

The New South Conference of the Free Methodist Church is committed to developing a new generation of Christ-like leaders to lead His Church.

Theological training, cohort-based spiritual formation, leadership training and hands-on experiences are all part of the CMC journey.

Your Ordination Resources Team:

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*A Workbook for
Conference
Ministerial
Candidates*

*in the New South Conference
of the Free Methodist Church*

*Preparing candidates for ordained ministry in the
New South Conference of the Free Methodist Church
is a process of:*

HEAD
(Theology & Knowledge)

HEART
(Spiritual Formation)

HANDS
(Experiential)

Dear Conference Ministerial Candidate:

Welcome to your CMC journey!

Some of you come to this journey with significant education and ministry experience. Others come with a new sense of call but little training. Wherever you are on this ministry journey, we walk it with you.

Over the next few years, we will continue to help you discern and define your calling. We want to see you prepared for your call, theologically, practically, and personally. Our hope is that this is simply the beginning of a life-long process of learning and growing, as you become more like Jesus, and become more skilled in the practical aspects of ministry.

This workbook will help you keep track of your growth. But your CMC journey is more than a workbook or checklist. It is a journey in community with others in Genesis. When you have a question or need some help, reach out to one of your mentors. We pray and journey with you!

Daryl Diddle

Interim Superintendent, New South Conference, FMCusa

Contained in this workbook:

Section 1: Head

Section 2: Heart

Section 3: Hands

Section 4: Mental Health Assessment

Please note: These are not chronological. All sections should be worked on throughout your CMC process.

Section 1: Head

Head

You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.

- Jesus, Mt. 22:29 (NIV)

We want all of our clergy to be people who know, understand, love, and follow the Scriptures. We expect those being ordained to be able to explain and interpret them intelligently, holistically, and in a manner consistent with our Wesleyan-Holiness theology.

People called to ministry are to be “people of the Word.” Scripture is where we turn to dive into our life with God, to lead and teach others, to help them find new life and transformation in Christ. During this CMC journey, dive in to gain knowledge of the Scriptures... also

dive in to the pages of the Bible for your soul to be fed in your personal relationship with Christ. Be stretched as you submit to the Word as you study and read.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” - 2 Timothy 2:15 NIV

The academic courses we require before ordination are a start. We trust that these courses will launch or continue a thirst for handling well the Word of God.

Theology & Bible classes minimally required:

Section 2: Heart

***New Testament Survey**

Date & location completed: _____

***Old Testament Survey**

Date & location completed: _____

***Free Methodist History and Polity**

Date & location completed: _____

***Wesleyan Theology**

Date & location completed: _____

Courses can be completed at accredited seminaries and universities that share our theological perspectives. If you have questions regarding course qualification, please ask the superintendent before you sign up.

Additional Coursework needed (from MEG/ MEG mentor):

Heart

*For physical training is of some value,
but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present
life and the life to come. - Paul to Timothy, 1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV)*

Healthy ministry requires spiritual formation that leads to a deepening of relationship between you and God and you and others. We believe this is best done in community.

Because of this, New South hosts CMC Cohorts, and also has CMCs create and follow formation plans.

CMCs will meet on a regular basis with:

- The CMC mentor leader and a cohort of other CMCs (monthly video conferencing)
- A local mentor (usually lead pastor)
- Annually: meet w/ Conference Superintendent.
- Annually: interview with the MEG board.

My CMC mentor is:

My local mentor is:

Our meeting day / time is:

Meetings with the Superintendent:

Year 1, date:

Year 2, date:

Year 3, date:

Year 4, date:

Year 5, date:

Year 6, date:

CMC Annual Interview with the MEG board:

*Please ask your local mentor / pastor to send a reference note or call the Superintendent with a **reference** update on how you are progressing.*

Year 1, date:

Year 2, date:

Year 3, date:

Year 4, date:

Year 5, date:

Year 6, date:

_____ Ordination Interview (request interview by September 30th of the conference year you desire ordination):

Spiritual Practices:

There are many spiritual practices that grow our souls deeper into the heart of God. For those in ministry these practices are vital. Our desire is for all CMCs to experience these disciplines so that they become life-long practices for spiritual health and growth.

Each year, choose three to learn about and practice. In three years' time, you should cover nine.

Inward:

- _____ Prayer
- _____ Fasting
- _____ Meditation on Scripture
- _____ Study of Scripture

Outward:

- _____ Simplicity
- _____ Solitude
- _____ Submission
- _____ Service

Corporate:

- _____ Confession (to others)
- _____ Worship
- _____ Celebration (Cultivating Gratitude)*

**From Richard Foster's book Celebration of Discipline*

Need to learn more about spiritual practices or healthy life rhythms? Check out these resources:

Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to a Culture of Now (Brueggeman)
 The Rest of God: Restoring Your Soul by Restoring Sabbath (Buchanan)
 The Sense of the Call: A Sabbath Way of Life for Those Who Serve God, the Church, and the World (Dawn)

Personal & Relational Health:

Do you have healthy, honest friendships? Are they growing in depth, love, honesty?

*If married, is your relationship with your spouse growing closer?
Are you both growing in your walk with the Lord?*

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness and self-control.”*

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

*Are you becoming more loving? Joyful? Peace-filled? Patient?
Kind? Good? Faithful? Gentle? Self-controlled? Would those
closest to you agree?*

Section 3: Hands

Hands

Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. - Joshua 1:6

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. - Jesus, in Mark 10:43-35 (NIV)

Hands-on practical training and experience is vital in ministry preparation. CMCs are trained in the practical areas of ministry through:

- *Experience Leadership* – CMCs will join New South Pastors for leadership coaching and training.
- *Practice Leadership* - part of each CMCs journey is to lead something in the church with the oversight of a mentor/coach.
- *Preaching Leadership* - While we recognize that not all ordained ministry requires preaching, we want to ensure that all are prepared in a hands-on, practical manner. Preaching opportunities will be given to CMCs as they progress in their studies.
- *Practical Leadership* - Additional training or practical experience is required to move the CMC towards competency in:
 - *Pastoral Care / Dealing with Crisis
 - *Church Admin / Conflict - Resolution
 - *Evangelism / Outreach / Church Planting
 - *Ministerial Ethics / Ministry to those unlike me
 - *Pastoral Self-Care / Spiritual Practices
 - *Preaching Practicum

Fruitful ministry in these areas may be substituted for the training.

Leadership Processing

My take-aways from Experience:

My take-aways from Practice:

My take-aways from Preaching:

My take-aways from Practical:

Leadership Experiences:

Each year, your leadership capacity should be growing. Below list your primary leadership responsibilities for each year you are a CMC:

Leadership Responsibilities

Reflection

Journal on these questions:

Year 1:

- *What have I learned about myself through these?
- *What have I learned about God through these?

Year 2:

- *What have I learned about myself through these?
- *What have I learned about God through these?

Year 3:

- *What have I learned about myself through these?
- *What have I learned about God through these?

Year 4:

- *What have I learned about myself through these?
- *What have I learned about God through these?

Year 5:

- *What have I learned about myself through these?
- *What have I learned about God through these?

For each of these opportunities, who are the people giving you honest feedback? What are they telling you are your servant-leadership strengths? Weaknesses?

Preaching Experiences:

While we recognize that not all ordained ministry requires preaching, we want to ensure that all are prepared in a hands-on, practical manner. Each year, each CMC needs to make two preaching videos (cell-phone quality, nothing fancy,) preaching for 10 minutes (or more), in front of people (a gathered group of friends, youth, camp, class, or a church.) Videos will be evaluated by preaching coaches as well as at least two people who heard the message live. The CMC will also complete a self-evaluation.

Preaching Experience 1:

Title:

Scripture Passage:

The Big Idea:

Date and Location:

Evaluated by:

*

*

**Preaching coach:*

Preaching Experience 2:

Title:

Scripture Passage:

The Big Idea:

Date and Location:

Evaluated by:

*

*

**Preaching coach:*

Preaching Experience 3:

Title:

Scripture Passage:

The Big Idea:

Date and Location:

Evaluated by:

*

*

**Preaching coach:*

Preaching Experience 4:

Title:

Scripture Passage:

The Big Idea:

Date and Location:

Evaluated by:

*

*

**Preaching coach:*

Preaching Experience 5:

Title:

Scripture Passage:

The Big Idea:

Date and Location:

Evaluated by:

*

*

**Preaching coach:*

Preaching Experience 6:

Title:

Scripture Passage:

The Big Idea:

Date and Location:

Evaluated by:

*

*

**Preaching coach:*

Practical Training

(fruitful ministry experience can be substituted)

- Pastoral Care / Dealing with Crisis
- Church Admin / Conflict - Resolution
- Evangelism / Outreach / Church Planting
- Ministerial Ethics / Ministry to those unlike me
- Pastoral Self-Care / Spiritual Practices
- Preaching Practicum

Conference training will be offered.

Topics may include:

- Pastoral Care*
- Church Administration*
- Evangelism*
- Ministry to Those Unlike Me*
- Ministerial Ethics*
- Pastoral Self-care*
- Impactful Preaching*

Feel free to request certain topics that you need in order to feel prepared in each of these areas.

Practical Experiences

New to some of these? Build confidence through first watching someone else do this. Then help them. Then do it yourself while they observe and give feedback. Then go on your own.

Have you had the opportunity to...

Pastoral Care / Dealing with Crisis:

___ visit someone in the hospital?

___ talk to someone in crisis?

___ learn about mandated reporting? (When you should tell someone else about someone else's crisis and when you should keep it confidential).

Church Administration / Conflict Resolution:

___ run a board meeting?

___ deal with conflict in a healthy manner?

Evangelism / Outreach / Church Planting:

___ clearly explain the good news of Jesus and invite someone to become His followers?

___ regularly be interacting with those not-yet Christian in a manner that is redemptive?

Ministerial Ethics / Ministry to those unlike me:

___ are you aware of pastoral ethics in counseling? Working with children? Youth? Having healthy relationships with the opposite gender?

___ are you making the effort to bridge the gap and empower those who have less power than I do?

Section 4: Mental Health Assessment

During your journey toward ordination, a Strengthfinder Assessment will be required. This assessment assists you and us in learning your growth edges, so that we can help ensure long-term health for our pastors. The Conference office will connect you to our assessor. Some cost on your part may be involved.

Appointment date:

Assessor:

Personality profile(s):

Areas of strength:

Areas of growth:

Self-awareness

From the other required assessments:

My spiritual gifts are:

My leadership strength (APEST, from Ephesians --):

My strength (from the strength-finders) is:

Other personality profiles tell me I'm...

My Spiritual Formation Plan, year one,
Conference year:

HEAD: For this year, the courses I will complete are:

HEART: For this year:

My local mentor is:

We will meet:

In addition, the spiritual disciplines that I am focusing on this year
are:

HANDS:

The areas of practical ministry that I am focusing on this year are:

*What am I leading?

*How is it bearing fruit?

*Where am I preaching?

What will I do in each of these areas to grow?

*Pastoral Care

*Church Administration

*Evangelism

*Ministry to Those Unlike Me

*Ministerial Ethics

*Pastoral Self-care

*Impactful Preaching

This means this year I will...

My Spiritual Formation Plan, year two,
Conference year:

HEAD: For this year, the courses I will complete are:

HEART: For this year:

My local mentor is:

We will meet:

In addition, the spiritual disciplines that I am focusing on this year
are:

HANDS:

The areas of practical ministry that I am focusing on this year are:

*What am I leading?

*How is it bearing fruit?

*Where am I preaching?

What will I do in each of these areas to grow?

*Pastoral Care

*Church Administration

*Evangelism

*Ministry to Those Unlike Me

*Ministerial Ethics

*Pastoral Self-care

*Impactful Preaching

This means this year I will...

My Spiritual Formation Plan, year three,
Conference year:

HEAD: For this year, the courses I will complete are:

HEART: For this year:

My local mentor is:

We will meet:

In addition, the spiritual disciplines that I am focusing on this year
are:

HANDS:

The areas of practical ministry that I am focusing on this year are:

*What am I leading?

*How is it bearing fruit?

*Where am I preaching?

What will I do in each of these areas to grow?

*Pastoral Care

*Church Administration

*Evangelism

*Ministry to Those Unlike Me

*Ministerial Ethics

*Pastoral Self-care

*Impactful Preaching

This means this year I will...

My Spiritual Formation Plan, year four,
Conference year:

HEAD: For this year, the courses I will complete are:

HEART: For this year:

My local mentor is:

We will meet:

In addition, the spiritual disciplines that I am focusing on this year
are:

HANDS:

The areas of practical ministry that I am focusing on this year are:

*What am I leading?

*How is it bearing fruit?

*Where am I preaching?

What will I do in each of these areas to grow?

*Pastoral Care

*Church Administration

*Evangelism

*Ministry to Those Unlike Me

*Ministerial Ethics

*Pastoral Self-care

*Impactful Preaching

This means this year I will...

CMC Courses & Training	Credits required			
<i>Theology Coursework: Head</i>				
Coursework by generic title:		FMCusa Correspondence/Online	Asbury Theological Seminary (ATS)	
<i>FM History & Polity - required as an LMC</i>	3			
Wesleyan Theology	3	Wesleyan Theology - 3	TH601 Theology of John Wesley	
Bible Survey	3	Systematic Survey - 3	BT501 Biblical Narrative	
Exegesis (Understanding Original Text Meaning)	3	Inductive Bible Study - 2 Intro to Christian Doctrine -2	NT 610 NT Exegsis	
Hermeneutics (Applying Scripture to Today)	3	Contemporary theology -2	OT or NT520 OT or NT Introduction	
Old Testament Course. Possibilities: Course in a specific OT book, genre, background	3	Old Testament Survey -3	Any OT course of 3 or more credits	
Old Testament Course. Possibilities: Course in a specific NT book, genre, background	3	New Testament Survey -3	Any NT course of 3 or more credits	
<i>Practical Training: Hands</i>				
	<i>While courses are listed, competency rather than credit is required</i>	FMCUSA courses	ATS courses	
Competency in:		<i>Note: Courses are NOT required, but competency is, and coursework can move you towards competency..</i>		
Leadership		Leadership -2	CL605 Christian leadership	
Preaching		Homiletics -3	PR610 Theology / Practice Preaching	
Pastoral Care / Dealing with Crisis		Pastoral Care -2, Dealing w/ Crisis - 2	PC510 Care of Persons	
Church Admin / Conflict - Resolution		Church Administration -2	CD501 Vocational Ministry	
Evangelism / Outreach / Church Planting		Church Growth -2	MS501 Missional Formation	
Ministerial Ethics / Ministry to those unlike me			CS601 Christian Ethics	
<i>Spiritual, Emotional, Character Formation: Heart</i>			ATS courses	In New South...
Spiritual Formation			SF502 Spiritual Life of Leaders	-monthly group w/ mentor
Pastoral Self-Care / Spiritual Practices			CD502 Practical Theology	Life rhythm studies

