

**California-Pacific Conference
Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM)**

**WRITTEN RESPONSE FOR FULL CONNECTION OR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
(PAPER C)**

Maximum number of pages are at the beginning of each section.

Deadline – November 3, 2025, **ON OR BEFORE 2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)**

Part 1 – Reflections on Ministry – 25-page limit

Part 2 – Making Disciples Project – 5-page limit

Part 3 – Bible Study – 6-page limit

Part 4 – Worship & Proclamation Materials – See Part 4 for guidance

**Part 5- Applicants Previously Interviewed by the
BOM and Continued in Provisional Membership - 1 or more pages**

Discipline citations are noted using the format (§###). All citations are from *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2000/2004 edition)*.

Read the complete instructions for completing this paper in the “Instruction Packet for Full Connection or Associate Membership” before beginning work.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Applicants for deacon’s orders complete Parts 1 – 3 and 4 if applicable.
- Applicants for associate membership complete Parts 1 and 3 (not 2).
- Applicants for elder’s orders complete Parts 1 – 4.

PART 1 - REFLECTIONS ON MINISTRY (25 pages)

Your reflections in this section should include both **robust theological grounding** as well as an **integration of your practice of ministry**. (Questions 1-12 are from *The Book of Discipline*, Deacons, ¶330.5, Elders ¶335.a-c, Associate Members ¶322)

1. Give examples of how the practice of ministry has affected your experience and understanding of:
 - a. God
 - b. Humanity
 - c. The need for divine grace
 - d. The Lordship of Jesus Christ
 - e. The work of the Holy Spirit
 - f. The meaning and significance of the sacraments
 - g. The kingdom of God
 - h. Resurrection and eternal life.

2. Describe your understanding of grace in Wesleyan theology and how this understanding has been revealed in your provisional ministry setting.
3. How do you understand the following traditional evangelical doctrines?
 - a. Repentance
 - b. Justification
 - c. Regeneration
 - d. Sanctification
4. What are the marks of the Christian life?
5. The United Methodist Church holds that Scripture, tradition, experience and reason are the sources and norms for Christian belief and practice, and that the Bible is primary among them.
 - a. What is your understanding of this theological position of the church?
 - b. As a clergy leader, please give an example of how you have employed the Wesleyan Quadrilateral in your ministry setting.
 - c. Provide a theological reflection on a current public issue employing the Quadrilateral.
6. How has the practice of ministry affected your understanding of your vocation as an ordained deacon, associate member, or ordained elder?
7. **Associate member and elder applicants only:**
 - a. How has your practice of ministry affected your understanding of the expectations and obligations of the itinerant system? (§322, §333)
 - b. What are issues that might affect your ability to be appointed and to serve as the bishop and cabinet may determine?
8. Gifts for Ministry:
 - a. Describe and evaluate your personal gifts for ministry, and how these gifts have resulted in fruitful ministry.
 - b. What would be your areas of strength, and areas in which you need to be strengthened, to be more fruitful in ministry?
9. Ordained ministers and associate members strive to make a complete dedication to the highest ideals of the Christian life which include responsible self-control of personal habits conducive to physical health, intentional intellectual development, integrity and faithfulness in all personal relationships, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge of the love of God.
 - a. What personal practices and commitments help you to meet these high standards for Christian living and integrity?
 - b. What spiritual disciplines or practices help sustain you in life and ministry?
 - c. What are your challenges in trying to reach these high ideals?
 - d. How do you address the areas where you need to grow?
 - e. How do you keep healthy boundaries in the practice of ministry?

10. What has been your experience of ministering with “all persons without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic condition or disabilities?” What joys, challenges and growing self-awareness has ministry with diverse persons and communities offered to you?
11. What is your understanding of the confidential and/or confessional nature of pastoral conversations? Where have you experienced challenges in this aspect of ministry? What are the limits of pastoral confidentiality?
12. How have you participated in and led the church in peace and justice ministries?
13. Worship Leadership:
 - a. In your experience of leading or participating in public worship, what have been the most meaningful, transformative, or fruitful aspects of your congregation’s worship experience?
 - b. How do you understand your pastoral role in leading people in worship?
 - c. How do you experience the presence of Christ in the celebration of the sacraments?
14. During your years of ministry as a provisional member or local pastor:
 - a. How have you provided specific leadership for stability, growth, and revitalization?
 - b. Assess what has been accomplished, including what you have learned about your leadership and what you might now do differently than when you first began serving.
 - c. Discuss strategies you have employed to create, develop, and enrich ministries as well as strategies you are considering employing in the future.
15. Mission of the Church:
 - a. How do you understand the mission of the Church today?
 - b. How might that mission be implemented in your local setting, and what implications does this have for the connectional church?
 - c. Reflecting upon your set of leadership gifts and resources, share a few specific examples of how you are leading your church towards realizing that mission.
 - d. In what ways have you grown in your ability to lead the mission of the Church and expand your leadership skills to meet emerging needs?
16. Pastoral care and practice of ministry:
 - a. Provide examples of how you incorporate theological/scriptural resources into your practice of pastoral care?
 - b. How do you balance the needs of the church/ministry setting with your own physical, spiritual, and emotional need for rest and renewal? In what ways do you model Sabbath and self-care in your ministry setting?
 - c. What conflicts have you experienced in your ministry setting? In what ways did you participate in the conflict and in what ways did you contribute to the resolution of the conflict?

PART 2 - MAKING DISCIPLES PROJECT (for Deacon and Elder applicants) (5 pages)

THE PURPOSE

The purpose of the Making Disciples Project is to show fruitfulness in growing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (¶330 and ¶335). The Making Disciples Project should demonstrate your leadership skills, your assessment of your ministry setting and communities around your setting, your ability to empower and work with others, and your understanding of what fruitfulness is and how it is achieved through the project.

1. Define what aspect of disciple-making your project highlights (Is it the welcoming and recruiting of new disciples, the connecting of disciples with the Body of Christ, the training of disciples, or the sending of disciples into the world to serve and witness?).
2. Prayerfully consider how you intend for your project to result in the transformation of some aspect of the "world" or communities around your ministry setting.
3. Explore the interrelatedness of disciple-making and transformation.

GUIDELINES FOR THE MAKING DISCIPLES PROJECT

1. It should be a new ministry or a new initiative within an existing ministry intended to bring forth new fruit.
2. It should involve others, including lay persons, in your ministry setting.
3. It should involve needs within the ministry setting that are NOT currently being met.
4. There should be a distinct difference between what you are doing and a project that might be done by any civic organization.
5. It may be an ecumenical, cross-cultural, or cooperative ministry.
6. It may be a one-time event, or a short series of events. Take on a project that is manageable in the coming months or year. If it is a one-time event, you will want to plan a preparation phase, an implementation phase, and follow-up phase to ensure that disciple-making and transformation occur.
7. Discern a focus where your passion and that of the congregation or your ministry setting converge, or a place where the Spirit is already moving in the form of readiness, or where there is a consensus on the need for change.

THE WRITTEN REPORT

Report on the significant disciple-making initiative you led during your time as a provisional member, in which you were intentional about producing fruitfulness in making disciples. Include the following in your report and reflection.

1. The Plan
 - a. Give a brief description of your ministry setting.
 - b. Provide a succinct description of your project.
 - c. Explain why this is being done.
 - d. List the needs it is addressing.
 - e. Identify the fruit you intended for the project to produce.
 - f. How will you know if you have accomplished the goals?

2. The Reflection
 - a. Describe your leadership role in this project.
 - i. What role did you play in leading this project?
 - ii. What were the successes in leading this project?
 - iii. What didn't go as planned and what did you learn from that?
 - iv. What have you learned about your leadership abilities through this project?
 - b. Evaluate your project based on:
 - i. Did the project accomplish the fruitfulness/goals/objectives that were set. Why, or why not?
 - ii. Describe the effectiveness of the project to make new disciples of Jesus Christ. How was the "world" impacted?
 - iii. As you reflect on the spiritual aspects of the project, where did you see Christ at work?
 - iv. What might you change if you were to do this project again?
3. Submit a final budget for this project.

PART 3 – BIBLE STUDY (6 pages)

Please develop and lead a Bible study in your ministry setting. The Bible study must be one that you write or design yourself. The Bible study may be on a passage or theme of your choice. The Bible study should be a four-week study.

1. Describe the group for which you offered this study, the resources you employed, and the goals of this study.
2. Give an overview of the entire study (outline form is acceptable), and a detailed plan of one session. List the topics you will cover.
3. How does this study fit into your ministry setting? In what ways have you provided for a variety of learning styles?
4. Evaluate the study. Did you accomplish your goals? How was it successful? What was not successful? What would you change?

PART 4 – SERMON OR ALTERNATIVE PROCLAMATION PROJECT (for Deacon and Elder applicants only)

Instructions:

1. Preach a sermon using one of the Revised Common Lectionary or the Narrative Lectionary texts for the period between August 1 and October 30. This sermon must be preached and recorded in front of a live congregation.
2. This sermon must be different than the one you preached on the date of your BOM site visit.
3. You must use the lectionary text that is for the date you are preaching.

4. Provide a video recording of the sermon only and follow the instructions on the BOM website at www.calpacumc.org/bom to share a link to your video.
5. Provide a written transcript in English (not notes or an outline) of the sermon you preached.
6. Provide the Order of Worship that you created for the service at which you preached. Include the structure of the liturgy, hymns and service. Do not send a PDF attachment of your bulletin, but rather the text of all liturgical elements that make up the service (it is not necessary to include the text of hymns).

-or-

Alternative Proclamation Project (APP for Deacon Applicants Only)

See the instruction packet for how to submit a proposal to do an APP.

Alternative Proclamation Projects must include:

1. **A written description of your project** - Describe your project's value in proclaiming the Gospel. Ensure that the form and content of your description parallels the work required to create a sermon manuscript (no word count required).
2. **Visual illustration of your proclamation** - If video footage is not appropriate for your ministry setting (e.g., chaplaincy or counseling), employ alternative visual representation of proclamation in your ministry context (e.g., photographs, slideshow, etc.).
3. **Scripture exegesis** - Demonstrate the scriptural foundation of the proclamation in your project. Include a thorough exegesis of a scripture which supports the form of proclamation practiced in your ministry setting. (400 words)

PART 5: APPLICANTS PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED BY THE BOM AND CONTINUED IN PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP (one or more pages)

If you were previously not recommended for ordination by the BOM, please share how you have responded to each of the concerns expressed by your team.