GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
NORTH GEORGIA

2027 Board of Ministry Ordination Packet

Greetings Candidates for Ministry,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! The Board of Ministry of North Georgia continues to lift you in prayer as you pray, discern, and work toward your calling to ordination within the life of the Global Methodist Church. We are thankful for your commitment and dedication to the task, and it is our goal to help you as you follow this path as outlined in paragraphs 501-521 of The Book of Doctrines and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church.

This packet has been prepared to help those who are ready to apply for ordination in 2027, either as a deacon or elder. Please read through this document carefully and follow the instructions closely. You will find three sections included in this document. These three are:

1) General Information and Submission Instructions
2) Application Requirements for those seeking Ordination as Deacon
3) Application Requirements for those seeking Ordination as Elder

Know that your Board of Ministry is here, not to hinder your process, but to help you as you discern and clarify your calling. It is our hope that through this paperwork and interview process, you will be galvanized in your calling for God's Kingdom and your love for God deepened. May God continue to use all of us to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

Grace and Peace,

Eddie Bradford

Rev. Eddie Bradford,
Chair of the Board of Ministry

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General Information and Submission Instructions

Important Dates

The Board of Ministry Ordination Packet will be made available to those seeking ordination in North Georgia no later than November 1st, 2026. Candidates interested in applying for deacon/elder must submit all necessary documentation by 11:59pm on March 1st, 2027. Candidate Interviews with the Board of Ministry will be conducted on 4/12 and 4/13 (as needed). Interview location and times will be assigned and communicated to applicable candidates after all submissions have been received.

- Nov. 1st, 2026: Ordination Packet made available
- Mar. 1st, 2027: Deadline for submitting application for ordination
- April 12th and 13th: Dates for Ordination Interviews at location TBD.

Submission Instructions

All necessary submission requirements must be submitted online by the submission deadline. The links for submission will be found on the North Georgia Conference website under the Board of Ministry page. To find this, go to ngagmc.org/board-of-ministry or click on the "Ministry Teams" tab of the homepage and select "Board of Ministry." There will be two links, one for those applying for ordination as deacon and one for those applying for ordination as elder. Please check that you are completing the correct application. Candidates are encouraged to submit their application before the deadline and to ensure that they can properly submit their information via JotForm. Extensions cannot be accommodated. Unless otherwise stated, all submitted materials must use 12 pt Times New Roman font.

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Application Requirements for those seeking Ordination as Deacon

Those seeking ordination as a deacon must submit the following materials:

1) Ordination Candidate Personal Information (this information will be submitted directly via JotForm, there is not a separate document that needs to be completed)

2) Autobiographical Statement (no longer than 2 pages double-spaced)
    a. Highlight your personal relationship with Jesus as well as the experiences that have led you to discern a call to ministry in your life.

3) Ordination Questions (the list of questions and instructions may be found on the next page – please ensure that you are answering the questions required of Deacons)

4) Letter of Recommendation
    a. If appointed to a church:
        i. A letter of recommendation from your Senior Pastor, or if you are serving as Senior Pastor, a letter of recommendation from your SPR chair.
    b. If NOT appointed to a church:
        i. A letter of recommendation from the pastor of the church of which you are a member.
5) Sermon Submission
    a. You must submit a full written manuscript (not just an outline) as well as a link to a recording of you preaching the sermon in a congregational setting. Due to file-size constraints, we will not be able to accept video files.
6) Transcripts
    a. Submit all necessary transcripts to show you have successfully completed all the educational requirements for Ordination as Deacon.

Please note: those who apply for ordination as Deacon will also need to submit to a psychological evaluation, if one has yet to be conducted. Once applications have been submitted, the Board of Ministry will communicate with candidates still needing this evaluation to get it scheduled.

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(Deacon) Ordination Questions

Please answer the following questions. All questions should be answered in a single document. Each individual answer should be no longer than 3 pages, double spaced. Please include your last name and a page number in the header of each page. Any references must be cited using footnotes with an accompanying works cited page.

Questions from paragraph 509

1) What is your personal experience of God?
2) What is your understanding of evil?
3) What is your understanding of grace?
4) How do you understand the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers and in the Church?
5) What is your understanding of the Kingdom of God?
6) What significance do you believe that the resurrection holds?
7) What is your understanding of the nature and authority of scripture?
8) What is your understanding of the nature and mission of the Church?
9) What gifts and graces do you bring to the work of ministry?
10) What is the meaning of ordination?
11) What is the role and significance of the sacraments?
12) Have you studied our form of church discipline and polity and will you support and maintain it?
13) For the sake of the church's witness, are you willing to dedicate yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life, exercising self-control in your personal habits, integrity in all your relationships and if married, fidelity in your covenant with your spouse, or if single, chastity in your personal conduct?

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Application Requirements for those seeking Ordination as Elder

Those seeking ordination as an elder must submit the following materials:

1) Ordination Candidate Personal Information (this information will be submitted directly via JotForm, there is not a separate document that needs to be completed)

2) Autobiographical Statement (no longer than 2 pages double-spaced)
    a. In addition to highlighting the information submitted during your ordination as a deacon, share how the past 2 years of ministry have shaped and formed your calling to ministry.

3) Ordination Questions (the list of questions and instructions may be found on the next page – please ensure that you are answering the questions required of Elder)

4) Effectiveness Evaluation (To be completed by your SPR - this document is found immediately after the Ordination Questions for elder in this packet)

5) Sermon Submission
    a. You must submit a full written manuscript (not just an outline) as well as a link to a recording of you preaching the sermon in a congregational setting. Due to file-size constraints, we will not be able to accept video files.
6) Transcripts
    a. Submit all necessary transcripts to show you have successfully completed all the educational requirements for Ordination as Elder.

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(Elder) Ordination Questions

Please answer the following questions. All questions should be answered in a single document. Each individual answer should be no longer than 3 pages, double spaced. Answer the questions thoroughly. A simple "yes" is not sufficient to fully answer any question. Please include your last name and a page number in the header of each page. Any references must be cited using footnotes with an accompanying works cited page.

1) Have you faith in Christ?
2) Are you going on to perfection? If so, do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
3) Are you earnestly striving after perfection in love?
4) Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and to God's work?
5) Do you know the General Rules of our Church? Will you keep them?
6) Have you studied the doctrines of the Global Methodist Church? If so, and after a full examination, do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures? How so?
7) Will you preach and maintain the doctrines of the Global Methodist Church? How so?
8) Have you studied our form of church discipline and polity? If so, do you approve of it? And will you support and maintain it? How so?
9) Will you exercise the ministry of compassion?
10) Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
11) Will you visit from house to house?
12) Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?
13) Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?
14) Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your works?
15) Will you observe the following directions:
    a. Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.
    b. Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time.
    c. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake. [Rom 13:5]
16) Have any answers you provided to the questions in paragraph 509 changed since you were ordained as a deacon? If so, please provide the question and any changes to your answer. If not, simply answer "no."

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Effectiveness Evaluation

Name of Clergy Person: _____

Name of Church: _____

Date Completed: _____

Instructions to the Staff Parish Relations Committee: Effective assessment requires a focus on both the positive areas of ministry and the aspects of ministerial effectiveness that may need improvement. This assessment will be used to guide the Board of Ministry as a clergy person moves from Deacon to Elder. The SPRC should work together to produce one completed form. Attach additional pages if needed for comments.

Reflect on the questions and descriptions following each of the 8 categories of assessment listed below. Rate the clergy person 1 to 5 or NA (1 being the lowest; 5 being highest) according to the following rating system:

5 Exceptional Performance, extremely effective and fruitful
4 Consistently Exceeds Expectations
3 Fully and Consistently Meets Expectations and Goals
2 Improvement needed in some areas
1 Underperforming, well below Expectations

NA Not applicable/Not known/Insufficient information to score. If the pastor does not engage in a certain task because it falls under the responsibility of another person (i.e. in a church with multiple pastors or staff or active laity), or if the pastor is part time and is not responsible for all of these tasks, or if you are not sufficiently familiar with the pastor's work in this area, please write NA (Not Applicable) in the box by that task area.

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1. Spiritual Formation and Care Rating [ ]

Reflect on the following as you rate the clergy person 1 to 5 or NA (1 = low, 5 = high)
Spiritual formation refers to what you know of your pastor's devotional life and spiritual disciplines and how these practices guide their ministry. Self-care includes your pastor's physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health and the balance they maintain between personal/family time and ministry demands. Share your knowledge of any peer or covenant groups in which your pastor is a participant and its value to their ministry.

Comments:

2. Preaching and Teaching Rating [ ]

Reflect on the following as you rate the clergy person 1 to 5 or NA (1 = low, 5 = high)
Reflect on whether the pastor's sermons make Christian teaching relevant to people's daily lives and demonstrate thorough preparation. Are the sermons prophetic and challenging? How well does the pastor create worship that focuses on and leads people to God? Does the pastor demonstrate commitment to the spiritual development of: Children, Youth, Younger Adults (18-39), Adults (ages 40 plus), and Older Adults? Does the pastor provide active leadership in the teaching ministry of the church? Does the pastor communicate effectively in written and verbal form?

Comments:

3. Worship Rating [ ]

Reflect on the following as you rate the clergy person 1 to 5 or NA (1 = low, 5 = high)
Does the pastor regularly study worship attendance compared to previous years, and share this data with leaders and the congregation? Does the pastor evaluate and plan worship services with a worship planning team and effectively plan for new weekly or occasional worship services? How does the pastor lead the congregation in follow up with visitors? Reflect on how well the pastor leads the congregation in making changes to worship that will glorify God and help reach new people for Christ.

Comments:

4. Leadership Rating [ ]

Reflect on the following as you rate the clergy person 1 to 5 or NA (1 = low, 5 = high)
Reflect on how well the pastor shares leadership, decision making, responsibility and accountability for ministry with the laity. In what ways does the pastor assist laity in discovering their spiritual gifts and how to live them out? In what ways does the pastor encourage service and outreach in the local, national and global community? How does the pastor intentionally involve laity in mission and ministry? In what ways is the clergy person connected in the community?

Comments:

5. Outreach Rating [ ]

Reflect on the following as you rate the clergy person 1 to 5 or NA (1 = low, 5 = high)
In what ways does the pastor intentionally reach out to unchurched people in the community and invite them to worship. Does the pastor teach Confirmation, New Member, or Catechism classes? Does the pastor talk and pray with people making a first-time commitment to Christ or a recommitment of their faith? Does the pastor, in worship and teaching, challenge the congregation to form relationships with unchurched people and to invite them to visit the church? Reflect on how well the pastor assists the congregation in providing a welcoming environment for people who are new to the faith.

Comments:

6. Discipleship Rating [ ]

Reflect on the following as you rate the clergy person 1 to 5 or NA (1 = low, 5 = high)
In what ways does the pastor hold up intentional discipleship and spiritual formation as a priority for every Christian? Is the pastor intentional about deepening their personal theology, developing practical skills for ministry, and strengthening their leadership skills? Does the pastor work to ensure that the congregation has an intentional and well-articulated discipleship and spiritual formation process? In what ways does the pastor invite newcomers to church to connect with small groups, classes, bands, or other means of discipleship formation?

Comments:

7. Administration Rating [ ]

Reflect on the following as you rate the clergy person 1 to 5 or NA (1 = low, 5 = high)
Reflect on how the pastor develops a shared vision with the congregation and helps them stay focused on that vision. Is the pastor effective in team building and leading people through change? Does the pastor help the congregation evaluate ministries and assess the need for new ones? Does the pastor help the congregation, and specific ministry teams, achieve their goals? Does the pastor clearly state the expectations of each staff member and the lay leadership and encourage them to meet these expectations? How effectively does the pastor deal with conflict within the staff and lay leadership when it occurs? How available is the pastor to the staff and lay leadership? Do they have regular meetings with them?

Comments:

8. Interpersonal Skills Rating [ ]

Reflect on the following as you rate the clergy person 1 to 5 or NA (1 = low, 5 = high)
Does the pastor form relationships with people that are caring and compassionate? How well does the pastor relate to people on a one-to-one basis or in a group setting? Is the pastor willing to listen to different points of view? Does the pastor use grace and good judgment in working with people? Does the pastor care for the personal needs of the congregation through calls, visits or the delegation of such ministries to an equipped lay team?

Comments:

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Additional Comments (if needed):

Considering the 8 assessment factors listed above, identify the three factors that you believe are the strongest characteristics of your pastor and the 3 factors where there is the most opportunity for growth.

Top 3 strengths most characteristic of your pastor:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Top 3 areas of growth for your pastor:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Clergy Person's Signature _____ Date: _____

SPRC Chairperson Signature _____ Date: _____