Application Decision Process

In the course of the review of applications the board of ordained ministry has three options for each applicant –Recommend, Continuance, or Discontinuance.

Recommend

When an applicant is recommended for the status that is sought it means that the board has determined that the applicant meets the standard for the desired relationship. This requires a majority vote of the board, except for provisional membership which requires a two-thirds majority vote (see ¶324.14, 2012 Book of Discipline).

When an applicant for full connection is recommended by the board there are no further requirements for the applicant.

Applicants for other relationships may receive contingencies even if they are being recommended. The fulfillment of the assigned contingencies must be completed before applying for any further relationship.

Continuance

If the applicant receives a Continuance, the board does not believe that the applicant currently meets the standard for the desired status, but that the applicant should be able to meet the standard after some additional work in areas of determined weaknesses. The board will define these areas for the applicant and will assign contingencies to assist the applicant in strengthening these areas.

In the case of application as a provisional member, the provisional member will return to the care of the District Committee for continuance and reapplication.

Discontinuance

Occasionally the board determines that an applicant does not articulate a call to ministry that matches with the board's understanding of the call to ministry in the Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church. When such occurs the board will vote "Discontinuance." This requires a two-thirds majority vote of the board.

When a candidate receives a "discontinuance" it concludes his/her process with the board. The candidate is not eligible to apply for a relationship until a period of two years is completed. At that time the individual is eligible to begin the candidacy process again.