

2026 Ordination 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 three sections of written work 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:

FCWrittenWork2026_LastName FirstName.docx

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

FCVideos2026_LastName FirstName

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

The deadline for submitting your full connection written responses and media is:

February 6, 2026

Section I – Ministerial Leadership

(20-25 pages)

1. During residency, you were asked to partner with the laity in planning, implementing, and evaluating a “Collaborative Leadership” ministry project that demonstrates fruitfulness in carrying out the church’s mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. [Deacons = BOD ¶330.4.4 and Elders = BOD ¶335 (7)] Reflect on this experience:
 - a. Identify two to three (2-3) things you learned through the “Collaborative Leadership” ministry project about yourself as a co-leader with the laity.
 - b. How was the “Collaborative Leadership” ministry project’s vision discerned AND how did the community come to embrace this vision?
 - c. Identify one to three (1-3) outcomes resulting from your “Collaborative Leadership” ministry project.

- d. Reflecting on your partnership with laity in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of your “Collaborative Leadership” ministry project, identify something you would have done differently and why.
 - e. What was something that surprised you through the “Collaborative Leadership” ministry project experiences?
- 2. Discuss constructive criticism or feedback you have received from a mistake you have made. How did you address it? What did you learn from it?
- 3. Discuss a conflict you have been part of in a church or ministry setting. Reflect on what you learned about yourself as a leader, what you learned about serving with people, and what you learned about God.
- 4. How are you engaging in anti-racism conversations and actions within your own life, your ministry setting, and your community? Why is this engagement important?
- 5. How has your experience in ministry shaped the understanding of your vocation as an ordained minister?
- 6. How have you employed one of your strengths in the practice of ministry AND how have you accommodated one of your weaknesses?
- 7. Provide an example of how you have engaged all persons in ministry without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic condition, or disabilities.
- 8. What effect has the practice of ministry had on your Sabbath-keeping?
- 9. How are you practicing a healthy lifestyle in the context of your ministry assignment? What has been a challenge you have faced in this area, and how have you engaged in that challenge?
- 10. How are you practicing financial stewardship? Give an example of how you are encouraging faithful financial stewardship in your congregation.

Section II – Worship, Preaching and Teaching

(30-35 pages)

Sermon Instructions:

Written work should include an original sermon manuscript or detailed preaching outline noting references consulted and a detailed order of worship or bulletin used. The worship bulletin should not be a separate attachment. The sermon cannot use a text previously submitted to the Board of Ordained Ministry.

- 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 in your sermon preparation.
- c. The sermon should be of normal length for worship 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 a full service of worship, in which you both preach and preside during 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 worship media files: one with your sermon and one with you leading a full worship service and presiding at the Eucharist.
 - ☐ **If you are licensed**, you should preside at the Eucharist.
 - ☐ **If you are not licensed**, you should be the primary liturgist and assist with administering the Eucharist.
 - ☐ **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, a fifth Sunday intergenerational "Family Service" or, in a church retreat setting.
- f. Preview the video 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.

Worship Written Reflections: *in addition to submitting the written sermon materials noted in the “sermon instructions”:*

1. Reflect upon your sermon preparation and delivery. Respond in writing to the following questions related to your sermon:
 - a. What is the sermon title?
 - b. What is the sermon text?
 - c. When and where was the sermon preached?
 - d. State the purpose of your message in one sentence.
 - e. How did the sermon fulfill the stated purpose within the context it was preached?
 - f. What do you want your hearers to do as a result of this message?
2. Watch your sermon video and provide a critique. Your responses may include observations of lay involvement, your delivery, or any other observations related to the overall worship service experience. What did you notice that was positive? What did you notice that you would revise?
3. How are worshipers shaped and formed by this worship service?
4. What is the meaning and significance of the sacraments? How have you taught and interpreted the sacraments in your ministry context? Are there ways in which the sacraments have been transformative in the life of your ministry context?
5. How are you able, within a worship setting, to enable the congregation to consider its calling to ministry in the world? How do you bring the needs of the world to the congregation?

Bible Study Instructions: *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. Submit a “detailed lesson plan” and video of one of the four teaching sessions.*

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: Submit one of the four sessions as a 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
 - ☐ Annotated bibliography of resources used and/or consulted
4. Evaluation: In 1-2 pages, evaluate overall the lessons you planned and shared.
 - ☐ How was the scripture clarified and/or amplified for participants?
 - ☐ What were the strengths and weaknesses?
 - ☐ What could you have done to strengthen the study?
 - ☐ In what ways were key concepts communicated?
 - ☐ What has been or do you anticipate to be the fruit of this study for participants and/or within your ministry context?

Section III – Theology

(20-25 pages)

1. How has the practice of ministry affected your experience and understanding of:
 - a. God
 - b. Humanity
 - c. The need for divine grace
 - d. The Lordship of Jesus Christ
 - e. The work of the Holy Spirit
 - f. The Communion of Saints
 - g. The nature and mission of the Church
 - h. The Kingdom of God
 - i. Resurrection
 - j. Eternal life

2. The United Methodist Church holds that Scripture, tradition, experience and reason are sources and norms for belief and practice with Scripture as primary among them. How have you used these sources to explain a theological position or church practice? (Examples might include: a current event, Social Principles, ordination of women, stewardship, etc.)

3. Give an example of your experience in ministry in which you have seen the traditional evangelical doctrines lived out:
 - a. Repentance
 - b. Justification
 - c. Regeneration
 - d. Sanctification; and
 - e. The marks of the Christian life

4. Reflect upon the following events or issues as you have experienced them in your practice of ministry. Indicate how you might discern the activity of God in each and what Scriptures you would use:
 - a. The process of dying and the death of a member of your congregation
 - b. Divorce and recovery of a couple within your congregation and the effect on their family
 - c. Conflict and reconciliation within your congregation
 - d. Experience in peace and justice ministries

5. In partnership with the Holy Spirit and the community of faith, how have you participated in drawing someone to faith in Jesus Christ?