

Provisional Member Continuation Process Adopted January 29, 2025

Purpose/Objectives:

Paragraph 327 of the 2020/2024 Book of Disciplines requires that annually; the Board of Ordained Ministry shall review and evaluate the relationship of provisional members and make recommendation to the clergy session in full connection regarding their continuance.

Beyond meeting this Book of Discipline requirement, the Dakotas Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry has the following objectives in its review process:

- To provide a consistent, intentional system for the oversight of the development and supervision of provisional members which is held jointly by the Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry.
- To ensure that candidates receive the support and guidance needed in their provisional process, to follow up on any recommendations from their commissioning, and to assess progress toward full membership.
- To be in relationship with provisional members throughout their process and not just at the time for their commissioning and full member examination interviews.

The Process:

As provisional members meet with their clergy mentor, are completing their education, engaging in the Clergy Leadership Academy requirements and are working on their ordination paperwork for submission, this process is designed to fulfill the required BOD annual continuance interviews and support learning and development during provisional time.

June-August

Provisional Members will receive notice from their Board of Ordained Ministry designated interview team regarding the date of their continuation interview, and the request to ensure that the following are submitted before the interview:

- **District Superintendent Feedback Form**
 - Where have you seen this provisional member demonstrate excellence in leadership in the past year?
 - What do you perceive as this provisional member's gifts/strengths for ministry?
 - What would you want the Board of Ordained Ministry to know about this candidate's opportunities for growth and development?
 - Anything else you would want us to know?
- **SPRC Chair Feedback Form (If pastor has moved July 1-former SPRC Chair)**
 - Where have you seen this provisional member demonstrate excellence in leadership in the past year?

- What do you perceive as this provisional member's gifts/strengths for ministry?
 - What would you want the Board of Ordained Ministry to know about this candidate's opportunities for growth and development?
 - Anything else you would want us to know?
 - **Feedback Form from One Lay Person from Their Ministry Setting** (a person they choose who they have worked with on a project, in a team etc.)
 - Where have you seen this provisional member demonstrate excellence in leadership in the past year?
 - What do you perceive as this provisional member's gifts/strengths for ministry?
 - What would you want the Board of Ordained Ministry to know about this candidate's opportunities for growth and development?
 - Anything else you would want us to know?
 - **Clergy Leadership Academy Mentor Report**
 - Has the provisional member met with you? How often?
 - Are they making the expected progress on education and/or paperwork?
 - What do you perceive as this provisional member's gifts/strengths for ministry?
 - What would you want the Board of Ordained Ministry to know about this candidate's opportunities for growth and development?
- BOM Continuation Interviews would be conducted on ZOOM by at least a 3 person team (at least 1 member of site interview team, +2 other BOM members)
 - Interview Questions may include things like the following:
 - How is it with your soul?
 - What are your personal highs and lows? Ministry highs and lows?
 - How are you taking care of yourself? What brings you joy?
 - What are you learning in the practice of ministry? How have you grown over the past year? What are you currently working on in terms of personal and professional development?
 - How are you addressing any recommendations you received previously from the Board of Ordained Ministry? Share your progress.
 - Tell us about your engagement in Clergy Leadership Academy, or if completed, what other covenant group/intentional formation process are you a part of?
 - What is your timetable for applying for full membership?

- Anything else you would like us to know or would like to discuss with us?
- Is there anything that we as a board can do to support, encourage, and or assist you?
- The interview team completes a written report of the interview using a provided form. In their report, the interview team will also make a recommendation regarding continuation of provisional membership: continue; continue with additional recommendations (listing these recommendations); BOM conversation needed
- The full board will review the individual interview reports and vote on the recommendation of the interview team at the October BOM meeting.
- A written letter with the action of the BOM as well as pertinent notes will be sent to the candidate and a copy would also be shared to the District Superintendent.

Record Keeping:

A BOM drop box for provisional members is already created. Each year the provisional member's continuation reports would be added.

Once a provisional member becomes a full member, they are no longer under the care of the BOM, and their file would be uploaded into their pastor file.