



Application for Ministry

The purpose of this document is to provide Conference Leadership, MEG board members, Ministerial Appointments Committee and a candidate's Credentialing Coach with background information necessary to help them become acquainted with you. This document will be used as a basis for mutual discussion and will become a part of your ministry portfolio. In the event that you transfer to another conference, these documents will be made available upon your request or the request of the respective conference.

Due to the variety in age and experience of persons applying, this questionnaire is intentionally broad in scope. Please be as accurate and candid as you can.

This application must be completed in one sitting.

* Required

LEGAL AGREEMENT

I hereby wish to be considered for ministry within the Free Methodist Church of North America (hereinafter "church"). I freely submit myself to the guidance, counsel and disciplines of the Southern Michigan Conference MEG Board and my coach/mentor. I fully understand and agree that the decision of the Southern Michigan Conference MEG / MAC Board regarding my suitability and readiness for ministry will involve questions and inquiries that are both personal and private. I hereby release the Free Methodist Church USA and the Southern Michigan Conference, my local church, agents and representatives from any claims, causes, or actions, which may arise for this inquiry.

Further, I grant permission to the Southern Michigan MEG Board to contact any person listed by me as a reference or any other person not so listed to discuss my suitability and readiness. I hereby agree to hold harmless any such reference person. I also waive my right to review completed reference forms or other communications from individuals submitting information used for my assessments.

I covenant with God, my coach/mentor, the bishop, the superintendent, and the Southern Michigan Conference MEG Board, to rely upon the grace of God to maintain Christian character and conduct; to be diligent and faithful in pursuing my call, and in preparing for ministry within the free Methodist Church USA.

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If this application leads to employment, I understand that false or misleading information in my application or interview may result in my release or failure to secure a ministry appointment.

1. By typing your complete name, you agree to the above statement. *

2. Date of applicant's signature *



Format: M/d/yyyy

PERSONAL HISTORY

3. First Name *

4. Middle Name *

5. Last Name *

6. Address *

7. Address 2

8. City/State/Zip *

9. Country *

10. Email Address *

11. Enter Phone in this format, xxx-xxx-xxxx *

12. Gender *

Male

Female

13. Birthdate *



Format: M/d/yyyy

14. Are you a U.S. citizen? *

Yes

No

15. What country are you a citizen of?

16. Do you have legal residence in the United States?

Yes

No

17. If you were given legal residence, when was it granted?



Format: M/d/yyyy

18. Are there any languages other than English in which you are fluent? If yes, list language(s).

19. Ordination Status *

Not Ordained

FM LMC

FM CMC

FM Elder

FM Consecrated Deacon

Ordained in another denomination

20. Are you interested in beginning the process of ordination in the FMC USA? *

Yes

No

21. Have you been approved as a Local Ministerial Candidate by your local governing board? *

Yes

No

22. How many years of vocational ministry do you have? If none, please enter "0". *

The value must be a number

MARITAL STATUS

23. What is your marital status? *

- Single
- Engaged
- Married
- Separated
- Divorced
- Widow(er)

24. List spouse/fiance's name and email address:

25. List date of marriage/wedding:



Format: M/d/yyyy

FAMILY INFORMATION

26. Minor dependent children living at home (give names and ages)

27. Other dependents (give names and ages)

28. Briefly describe your childhood and any significant issues. Provide information about any deaths of immediate family members and divorces, remarriages of parents. *

DIVORCE INFORMATION

29. List name of person with whom you've been divorced.

30. What was the date of your marriage?



Format: M/d/yyyy

31. What was the date your divorce was finalized?



Format: M/d/yyyy

32. Has your spouse been divorced?

Yes

No

33. If yes, list the name(s) of anyone your spouse has been married to in the past.

34. Give the date(s) of marriage of spouse's past marriage(s).

35. Give the date(s) of spouse's past divorce(s), and the reason for the divorce(s).

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

36. Share with us the story regarding how you came to follow Christ. *

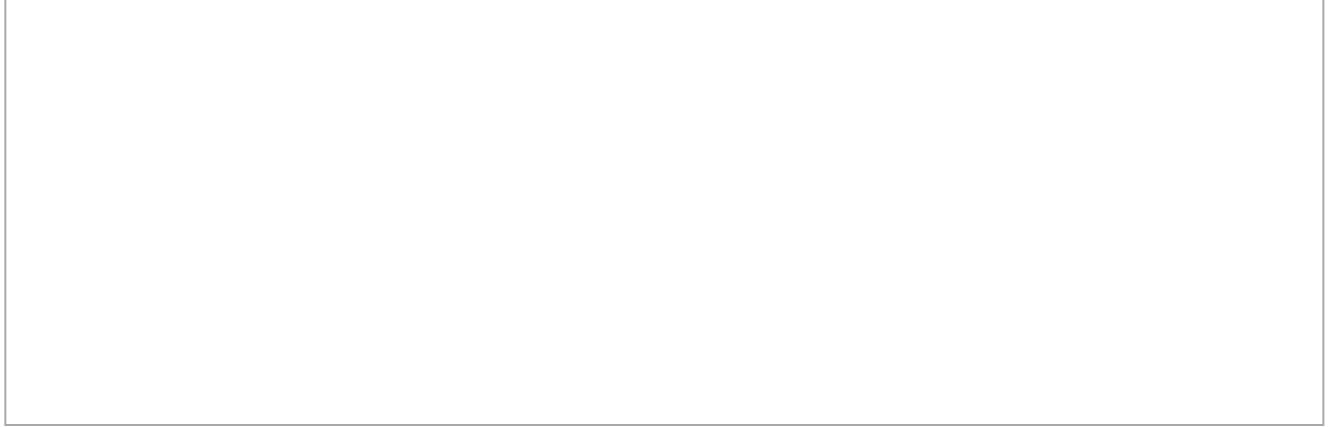
37. Describe the scope and extend of your church participation (worship, small groups, etc.). *

38. Share with us the story regarding how God called you into ministry. Explain if this call is a vocational calling or how your call aligns with a second profession. *

39. Share with us how you tend to your own spiritual growth and health. *

40. If married, describe how you and your spouse approach the pastoral role together.

41. What people are currently contributing to your spiritual growth (mentors, coaches, community group, etc.) and how? *



MINISTRY INTEREST

42. Are you interested in applying for a ministry appointment with the Southern Michigan Conference of the Free Methodist Church? *

- Yes
- No, I am a Local Ministerial Candidate

43. Why are you interested in applying for a ministry appointment with the SMC?

44. Are you interested in joining an existing local ministry or helping launch something new?

- Join existing ministry
- Launch something new
- Either

45. What experiences led you to see a career in ministry?

46. Who are the people you have talked to about your ministry plans and how have they influenced you?

47. To what type of ministry do you feel especially called (i.e. church planting, lead pastor, music, small groups, administrator, college youth, children's, missions, educator, camping, etc.)? Please describe how you envision service in this/these ministries.

48. Are you willing to be bi or co-vocational?

Yes

No

49. If you're interested in launching a new church, describe the type-model of church you're interested in launching?

50. If your work would be new, provide general locations where you're considering a new church.

51. Knowing your calling, gifts, interest and personal "comfort zones," in what settings do you feel you would be most effective: inner city, urban, suburban, small town, other? Please explain:

52. If you are applying for an existing job position, please provide what position (Church, role)?

53. Date available to begin new job:



Format: M/d/yyyy

PERSONAL LIFE & THEOLOGY - Part 1

54. Since coming to Christ, cite several ways in which you have grown in your faith. *

55. List three of your most important strengths and three of your growth areas. *

56. Provide a brief statement of your philosophy of worship. Describe your "approach" to worship, including the elements of worship that you prefer to include in a worship service. *

57. Describe your experience & philosophy of working with staff. *

58. Describe your conflict management style. *

59. Describe your schedule for a "typical" work week. *

60. What have been changes. in your thinking and perspective in the last year? *

PERSONAL LIFE & THEOLOGY - Part 2

61. What aspect of pastoral ministry is most fulfilling for you? *

62. What do you least like to do in ministry? *

63. Describe the three most significant initiatives you have personally led that have produced Kingdom fruit. *

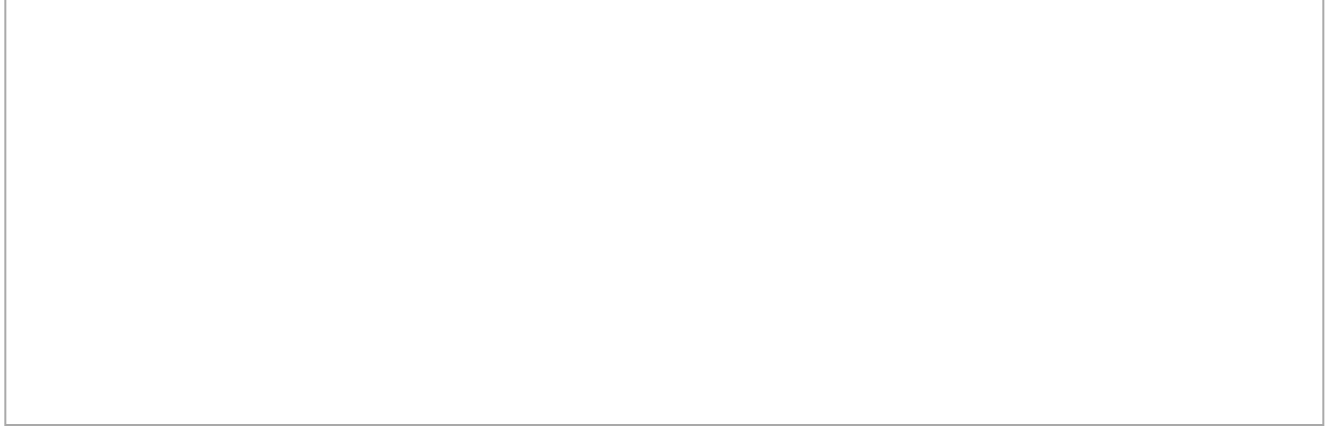
64. What kind of changes do you believe will be necessary for the church to effectively reach the rapidly changing North American culture? *

65. What books have you read in the past year and what impact did they have on your ministry? *

66. Describe recent examples where you have personally disciplined believers. *

67. Share the story of the last person you personally led to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

*

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their response to question 67.

LEGAL HISTORY

68. Have you ever been arrested, indicted or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony? *

Yes

No

69. If yes, please explain.

FINANCIAL HISTORY

70. As a part of the application process, we ask that you submit to a credit history check. Will you submit? *

Yes

No

71. Do you have any claim for bankruptcy in your history? *

Yes

No

72. If so, when was it claimed and how was it resolved?

73. What is your current level of indebtedness (excluding mortgage)? *

74. What would you like for us to know in relationship to this indebtedness?

75. What is your practice in relationship to tithing and how long has this been your practice? *

76. Additional comments about financial issues. *

PHYSICAL HEALTH

77. How would you describe your physical health? *

78. Please describe any health conditions you have that may impact you in ministry.

79. Understanding that traumatic experiences from the past shape us, are there any in your life of which we should be aware? *

FMC USA THEOLOGY

80. Understanding that Free Methodist Church is Wesleyan/Arminian in its theological perspective, please describe your comfort and embrace of Wesleyan Arminian theology.
*

81. Are there any aspects of the the Book of Discipline of the Free Methodist Church that are troubling for you? If so, what are they? *

FMC USA DISTINCTIVES

The FMC USA operates theologically with some distinctive understandings of faith and practice that are sometimes controversial. Please briefly respond to the following:

82. We believe that salvation is a gift of grace alone received by faith, in Christ Jesus alone. We also believe that the Holy Spirit may, also by grace through faith, sanctify a Christ-follower providing victory over sin and a life empowered to fully love God and neighbor.

*

Yes

No

I agree with some reservation

83. We believe that baptism, a core sacrament of the church, is not a means of salvation, but it is a means of grace that may be offered to children and infants in consecrated dedication by their parents, as well as the adult converts to faith in Jesus, *

Yes

No

I agree with some reservation

84. We believe that ordination to lead, preach and serve the church is based upon God's calling and gifting and not upon gender, consequently we do ordain women as pastors, and women can and do serve in significant leadership roles in the FMC USA. *

Yes

No

I agree with some reservation

85. We hold that marriage can only be the union of one man and one woman who have made a public covenant and vow before god and the state. Therefore, it would be a breach of the doctrine of our Church for ministers or members of the Free Methodist church to conduct, officiate, or assist in officiating, the marriage or union between a same or same-gender couple. therefore, ministers or members shall not officiate or assist in officiating marriages or unions of same-sex or same-gender couples. *

Yes

No

I agree with some reservation

86. We believe that racism represents a particularly egregious affront to the dignity and worth of persons and its presence is manifest in the life, history and institutions of all nations. Slavery and genocide are grievous stains, warranting collective lament, repentance, and repair. Racial oppression in all its forms continues to exact harm throughout the world, distorting the dignity of persons and God's love for the great multitude of all nations. The Free Methodist Church was itself born out of a desire to stand against the evil of slavery and we continue to recognize the sin of racism and oppose it in all its forms. We do so with the following convictions:

- We commit to lament and repent for the ways that we have been complicit in or failed to recognize acts of racial oppression
- We commit to an attitude of ceaseless humility and self examination, recognizing the ease with which our own limitations can make us blind to the experiences and interests of others. We shall seek to identify, confess, and redeem thoughts, attitudes, or behaviors that manifest discrimination against a person on the basis of race, ethnicity, or any other distinction between social groups that we create or enforce.
- Because systemic racism – the way in which human institutions or structures can both actively and passively preserve patterns of discrimination and exclusion – is less perceptible, but no less harmful than overt, individual racist acts, we commit, not just to avoid or sanction individual prejudicial attitudes and actions, but seek to redeem processes, systems and institutions that continue to perpetuate injustice on the basis of race or ethnicity.
- Therefore, in our own churches and denomination we commit ourselves to model the racial redemption and reconciliation we hope to see in the world, proclaiming the transformative victory of Jesus Christ into places of great brokenness, looking forward to the day when all people gather before the throne of God.

*

- Yes
- No
- I agree with some reservation

87. If you had any reservations in the above statements, please explain.

COMPENSATION

If you have been serving or have served in a vocational ministry role in the past, what was/is your compensation package in your last/current ministry?

88. Salary

89. Cash

90. Housing Allowance

91. Benefits

92. Social Security

93. Health Insurance

94. Dental Insurance

95. Life Insurance

96. Cash Bonus/gifts from church funds

97. Vacation Package (weeks)

98. Annuity/Other Retirement

99. Other

100. Expense Reimbursements

101. Auto

102. Continuing Education


103. Library: Books, Journals, Magazines

104. Hospitality

105. Other

Thank you for completing your Application for Ministry Appointment!

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