiding during the celebration of the Eucharist.
- f. Preview the file(s) you upload to verify visual and auditory clarity, as well as appropriate privacy settings are adjusted.
- g. If you use a manuscript, be sure to practice sufficiently so that you do not seem to be reading the sermon. If you use a detailed outline to preach, be sure to practice ensuring a coherent and well-constructed sermon. The submitted sermon should be typical of the sermons you preach weekly.
- h. Include the scripture text on the first page of the sermon manuscript or outline.

Written reflections:

1. What is the sermon text and title?
2. When and where was the sermon preached?
3. Write a one-sentence purpose statement for this message?

4. How did the sermon fulfill the purpose statement in your ministry context?
 5. What do you want your hearers to do as a result of this message?
- (3) Teaching:** Prepare an original Bible study with 4 lessons on a topic or biblical book of your choosing. The study must be taught in your ministry setting.

Bible Study Written Reflections:

1. Setting: Describe your teaching context including the chosen study title, as well as, when and where the study was shared.
2. Outline: Prepare a 4-session outline of each distinctive lesson including the overall flow of the study.
3. Detailed Lesson Plan: Develop ONE detailed lesson plan which should be 4-6 pages in length. Include in your detailed plan:
 - Desired learning goals and outcomes
 - Diverse instructional strategies utilized
 - Learning aids/guides offered
4. Annotated bibliography to include resources used and/or consulted during the development of the study.
5. Evaluation: In 1-2 page(s), evaluate overall the lessons you planned and taught.
 - What were the strengths and weaknesses?
 - What could you have done to strengthen this study?
 - In what ways did you communicate to study participants the key concepts of the text?
 - What has been or what do you anticipate will be the fruit of this study in your ministry context?

Section IV – Theology

(20-25 pages)

1. Describe:
 - a. Your personal experience of God; and,
 - b. The understanding of God you derive from biblical, theological, and historical sources.

2. What is your understanding of evil as it exists in the world?
3. What is your understanding of humanity and the human need for divine grace?
4. How do you interpret the statement, “Jesus Christ is Lord”?
5. What is your understanding of the activity of the Holy Spirit in personal faith, in the community of believers, and in responsible living in the world?
6. What is your understanding of “The Kingdom of God”, “The Resurrection”; and eternal life?
7. How do you intend to affirm, teach, and apply Part III of The Book of Discipline (Doctrinal Standards and our Theological Task) in your work in the ministry to which you have been Called?
8. The United Methodist Church holds that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in scripture, illuminated by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason. What is your understanding of this theological position of the church?
9. Describe the nature and mission of the Church. What are its primary tasks today?
10. Discuss your understanding of the primary characteristics of United Methodist polity.
11. Describe your understanding of *diakonia*, the servant ministry of the church, and the servant ministry of the provisional member.
12. What is the meaning of ordination in the context of the general ministry of the Church?
13. Describe your understanding of an inclusive church and ministry.
14. How do you understand the following traditional evangelical doctrines:
 - a. Repentance
 - b. Justification
 - c. Regeneration
 - d. Sanctification
 - e. The marks of the Christian life

15. In partnership with the Holy Spirit and the community of faith, how might you participate in drawing someone to faith in Jesus Christ?