

SUBJECT: **College and Seminary Track Requirements**

BY: South Atlantic Conference / Richard Harris

RELATED TO: B/477.4.A.3, B/477.4.B.3

Rating: **A**

ASSIGNED:

ACTION: Ministry Committee:  
General Conference:

1 WHEREAS, the Discipline sets out minimal educational requirements for a person to  
2 be ordained as an elder, and

3 WHEREAS, our structures should encourage advanced degrees and preparation for  
4 ordained ministry, and

5 WHEREAS, our present structures actually penalize those who move from the  
6 correspondence track to the college track or from the college track to the seminary  
7 track by requiring the candidate to finish the college or seminary degree before  
8 being ordained even though the minimal educational requirements may have already  
9 been met and the time requirements (Par. B/477.4.A.4 and B/477.4.B.4) may have  
10 already been fulfilled,

11 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

12 that Paragraph B/477.4.A.3 be changed to read: "is a graduate of an  
13 approved accredited seminary with an M.Div. or equivalent degree or has  
14 met the minimum educational requirements as stated in Paragraph  
15 B/477.4.C.3...."; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

17 that Paragraph B/477.4.B.3 be changed to read, "is a graduate of an  
18 approved accredited college, preferably Free Methodist, with a bachelor's  
19 degree and a major in religion or has met the minimum educational  
20 requirements as stated in Paragraph B/477.4.C.3."