



**Ordained Elder**  
¶ 332

- ROLE/PLACEMENT:** Itinerant Clergy appointed to Local Church or Extension Ministry (Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service)
- CREDENTIALING:** Process begins with Certified Candidacy (¶ 310). Serve as Provisional Elder under Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) supervision (2-8 Years) until approved for Full Connection & Ordination (Order of Elders)
- EDUCATION:** M.Div. Seminary Degree (or alternate path)

**Ordained Deacon**  
¶ 328

- ROLE/PLACEMENT:** Appointment initiated by the Deacon or the Bishop. Non-Itinerant Clergy appointed to congregation or beyond the local church (Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice)
- CREDENTIALING:** Process begins with Certified Candidacy (¶ 310). Serve as Provisional Deacon under BOM supervision (2-8 Years) until approved for Full Connection & Ordination (Order of Deacons)
- EDUCATION:** M.Div. or approved Masters Seminary Degree (or alternate path of specialized Masters and graduate theological education)

**Licensed Local Pastor**  
¶ 315-320

- ROLE/PLACEMENT:** Appointed to Local Church, but need not make themselves available as itinerant ministers. May be appointed Full-Time or Part-Time
- CREDENTIALING:** Process begins with Certified Candidacy (¶ 310). Local pastors are not ordained but are licensed to preach, preside over sacraments, and perform the duties of a pastor in a particular setting. Relates to District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM). May seek Associate Membership through the BOM (¶ 321-322).
- EDUCATION:** After Licensing School at Mount Eagle, and concurrent to service in a local church, Full Time LP's attend 5 year Course of Study at a seminary (usually totals 4 weeks a year). Part Time LPs may attend a COSS Extension School, such as the Arkansas COSS at Hendrix College. Some LP's serve in an appointment with an M.Div., or while attending seminary.

**Lay Supply Preachers**

- ROLE/PLACEMENT:** Assigned to preach and serve at a smaller congregation. Arrangements are made with the district office for sacraments to be celebrated with an ordained elder.
- CREDENTIALING:** Recommended by pastors and the Lay Servant Ministry Committee. Following background checks, online training on ethics & boundaries, and interviews with the District Superintendent. and the dCOM, Lay Supply Preachers are assigned to a congregation.
- EDUCATION:** Lay Supply Preachers usually are Certified Lay Servants or Certified Lay Speakers ¶ 266

**Transfer from Another Denomination ¶ 347**

- ROLE/PLACEMENT:** Appointed to serve a congregation as pastor under approved credentials from another denomination.
- CREDENTIALING:** Ministers seeking transfer into UM ministry from another denomination shall not join a local UMC, but shall arrange to have the BOM evaluate their credentials and educational record to determine if they are eligible for transfer into provisional membership with recognition of orders, or received as a local pastor
- EDUCATION:** All ministers serving in Arkansas under approved credentials from another denomination shall complete the Arkansas License School before being appointed.

*This listing is for convenience and comparison. Please see the current United Methodist Discipline and the Arkansas Conference Journal for requirements.*