

## 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)

- Local ministerial candidate
- History and Polity of the FMC (Knowledge of this subject required for Apollos Model)
- Completed Application for Ministry Appointment in the FMC
- Marital status approved (see ¶ 5340C)
- Interviewed, certified and recommended by MEG Board
- Approved by annual conference

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

<p><b>Seminary Model (¶ 5410)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference ministerial candidate</li> <li>• Graduate with M.Div. or equivalent from an approved JWSF school or an approved accredited seminary</li> <li>• Wesleyan Theology (3C)</li> <li>• Three years full-time pastoral experience under conference appointment after CMC</li> <li>• Interviewed, certified and recommended by MEG Board for elder</li> <li>• Approved by annual conference</li> </ul>	<p><b>College Model (¶ 5420)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference ministerial candidate</li> <li>• Graduate of an AFMEI school or an approved accredited college</li> <li>• Inductive Bible Study (2C)</li> <li>• Bible Studies (10C)</li> <li>• Intro. to Christian Doctrine (2C)</li> <li>• Wesleyan Theology (3C)</li> <li>• Systematic Theology (7C)</li> <li>• Pastoral Studies (7C)</li> <li>• Homiletics (3C)</li> <li>• Three years full-time pastoral experience under conference appointment after CMC</li> <li>• Interviewed, certified and recommended by MEG Board for elder</li> <li>• Approved by annual conference</li> </ul>	<p><b>JT/XL Model (¶ 5430)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference ministerial candidate</li> <li>• Inductive Bible Study (2C)</li> <li>• Bible Studies (8C)</li> <li>• Intro. to Christian Doctrine (2C)</li> <li>• Wesleyan Theology (3C)</li> <li>• Systematic Theology (3C)</li> <li>• Homiletics (3C)</li> <li>• Pastoral Care (2C)</li> <li>• Church Administration (2C)</li> <li>• Spiritual Formation (2C)</li> <li>• Leadership (2C)</li> <li>• Church Growth (2C)</li> <li>• Elective (3C)</li> <li>• Three years full-time pastoral experience under conference appointment after CMC</li> <li>• Interviewed, certified and recommended by MEG Board for elder</li> <li>• Approved by annual conference</li> </ul>	<p><b>Apollos Model (¶ 5440)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved by MEG Board to follow Apollos Model, coach assigned</li> <li>• Interviewed, certified and recommended by MEG Board for CMC</li> <li>• Approved by annual conference for CMC</li> <li>• Maintained Ordination Readiness File with MEG Board</li> <li>• Completed prescribed process of coaching, assignments, pastoral experience and assessment under MEG Board guidance</li> <li>• Interviewed, certified and recommended by MEG Board for elder</li> <li>• Approved by annual conference</li> </ul>
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**Legend:** LMC – Local Ministerial Candidate, CMC – Conference Ministerial Candidate, AFMEI – Association of Free Methodist Educational Institutions, FMC – Free Methodist Church, C – Semester Credits (Courses may be taken through an accredited college or seminary, approved short-term classes or correspondence courses), JWSF – John Wesley Seminary Foundation, MCS – Ministerial Credentialing Services, MEG Board – Ministerial Education and Guidance Board, ¶ - 2007 *Book of Discipline* paragraph references