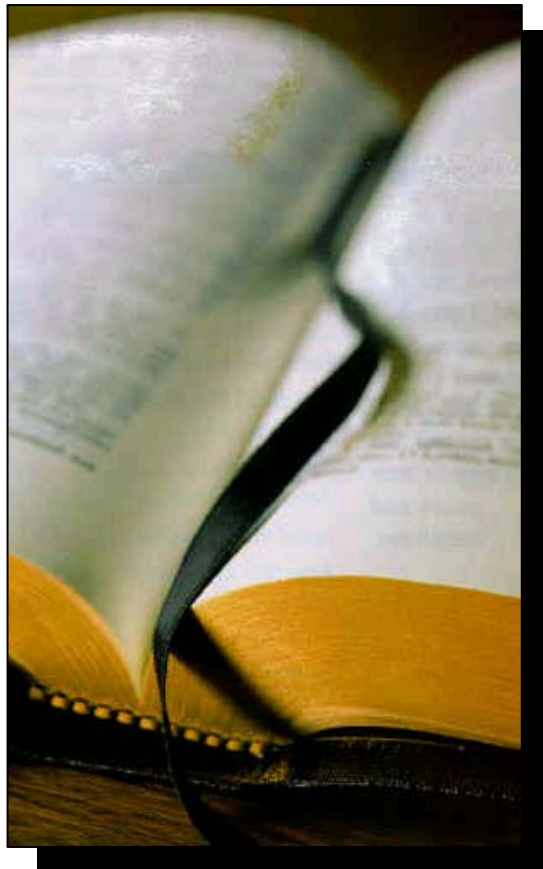


Ministerial Preparation Information Packet 2008 Edition



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE MINISTRY
www.wesleyan.org/em ♦ 317-774-3912

God Called, You Answered. Now What?

Next to accepting Christ as your Savior, committing yourself to follow God's call vocationally will be the most important and exciting decision of your life. If you have received a call into ministry, or are wondering if God might be calling you, we want to join your pastor and trusted Christian friends in helping to confirm your call. You might be asking some of the following questions:

HOW DOES GOD CALL PEOPLE?

The idea of being "called" to a vocation may be foreign to you. Most individuals choose what they want to do to earn a living. The Bible teaches us that while every Christian is called to be God's servant and to use his or her vocation to minister to others, God calls some to specialized ministries in behalf of the Church. People do not choose to become ministers, missionaries or some other form of ordained or commissioned minister in the Church; they are called by the Lord.

God calls a lot of different kinds of people to commit themselves to vocations of specialized Christian service and He calls them in a lot of different ways.

Some people are called in dramatic ways, but most people experience their "call" as a growing conviction, or compulsion, resulting from a time of commitment to the will of God in their lives. Often this takes place at youth camp, camp meeting, missionary convention or revival meeting. But don't worry if your call didn't come this way – there is no one way that God calls people.

HOW CAN I BE SURE I AM CALLED?

How you are called is not as important as being certain you **are** called. If God has called you, He can make that call very clear to you. God calls people from within the Body of Christ to minister to that Body and to assist it in incorporating others into fellowship. It seems logical then that He would use the Body of Christ to recognize and nurture those who are called to vocations of specialized ministry. God can use your local church and close Christian friends to help make your call clear and to help prepare you for ministry.

Those who are called should be able to pass five "tests" regarding the genuineness of their call. These five tests are:

1. The test of "**grace**." Have you been saved and entirely sanctified? Do you live a holy life? Is the fruit of the Spirit evident in your life?
2. The test of "**gifts**." Do you have a reasonable amount of ability to understand, reason, communicate and provide loving care and leadership to God's people? Listen to the counsel of your pastor and trusted Christian friends as they guide you in discovering and developing your gifts for ministry.
3. The test of "**fruit**." Are people being helped by your Christian influence? Are you open about your faith? Have you brought anyone closer to the Lord by your witness?
4. The test of "**an abiding sense of a divine call**." Do you have an inner awareness of God's leading? Is this awareness dependent upon a highly charged environment to stay alive or is it an unshakeable part of your daily life? Are you ready to pay the price to give yourself wholly to the demands of preparation and service which are a part of this call?
5. The test of "**open doors**." Does the Lord open doors for your preparation for ministry? Are there open doors of opportunity for you to use your talents and test your gifts? The enemy will fight against you, but the Lord will also use open doors of opportunity to validate your call.

WHAT IF I DON'T THINK I'M QUALIFIED?

Don't panic if you think God has called you but you feel inadequate. The biblical record of those God called indicates many of His called-ones felt inadequate, unworthy and unprepared. Better to feel inadequate and trust in his adequacy than to think you can do it all without preparation, experience, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

If you have made some pretty foolish mistakes already in your life, will they disqualify you for ministry in the church? God's forgiveness is a wonderful thing. It is wonderful to know that regardless of the foolish mistakes you may have made, Christ can make you clean. God only uses clean vessels-clean because they have been washed by the blood of Christ, not because they have never been soiled by sin. Be sure you are clean and then if you feel God has called you, offer yourself to Him to be used. There are times when we carry the consequences of our sins with us throughout our lives and they forever shape what we are able to do. However, concentrate on being usable and available. Then, as God provides opportunities for you to minister to others, seize them and forever marvel at His wonderful grace that He should choose to use a person like you. God's ministers have not been called because they never have committed sin, but because they have been forgiven and are willing, in their humility and brokenness, to be used.

NOW THAT I'M CALLED, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Counsel with your pastor. You need the support and direction your pastor can give you. Your pastor may want you to meet with the Local Board of Administration and be recommended for license as a ministerial student. If you are not ready for that, you can at least be registered with *The Fellowship of the Called* (Youth Department 317-774-7900) so that your call to ministry can be affirmed and encouraged by others who are called and by those who are responsible to assist in your development for ministry. *The Fellowship of the Called* is co-sponsored by the Youth Department and the Department of Education and the Ministry of The Wesleyan Church. It consists of Wesleyan youth who feel God has called them into some form of Christian ministry.

Get involved. You cannot ignore present opportunities to witness, to work in the Church and to help people and think God will use you later. Use every present opportunity to be faithful to those things which will later occupy your efforts more fully. Offer yourself to your pastor to be used in whatever way he thinks is best and then listen to his counsel as he involves you in church-life.

Learn by watching and listening. Watch what your pastor does and how he does it. Ask questions. Listen to what is going on around you. Learn how the Church works and what is necessary in order for people to work together. Ask your pastor if he can attend some board or committee meetings.

Develop your people skills. More people run into problems in the ministry because of interpersonal relationship problems than anything else. Don't be a "milk-toast" type person, but develop your ability to get along with others – to be reasonable and rational when others are upset and irrational – to be understanding when that is needed – to hold firm to a principle without being obstinate and "bull-headed" – and to help people resolve their differences without causing division.

Cultivate spiritual disciplines. Many people are more concerned about how big their ministry will be rather than how deep their ministry will be. Make holiness your aspiration. Learn to

pray. Spend time in God's Word. Concentrate more on being spiritual than successful. You take care of the depth of your ministry and God will take care of the breadth of your ministry.

Determine you are going to be adequately prepared. God needs people who are ready to be the best they can be. For most, this will mean a ministerial training program which may involve college and seminary. Not everyone is able to follow this track into ministry, but don't ever shortchange the preparation portion of your calling. Don't keep the boundaries of your usefulness too narrow by failure to prepare adequately. Youthful enthusiasm might cause you to feel that the quicker you can get out there and do your thing the better, but a few more years of training may make your contribution to the cause of Christ far greater because you are more equipped to do **His** thing rather than **yours**.

Section One – “The Goals” What tracks of ministry are there in the Wesleyan Church?

Credentialed Ministry in the Wesleyan Church falls into two main categories:

A. Vocational Ministry

B. Lay Ministry

- A. Vocational Ministry** includes those whom God has called to full time vocational ministry and their calling, gifts and usefulness have been recognized by their local church and their district. Some examples of individuals who serve in this capacity include: Senior Pastors, Solo Pastors, Associate Pastors, Assistant Pastors, as well as Missionaries, Chaplains, etc. The Wesleyan Church recognizes two forms of credentialing in this area of Vocational Ministry:

Ordained Minister – This is the highest credential given by the Wesleyan Church to an individual who meets all the academic, spiritual and governmental standards of the church. They have authority to preach, administer baptism, serve the sacraments, perform weddings, transfer from one district to another, and serve in any position in district government that they qualify for and to vote in district conference sessions.

Commissioned Minister – This category is not open to most people. You cannot enroll in this category unless you: 1. Meet all the special requirements (see the manual of ministerial preparation and the Wesleyan Discipline) and 2. Your DBMD has contacted Education and the Ministry to approve your change from pre-ordination to this category. A person must already be a district licensed minister and have been 40 years of age or older when they entered the ministerial studies program.

- B. Lay Ministry** includes lay people whom God has called to special service in their local church and/or district. The Wesleyan Church recognizes two forms of credentialing in this area of Lay Ministry:

Special Worker – God has called certain lay people to ministries such as director of Christian Education, lay evangelist, youth director, children’s worker, director of music, lay missionary, lay counselor, etc. Special Workers serve under the guidance of their pastor and/or the district/general church. They are nonvoting members of the district conference.

Lay Minister – These are lay people whom their local church has licensed to preach and serve under their pastor’s direction and as opportunity affords. Normally lay ministers have no plans for ministry except in connection with their local churches.

PLEASE NOTE: A more detailed definition of these categories of ministry can be found in “The Manual of Ministerial Preparation” which may be ordered by calling 317-774-3912. Information also may be obtained by visiting our internet site at www.Wesleyan.org/em.

Section Two – “The Process” How do I pursue ministerial credentials in The Wesleyan Church?

- 1. THE LOCAL CHURCH LEVEL** - Meet with your pastor and discuss your call to the ministry. Go over the different tracks of ministry in the Wesleyan Church (See Section one for details on the tracks of ministry). Check with your pastor to make sure that your covenant membership in your local Wesleyan Church is current. Fill out the application for recommendation and give it to your pastor for your interview with the Local Board of Administration of your church. If you are pursuing Ordination, or Special Worker status you must receive a recommendation from your Local Church Conference (or Local Board if so authorized) to your district for licensing as a ministerial student. If you are a Lay Minister then you need the vote of the LBA to become a licensed Lay Minister and you do not need to report to the district.
- 2. THE DISTRICT LEVEL** – Meet with your District Board of Ministerial Development (DBMD - Ordination, Commissioning or Special Worker only). They will interview you and counsel with you on the best course of action to take in your academic training for ministry. Contact your DBMD chairman to set up an interview date.
- 3. THE GENERAL CHURCH LEVEL** – Enroll with the Education and the Ministry Department. There are four ways to enroll with us: 1. Fill out the enrollment form provided in this packet 2. Call us at 317-774-3912 and fill out an enrollment form over the phone. 3. Enroll online at www.wesleyan.org/em. This enrollment is crucial to your ministerial preparation process. You must have a file established in our office so that a report can be given to your district of your progress toward your intended credential goal. To be ordained, commissioned or licensed in the Wesleyan Church, your district must have certification from our office. The enrollment fee is \$20 and should accompany your enrollment form for your file to be initiated. You may pay by MasterCard/Visa, check or cash. This \$20 enrollment fee is waived if you have or are currently attending a Wesleyan Church College/University or one of our seven Wesleyan Church approved seminaries. We will keep a transcript of all your completed classes and update you with a report following the completion of a course or at any time that you request a report.
- 4. THE ACADEMIC LEVEL** – The tracks of ministry defined in Section one each have a set of academic standards. All tracks have a set of specific required training courses that will help to prepare the individual for the many different tasks and opportunities of day to day ministry. When those academic requirements have been satisfied, the individual is then certified as having completed the academic requirements for that particular track of ministry. The certification report is also forwarded on to your district. The district has the actual authority to ordain, commission or license (except for Lay Minister who is licensed by their local church). On the following pages you will find an outline of the academic requirements for each of the ministerial tracks.

Section Three - “The Standards” The Academic Training Requirements of the Wesleyan Church

Category/Class	Class Number	Ordained	Commissioned	Special Worker	Lay Minister
General Ed					
Sociology/Cultural Anthropology	C21	Required			
Psychology	C22	Required			
Philosophy/Ethics	C31	Required			
Bible					
					* Choose one from C03, C04 or C14
<i>*Old Testament Intro</i>	C03	Required	Required	Required	*
<i>*New Testament Intro</i>	C04	Required	Required	Required	*
Methods of Bible Study	C14	Required	Required	Required	*
Old Testament Elective		Required			
New Testament Elective		Required			
History					
General Church History	C25	Required	Required		
<i>*Wesleyan History/Discipline</i>	C35	Required	Required	Required	Required
Theology					
<i>*Intro to Theology</i>	C05	Required	Required	Required	Required
Advanced Theology	C32	Required			
Doctrine of Holiness	C42	Required	Required	Required	
Practical Ministries					
					* Choose two from among C23, C28, C33, C34, C36, C38, and C44
Christian Education	C23	Required	Required	Required	*
Spiritual Formation	C26	Required	Required		
Evangelism/Church Health	C28	Required	Required	Required	*
Global and Intercultural Ministries	C29	Required			
<i>*Intro to Homiletics</i>	C33	Required	Required		*
Pastoral Ministries	C34	Required	Required		*
Worship	C36	Required			*
<i>*Church Leadership/Management</i>	C38	Required	Required		*
Expository Preaching	C43	Required			
Pastoral Counseling	C44	Required	Required		*
Elective in Specialty				Required	
Elective in Specialty				Required	
Supervised Ministry					
Supervised Ministry	C55	Required	Required		

**** These are the six courses required to become a licensed minister, which is the first step toward ordination or commissioning. PLEASE NOTE: District Licensing is not an end point. You must take a minimum of 2 classes per year after district licensing to retain your license.***

***Section Four* – “The Tools” Completing the Academic Requirements**

Now that you’ve had a chance to see “**the goals**”, (the tracks of ministry in the Wesleyan Church) “**the process**”, (how to get to the level of credentials that you seek), and “**the standards**”, (the academic standards for ministerial training); let’s now turn our attention to “**the tools**” (the options available for you to complete the academic training standards). Several options are available.

1. **Wesleyan Colleges/Universities or Approved Seminaries** - The preferred track of ministerial training in the Wesleyan Church is a 4 year degree in ministerial or pre-ministerial studies from one of our five Wesleyan schools followed by completion of a 3 year Masters of Divinity program at one of our seven approved seminaries. The Wesleyan Church has five excellent schools, which offer all of the courses required for credentials in the Wesleyan Church. Our schools include Bethany Bible College, Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada; Houghton College, Houghton, New York; Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana; Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Bartlesville, Oklahoma; and Southern Wesleyan University, Central, South Carolina.

You may also take many of the ordination requirements at one of our seven approved seminaries: Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky; Haggard School of Theology at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, California; Evangelical School of Theology, Myerstown, Pennsylvania; Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri; Tyndale School of Theology, North York, Ontario, Canada; Wesley Biblical Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi; George Fox Evangelical Seminary, Portland, Oregon.

To obtain more information on classes, costs, faculties, and admission, go to the Education and the Ministry web site at www.wesleyan.org/em.

2. **FLAME** - These 3-5 day courses sponsored by the Department of Education and the Ministry are held in 3 regions for individuals 28 years of age or older (or have already completed a college degree) and are considered non-traditional (not attending one of our colleges or seminaries). Students enrolled with our office are put on a mailing list to receive information on these courses. FLAME stands for Fellowship of Leaders Acquiring Ministerial Education. The goals of FLAME are: 1. Spiritual Renewal – to ignite, refresh, and renew spiritual life and call to ministry. 2. Fellowship and networking – to develop new friendships in ministry and to share ideas. 3. Quality ministerial training – to enable you to minister effectively. All courses required for ordination (except for supervised ministry) are taught throughout the year. Classroom time averages 20 hours with some reading and reports and/or projects being completed before and after class. (Out of classroom time averages 40 hours for a total time investment of 60 hours minimum per class). To find the latest dates and places of FLAME classes check the web site at www.wesleyan.org/Flame. You may also e-mail us at FLAME@wesleyan.org.
3. **Distance Education Correspondence Courses** - The Department of Education and the Ministry offers every course that one needs to complete ordination. Students must be 28 years of age or older (or have completed a college degree) and be considered non-traditional (not attending one of our colleges or seminaries). Qualified professors using the correspondence method teach these courses. Courses cost \$120 plus the cost of

textbooks. Students have 6 months to complete each course and may register for two courses at one time. A full catalog of the Correspondence Courses and a registration form for an individual course is available from Education and the Ministry (317-774-3912) or on our web site (www.wesleyan.org/em).

4. **College or district extension classes** – Houghton College (Equipping for Ministry) and Southern Wesleyan University (SIMS) hold special extension classes each year. Also Education and the Ministry sanctions districts to hold classes at certain times during the year to train their ministers.
5. **Credit by Portfolio** – If an individual has mastered a particular area of the academic training standards through extensive experience or a combination of related courses, seminars, extensive research and/or reading, they may obtain the Credit by Portfolio packet at our website (www.wesleyan.org/em).

Financial Aid

College/Seminary: The Wesleyan Church provides loan/grant assistance for some ministerial students.

To qualify, a student must:

- Be a junior or senior at a Wesleyan college/university, or be enrolled for graduate theological training at one of our approved seminaries/universities
- Be a covenant member of a local Wesleyan church in North America
- Be seeking ordination, if not already ordained
- Be approved by their District Board of Ministerial Development
- Indicate intention to serve as a minister of The Wesleyan Church under district appointment
- Maintain a GPA of at least 2.0

More information and application forms can be obtained by visiting our website (wesleyan.org/em) or through the college/university's financial aid office.

FLAME: Students may apply directly with Education and the Ministry for scholarship assistance for FLAME. This aid is limited to extreme financial hardships which would prevent a person from attending a FLAME event.

Suggested order for completing courses for Ordination

(Adult Education Students)

PLEASE NOTE: Students should attempt to take Methods of Bible Study as early in their studies as possible. **This course will be a tremendous help in Bible elective classes as well as in the preaching classes.**

The classes for District Licensed Minister should be completed as much as is possible before moving on to more advanced courses. These courses are:

1. Old Testament Intro
2. New Testament Intro
3. Wesleyan History/Discipline
4. Intro to Theology
5. Intro to Homiletics
6. Church Leadership/Management

The following courses must be taken in this order:

1. Intro to Homiletics before you take Expository Preaching
2. Intro to Theology before you take Advanced Theology

Supervised Ministry may be taken at any time during the student's course of study.

PLEASE NOTE: District Licensing is not an end point. You must take a minimum of 2 classes per year after district licensing to retain your license.

For more information go to our web site: www.Wesleyan.org/em.

For answers to questions call 317-774-3912, e-mail us at education@Wesleyan.org, or fax us at 317-774-3915.

Application for Recommendation

Fill this form out, and give it to your pastor. This is intended for your interview with your local church board. They will use this to recommend you on to the District Board of Ministerial Development (DBMD). Do not send this to Education and the Ministry.

Applicant: Fill out the questionnaire and return it to your pastor preceding the time scheduled for your interview with the Local Board of Administration. If you need more space, please use separate sheets of paper.

NAME _____ BIRTH DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

1. What level of recognition are you seeking?
Ministerial Student _____ Lay Minister _____
Lay Commissioned Special Worker: _____
Specific Area of Special Worker Ministry? _____
2. If you are seeking recognition as a Lay Minister, in what areas of local church life do you feel you could minister most effectively?
3. If you feel that you are called to full-time ministry in the church, explain how you came to that belief.
4. What gifts do you feel you possess that qualify you for specialized ministry?
5. How and when were you converted?
6. Have you been entirely sanctified? _____ What is your understanding of this grace?
7. In what ways are you presently serving the Lord in the church?
8. What are your plans for preparing yourself for ministry?
9. Are there special areas of ministry to which you feel particularly called?
10. Does your spouse support your call to ministry? _____ Explain any resistance.

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANT AND PASTOR

1. The pastor and Local Board of Administration have a serious responsibility relative to the recommendation of a lay minister or of a minister-in-preparation to the district for license and study. The pastor and board should evaluate carefully and prayerfully the candidate's Christian experience, reputation, conduct, and spiritual stability. While recommendation for license should not be given lightly, neither should a candidate be rejected without sound reason.
2. Each pastor should have a copy of the *Manual of Ministerial Preparation* in order to give guidance to those seeking to fulfill their call to ministry. Copies are available from Education and the Ministry, P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250-0434 or call 317-774-3912. The Manual is also online at www.wesleyan.org/em.
3. There are two types of lay ministry which are credentialed by The Wesleyan Church: lay minister, and lay special worker. For the lay minister, a five-course plan of study has been developed. For the special worker, a ten-course plan of study has been developed.
4. Normally the lay minister has no plans for ministry except in connection with his/her local church. The lay minister is to assist the pastor, as the pastor shall direct. The lay minister's license is valid for only one year. There is no district involvement in the licensing of a lay minister. Once the layperson has been licensed as a lay minister, he or she is to register immediately with the Education and the Ministry Department at The Wesleyan Church Headquarters, and pursue the Lay Minister's Course of Study.
5. A special worker is a lay person who believes that he or she is divinely led to serve the Church as a director of music, director of Christian education, youth director, song evangelist, chalk artist, children's worker, spouse in ministry, lay evangelist, social worker or in some other special capacity, and who has been authorized to carry on such work by a District Conference. Upon recommendation by the Local Church Conference to the District Conference, the special worker candidate should register with the Education and the Ministry Department and pursue the Special Worker's Course of Study.
6. A ministerial student is a person who is convinced of a call, which he expects to lead to ordination, and is engaged in studies either full or part-time. A ministerial student must be examined and recommended by the DBMD to the District Conference and prepare for ordination under the supervision of the District Board of Ministerial Development. There is a twenty-three course plan of study (plus Supervised Ministry) for the ordination track.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE MINISTRY - THE WESLEYAN CHURCH
POST OFFICE BOX 50434, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46250-0434
PHONE (317) 774-3912 FAX (317)774-3915 E-MAIL: education@wesleyan.org
WEB SITE: WWW.WESLEYAN.ORG/EM

ENROLLMENT FORM

Full Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ City _____ State/Prov _____
Postal Code _____ Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____ Birth Year _____ Male ___ Female ___
Your Local Church _____ Your District _____

MINISTERIAL SERVICE AT THIS TIME:

___ Pastor ___ Assistant Pastor ___ Lay Worker (Area of Ministry _____)
___ Other (Please specify) _____
Other Employment _____

EDUCATION:

Are you a high school graduate? _____
College: 1yr ___ 2yrs ___ 3yrs ___ Graduate ___ Degree _____
Name of college/university attended _____
Are you presently in School? _____ Where? _____

GOD IS CALLING ME TO PREPARE FOR MINISTRY AS A:

___ Lay Minister (Local Church License only)
___ Lay Special Worker (Area of Specialty for Special Worker _____)
___ Ordained Minister - Must be recommended by local church and DBMD
___ Transferring Ordained Minister (Already Ordained Ministers coming into The Wesleyan Church) Must submit transferring ministers form to the General Superintendents office at HQ and be recommended by your district superintendent.

PLEASE SUBMIT:

\$20.00 (U.S.) ENROLLMENT FEE *WITH THIS APPLICATION*
TRANSCRIPTS OF YOUR COLLEGE/SEMINARY WORK FOR EVALUATION
OR
DOCUMENTATION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION OR GED COMPLETION

RELEASE PERMISSION

I hereby grant permission to The Wesleyan Church Department of Education and the Ministry to release any records of my work or personal information for the purpose of informing the General Church, its district leaders, or its boards concerning my progress in and completion of the course requirements and other data as needed.

Signature of Student _____ Date _____
Payment source: ___ Check ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover
Card number _____ 3 digit security code _____
Expiration Date _____ Name on Card _____



Ordination/Commissioning in the Wesleyan Church

- Certified by the Education and the Ministry Department for ordination/commissioning after completion of academic requirements.
- Final interview with DBMD. Submit DBMD form #5
- Service of ordination/commissioning by the district

- Complete six licensing courses-appointed to local church ministry by district and issued district license.
- Yearly interviews with the DBMD. Submit DBMD form #3 each year.
- Complete 2 years of service as an appointed minister in a Wesleyan Church.



Bachelor of Arts programs:
Bethany Bible College
Houghton College
Indiana Wesleyan Univ.
Oklahoma Wesleyan Univ.
Southern Wesleyan Univ.

AND/
OR

Masters Degree program:
Asbury Seminary (campus or online)
Indiana Wesleyan Univ.
Southern Wesleyan Univ.
Six other approved seminaries

AND/
OR

Adult Education (age 28+)
FLAME
Correspondence Courses
Equipping for Ministry
SIMS
District extension classes

Submit DBMD form #1 and #2 to District Board of Ministerial Development.
Initial interview with the DBMD.

AND

Submit transcripts of all previous college studies and enrollment form to Education and the Ministry at the World Headquarters of the Wesleyan Church in Indianapolis, Indiana



Recommendation by local church and pastor to be a licensed ministerial student. Recommendation is made to the DBMD. One year must be completed in this category before district licensing as a minister.

Respond to a Call to Ministry

Covenant Membership in a local Wesleyan Church



