

Application for Recommendation for Ministry Credentials in The Wesleyan Church



INSTRUCTIONS TO PASTOR AND APPLICANT

1. The pastor and Local Board of Administration have a serious responsibility relative to the recommendation of a lay minister or of a minister-in-preparation to the district for license and study. The pastor and board should evaluate carefully and prayerfully the candidate's Christian experience, reputation, conduct, and spiritual stability. While recommendation for license should not be given lightly, neither should a candidate be rejected without sound reason.
2. Each pastor should have a copy of the **Manual of Ministerial Preparation** in order to give guidance to those seeking to fulfill their call to ministry. The manual can be accessed online: <https://www.wesleyan.org/d/dNMY/manual-of-ministerial-preparation.pdf>
3. **Lay Ministry**
There are three types of lay ministry which are credentialed by The Wesleyan Church: lay minister, special worker, and lay missionary. For the lay minister, a five-course plan of study has been developed. For the special worker, a ten-course plan of study has been developed. For the lay missionary, the Church provides no special educational program with exception of requirements that may be made by the general department under which he/she serves. Normally the lay minister has no plans for ministry except in connection with his/her local church. The lay minister is to assist the pastor, as the pastor shall direct. The lay minister's license is valid for only one year. There is no district involvement in the licensing of a lay minister. Once the layperson has been licensed as a lay minister, he or she is to register immediately with the Education and Clergy Development Department at The International Center of The Wesleyan Church, and pursue the Lay Minister's Course of Study. A special worker is a lay person who believes that he or she is divinely led to serve the Church in a ministry such as a director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, children's worker, evangelist, social worker or in some other special capacity, and who has been authorized to carry on such work by a District Conference. Upon recommendation by the Local Church Conference to the District Conference, the special worker candidate should register with Education and Clergy Development and pursue the Special Worker's Course of Study.
4. **Vocational Ministry**
A ministerial student is a person who is convinced of a call, which he/she expects to lead to ordination, and is engaged in studies either full or part-time. A ministerial student must be examined and recommended to the District Conference and prepare for ordination under the supervision of the District Board of Ministerial Development (DBMD). There is a twenty three course plan of study for the ordination track. Upon recommendation by the Local Church Conference to the DBMD, the ministerial student candidate should register with Education and Clergy Development and pursue the Pre-ordination Course of Study.
5. **Enrollment with Education and Clergy Development**
<https://secure.wesleyan.org/emcam/enroll>

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANT

Fill this form out, and give it to your pastor. This is intended for your interview with your local church board. They will use this to recommend you on to the District Board of Ministerial Development (DBMD). (Do not send this form to the Education and Clergy Development Department at Wesleyan Headquarters.)

Fill out the questionnaire and return it to your pastor preceding the time scheduled for your interview with the Local Board of Administration. If you need more space, please use separate sheets of paper.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| NAME | |
| HOME ADDRESS | |
| CITY, STATE, ZIP | |
| PHONE | |

1. What level of recognition are you seeking?

- Lay Minister
- Lay Special Worker
- Commissioned Minister
- Ministerial Student (Pre-Ordination Track)

2. If you are seeking recognition as a Lay Minister, in what areas of local church life do you feel you could minister most effectively?

3. If you feel that you are called to full-time ministry in the church, explain how you came to that belief.

4. What gifts do you feel you possess that qualify you for specialized ministry?

5. How and when were you converted?

6. Have you been entirely sanctified? _____ What is your understanding of this grace?

7. In what ways are you presently serving the Lord in the church?

8. What are your plans for preparing yourself for ministry?

9. Are there special areas of ministry to which you feel particularly called?

10. Does your spouse support your call to ministry? Explain any resistance.

11. Is it your desire to minister within The Wesleyan Church?

12. Read the Membership Commitments in The Discipline of the Wesleyan Church, paragraphs 260-268. Do these principles characterize the way you live? Can you wholly support and practice them? Explain any hesitancy.

Academic Requirements for Ordination in the Wesleyan Church

General Education

Sociology
Psychology
Philosophy/Ethics

Bible

****Methods of Bible Study**
***Introduction to Old Testament**
***Introduction to New Testament**
Old Testament Bible Elective
New Testament Bible Elective

History

General Church History
***Wesleyan History/Discipline**

Theology

***Introduction to Theology**
Advanced Theology
Doctrine of Holiness

Practical Ministries

Christian Education
Spiritual Formation
Evangelism/Church Health
Global and Intercultural Ministries
***Introduction to Homiletics**
Pastoral Ministries
Worship
***Church Leadership/Management**
Expository Preaching
Pastoral Counseling

Practicum/Internships

Supervised Ministry

*** These are the six courses required to become a licensed minister, which is the first step toward ordination.**

**** It is strongly recommended that Methods of Bible Study be one of the first classes that a student completes.**

Academic Requirements for Other Credentials

Commissioned Minister

Methods of Bible Study
*Introduction to Old Testament
*Introduction to New Testament
General Church History
*Wesleyan History/Discipline
*Introduction to Theology
Doctrine of Holiness
Christian Education
Spiritual Formation
Evangelism/Church Health
*Introduction to Homiletics
Pastoral Ministries
*Church Leadership/Management
Pastoral Counseling
Supervised Ministry

Lay Special Worker

Methods of Bible Study
Introduction to Old Testament
Introduction to New Testament
Wesleyan History/Discipline
Introduction to Theology
Doctrine of Holiness
Christian Education
Evangelism/Church Health
(2) Elective classes in specialty area

Lay Minister

Wesleyan History/Discipline
Introduction to Theology

Choose **one** from these three:

Methods of Bible Study
Introduction to Old Testament
Introduction to New Testament

Choose **two** from these eight:

Christian Education
Evangelism/Church Health
Global and Intercultural Ministries
Introduction to Homiletics
Pastoral Ministries
Worship
Church Leadership/Management
Pastoral Counseling

