

Greetings from the Trinity Conference of the Global Methodist Church!

“Where He leads me, I will follow.” All disciples of Jesus Christ are called into ministry, but you are here because you feel that God might be calling you into a specific form of ministry – pastoral ministry. We, as the people of the Global Methodist Church, believe in the importance of helping people discern and answer their call through the gift of a community of believers. The Candidacy Team of the Trinity Conference is here to help you discern and answer your call into ministry. The call into pastoral ministry is a journey that we believe needs ample time and communal support to be discerned and answered appropriately.

The first stage of your journey is meant to help you articulate your call from God and to share your call with leaders from your church. During this stage, please review the *Candidacy Guidebook* with your pastor or, if needed, another pastor from the Trinity Conference. To be honest, this is going to feel like “drinking from a firehose” at times because there is a lot of information provided in the *Guidebook* that is probably completely new to you. Please do not let this be a stumbling block in your journey. Instead, during this stage do your best to glean what you can from each section of the *Guidebook* and be sure to ask lots of questions with your pastor. Also, begin the process of discerning what type of pastoral ministry you may be called by God to undertake because there are multiple ways to serve out a calling as a pastor. At the end of this stage of your journey you will meet with leaders from your church who will help you determine if this is the right time to continue pursuing your call by becoming a Local Church Approved Candidate for ministry.

Once someone has become a Local Church Approved Candidate, they then begin to relate beyond their local church by connecting with the Trinity Conference. This begins a six-month stage of discernment in connection with a mentor, an internship supervisor, and other Local Church Approved candidates. Once again, we believe that answering your call takes time and communal support. This stage of your journey is meant to provide a space for you to continue discerning your call while in conversation with others who are also discerning their call from God. Your mentor and your mentoring small group will be there to support you and challenge you during this stage of your journey. Use this time to be intentional about growing into your calling with your fellow disciples. Please know that no matter where your call from God takes you, there are many others who are there to support you in your journey.

During the six-month discernment process, candidates are encouraged to commit to daily prayer, Scripture reading, and journaling. Once a week, (or once or twice a month if on a slower pace of discernment) we hope you will focus on calling in Old and New Testaments' lives. Below you will find a list of scripture readings to guide you. These can serve as a great topic of conversation with your pastor or mentor.

Old Testament

- **Week 1. Gen 12:1-9 *The Call of Abram:*** Leave your country and family.
- **Week. 2. Gen 37-50 *God orchestrates our lives to bring us to our calling: The Story of Joseph***
- **Week 3. Exo 3:1-12 *The Call of Moses:*** “I will be with you”

- **Week 4. 1 Kgs 19:16, 19-21 *The Call of Elisha:*** “‘Please let me kiss my father and mother goodbye and I will follow you’...then he left and followed Elijah.”
- **Week 5. Isa 6:1-13 *The Call of Isaiah:*** “‘Whom shall I send?...‘Here I am...send me!’”
- **Isa 42:6-7** “I have called you... I have grasped you by the hand... To open the eyes of the blind.”
- **Week 6. Jeremiah 1:1-10 *The call of Jeremiah:*** “Lord God, I know not how to speak. I am too young...’ ‘Say not I am too young... to whomever I send you, you shall go.’”
- **Jeremiah 20: 7-9 *Jeremiah’s crisis:*** “You duped me O Lord and I let myself be duped. You were too strong for me and you triumphed... It seemed like a fire burning in my heart.”
- **Jeremiah 29: 11-15** “I know well the plans I have in mind for you...to give you a future full of hope.”

- **New Testament**

- **Week. 7. Mt 4:18-22 or Mk 1:16-20 *Jesus Calls his first disciples:*** “Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.”
- **Week 8.. Lk 4:18** “The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and recovery of sight to the blind...”
- **Week 9. Acts 9:1-19 *The call of Saul.*** The Lord replied, “Go! This man is the agent I have chosen to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”
- **Week 10. Acts 13:1-4** Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called “the black man”), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. ²One day as these men were *worshipping* the Lord and *fasting*, the Holy Spirit said, “*Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.*” ³So after more *fasting* and *prayer*, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way. ⁴So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit.

We encourage every person sensing God calling in their lives to prioritize and focus on developing and maintaining these disciplines as their daily GPS, following John Wesley's wise advice:

“I want to know one thing, the way to heaven... Let me be homo unius libri (a man of one book) here, then, I am far from the busy ways of men. I sit down alone: Only God s here.. In his presence I open, I read his book; for this end. To find the way to heaven”
--John Wesley, Preface to Sermons on Several Occasions Vol. 1.

Our new movement (GMC) aims to train, raise and develop future leaders who will embody the values and principles outlined in one book - The Bible.

May God bless you on your journey,

The Candidacy Team