

# A Guide for Entry into the Ordained Ministry of the Free Methodist Church

## I. Requirements for Local Ministerial Candidate (§ 6500)

Member of the Free Methodist Church  
 Exploring a call to ordained ministry in a mentoring relationship with pastor/designee  
 Licensed by local FMC board of administration  
 Following licensing, opens file with Ministerial Credentialing Services

## II. Requirements for Conference Ministerial Candidate (§ 5340)

<p>Local ministerial candidate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•History and Polity of the FMC                  (Knowledge of this subject required for Apollos Model)</li> <li>Completed Application for Ministry Appointment in the FMC</li> </ul>	<p>Marital status approved (see § 5340C)                  Interviewed, certified and recommended by MEG board                  Approved by annual conference</p>
--	--

## III. Requirements for Ordination as Elder (§ 5400)

### Seminary Model (§ 5410)

Conference ministerial candidate  
 Graduate with M.Div. or equivalent from an approved JWSF school or an approved accredited seminary

- Wesleyan Theology (3C)

Three years full-time pastoral experience under conference appointment after CMC  
 Interviewed, certified and recommended by MEG board for elder  
 Approved by annual conference

### College Model (§ 5420)

Conference ministerial candidate  
 Graduate of an AFMEI school or an approved accredited college

- Inductive Bible Study (2C)
- Introduction to Christian Doctrine (2C)
- Bible Studies (10C)
- Systematic Theology (7C)
- Wesleyan Theology (3C)
- Pastoral Studies (7C)
- Homiletics (3C)

Three years full-time pastoral experience under conference appointment after CMC  
 Interviewed, certified and recommended by MEG board for elder  
 Approved by annual conference

### JT/XL Model (§ 5430)

Conference ministerial candidate

- Inductive Bible Study (2C)
- Introduction to Christian Doctrine (2C)
- Bible Studies (8C)
- Systematic Theology (3C)
- Wesleyan Theology (3C)
- Homiletics (3C)
- Pastoral Care (2C)
- Church Admin/Team Building (2 C)
- Spiritual Formation (2 C)
- Leadership/Growth (4C)
- Elective courses (3C)

Three years full-time pastoral experience under conference appointment after CMC  
 Interviewed, certified and recommended by MEG board for elder  
 Approved by annual conference

### Apollos Model (§ 5440)

Approved by MEG board to follow Apollos Model, coach assigned  
 Interviewed, certified and recommended by MEG board for CMC  
 Approved by annual conference for CMC  
 Maintained Ordination Readiness File with MEG Board  
 Completed prescribed process of coaching, assignments, pastoral experience and assessment under MEG board guidance  
 Interviewed, certified and recommended by MEG board for elder  
 Approved by annual conference

Legend: **AFMEI**—Association of Free Methodist Educational Institutions    **C**—semester credits    •—Courses may be taken through an accredited college or seminary, approved short-term classes or correspondence courses    **CMC**—Conference Ministerial Candidate    **FMC**—Free Methodist Church    **JWSF**—John Wesley Seminary Foundation    **LMC**—local ministerial candidate    **MCS**—Ministerial Credentialing Services    **MEG board**—Ministerial Education and Guidance Board    §—2003 Book of Discipline paragraph references

**Ministerial Credentialing Services, PO Box 535002, Indianapolis IN 46253**

**Phone: 1-800-342-5531    E-mail: [sylviaf@fmcna.org](mailto:sylviaf@fmcna.org)    WEB: [freemethodistchurch.org](http://freemethodistchurch.org)**