



ABOUT THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

What does the Tennessee Conference Board of Ordained Ministry do?

The Tennessee Conference Board of Ordained Ministry supports those who respond to God's call to specialized ministry as an elder in full connection, deacon in full connection, licensed local pastor, diaconal minister, or certified professional in Christian education, music, youth, evangelism, camping/retreat ministries, spiritual formation, older adult ministry, and other areas established by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

The board, working with district Committees on Ordained Ministry, reviews the educational and personal qualifications of candidates through each step of the candidacy process, from certified candidacy to ordination or licensing. The board then makes a recommendation to the executive clergy session at annual conference. The board also reviews and makes recommendations on all changes in conference relationship. (VIRGINIA)

How is the BOM formed?

At the first session of annual conference following the General Conference, a Board of Ordained Ministry is elected for a term of four years.

Members shall be nominated by the presiding bishop after consultation with the chairperson of the board, the executive committee, or a committee elected by the board of the previous quadrennium, and with the cabinet.

Vacancies shall be filled by the bishop after consultation with the chairperson of the board.

How is the Executive Committee of the BOM selected?

The Board of Ordained Ministry shall elect from its membership a chairperson and such other officers as it may deem necessary.

The executive committee shall include elders, deacons, and laity.

What does *The 2012 Book of Discipline* require to ensure fair representation on the BOM?

At least six ordained elders and deacons in full connection shall be included as members. When possible, at least two associate members or full time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall be included with voice and vote.

At least one-fifth of the board shall be laypersons, which may include diaconal ministers, and up to 1/3 of the board's membership can be lay members. All laypersons shall be professing members of local churches in the annual conference.

The board membership shall include women and ethnic persons, at least one ordained clergy person in the retired relationship, at least one ordained clergy in extension ministry, and



when possible at least one young adult clergy person in full connection aged 35 or younger, and a district superintendent named by the bishop to represent the cabinet.

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Two thirds of the board members who are elders should be graduates of seminaries listed by the University Senate.

The chair of the Order of Deacons, the chair of the Order of Elders, and the chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members shall be members of the BOM and its executive committee.

How Long Can Someone Serve on the Board?

Board members may serve a maximum of three consecutive four-year terms.

What are the subcommittees of the TN Conference BOM and what are their functions?

Conference Relations Committee: this committee shall be made up of at least three persons. This committee may be asked to hear requests for discontinuance of provisional members, involuntary leaves of absence, administrative location, involuntary retirements, OR any other such matters as may be referred to them by the board of ordained ministry. Note: District superintendents shall not serve on the Conference Relations Committee.

Finance Committee: this committee oversees the Board of Ordained Ministry and Office of Ministerial Concerns budget, Ministerial Education Funds, Board of Ordained Ministry investments, and Course of Study allotments. This is a large task; our current budget is around \$300,000 each year and our current Ministerial Education fund loans are several hundreds of thousands of dollars with each annual request averaging about \$50,000. We currently have about \$750,000 in investments. Course of Study scholarships also average about \$40,000.

Residency Process Team: this committee oversees the Residents in Ministry program of the Tennessee Conference, a mandate of the *Book of Discipline* that extends theological education with commissioned/provisional clergy members by using covenant groups and mentoring to support the practice and work of ministry while underscoring the covenant ministry in the life of the conference.

Orientation to Ministry: this committee oversees the Orientation to Ministry process required of all candidates for licensed and ordained ministry. This process is designed to build collegiality and understanding among the varieties of set-apart ministry.

Executive Committee: this committee is composed of the Board of Ordained Ministry chairperson, chairpersons of the orders of deacons, elders, committee chairpersons, and a cabinet representative. This committee addresses administrative matters in between Board of Ordained Ministry meetings.