

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC ANNUAL CONFERENCE • THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Dear dCOM Chairs, Registrars, and Candidacy Mentors,

A couple of months ago, the Board of Ordained Ministry sent out a memorandum notifying you of the new University Senate guidelines regarding online education and courses taken at extension campuses. The policy, set in January 2011, stated that no online classes outside of the 13 UM seminaries and Asbury Theological Seminary would be accepted, and that if a seminary had extension campuses, the student must complete at least 50% of the coursework at the main campus. Since that communication, we have been in touch with several of our candidates affected by the new regulations. In reviewing their transcripts and consulting with GBHEM, the Board has adopted the following policy.

- 1) Students who have completed at least half of the M.Div. degree at an extension campus prior to January 1, 2015, may continue their current program and be allowed to have their degree applied to the requirements for Provisional and Full Connection membership.
- 2) Students who have not yet completed half of the M.Div. degree requirements as of January 1, 2015, will be required to abide by the University Senate regulations which limits the total number of units taken at an extension campus to be less than half of the total M.Div. requirement. These students are required to complete the remainder of their degree through the main seminary campus.
- 3) Online courses from non-United Methodist seminaries or Asbury Theological Seminary taken prior to January 1, 2015 may be applied to the requirements for conference membership and ordination. After January 1, 2015, only online courses from a United Methodist Seminary, Asbury Theological Seminary, or through the independent study program of the GBHEM will be accepted.
- 4) For the purpose of calculating the number of units completed prior to January 1, 2015, any online classes from non-United Methodist Seminary or Asbury Theological Seminary will be calculated as part of the number of units taken at an extension campus.

Please communicate this policy to all the candidates in your district immediately so that they may plan their future classes accordingly. Thank you for your work in guiding our candidates through the process.

Blessings,



Rev. Dr. Elbert Kim

Registrar for the Board of Ordained Ministry
California-Pacific Annual Conference

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