

Ministry of Ecclesiastical Endorsement

Book of Discipline Excerpts (Primary Source Compilation)

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May 2026

Ministry of Ecclesiastical Endorsement

Excerpts from The Book of Discipline of The Methodist Church and The United Methodist Church 1964–2024

Reference Compilation

This document presents verbatim excerpts from successive editions of The Book of Discipline related to chaplaincy, ecclesiastical endorsement, extension ministry, and related organizational structures from 1964 through 2024.

The excerpts are arranged chronologically to provide historical continuity and to illustrate the evolving disciplinary location, language, structure, and institutional treatment of endorsement ministry within The Methodist Church and The United Methodist Church.

Formatting has been standardized for readability and consistency. Paragraph text has been rendered verbatim from the cited editions except for spacing and layout adjustments.

Included editions reflect major organizational and disciplinary transitions:

- **1964–1968:** Commission structure
- **1972–1992:** Division structure
- **1996–2000:** Section structure
- **2004–2016:** Integration within the Division of Ordained Ministry
- **2020/2024:** Current GBHEM responsibility statements

1964 – Commission on Chaplains (¶ 1572)

¶ 1572. 1. There shall be a Commission on Chaplains, which shall represent The Methodist Church in the recruitment, endorsement, and general oversight of all Methodist ministers serving as chaplains in the Armed Forces, Veterans Administration, and other federal agencies; in industry; and in state and local public and private institutions, other than those of The Methodist Church. The commission shall render such other services to these chaplains as may be referred to it by the Council of Bishops.

2. The commission shall be composed of six bishops one from each jurisdiction, and five ministers and five laymen, elected by the General Conference on nomination of the Council of Bishops. Vacancies shall be filled by the Council of Bishops. A member bishop shall serve as chairman. The commission may elect advisory members, without vote, one from each department of the Armed Forces, from the Veterans Administration, and from other fields where Methodist chaplains are serving.

3. The commission is authorized to receive and disburse such share of the Fellowship of Suffering and Service offering as may be determined by the General Conference and such other funds and special gifts as are specifically given to the Commission on Chaplains.

1968 – Commission on Chaplains and Related Ministries (§ 1389)

¶ 1389. 1. There shall be a Commission on Chaplains and Related Ministries, which shall represent The United Methodist Church:

a) In the recruitment, endorsement, and general oversight of all United Methodist ministers serving as chaplains in the Armed Forces and federal agencies; in industry; in state and local, public and private institutions; and of directors of Christian education at military bases. Chaplains serving in similar institutions of The United Methodist Church may be included in the program at their request when they have met the qualifications required by the commission. The commission shall render such other services to those chaplains and their constituencies as may be referred to it by the Council of Bishops.

b) In planning and implementing the ministry of the Church to its lay people who are in the military service and in institutions. It shall work in cooperation with the General Board of Evangelism and with the various agencies of the Church in preparing materials, planning programs, and otherwise providing a continuing ministry to these persons. It shall work with the local church in helping it to fulfill its responsibility of keeping in touch with its people who are away from home. It shall continue the responsibilities formerly delegated to the Commission on Camp Activities of The Methodist Church and the Committee on Defense Communities of The Evangelical United Brethren Church.

2. The commission shall be composed of six bishops, one from each jurisdiction and one at large, and five ministers and five laymen, elected by the General Conference on nomination of the Council of Bishops. Vacancies shall be filled by the Council of Bishops. The commission shall elect not more than five representative chaplains as members for a two-year term. A member bishop shall serve as chairman.

3. The commission is authorized to receive and distribute such share of the Fellowship of Suffering and Service offering as may be determined by the General Conference, and such other funds and special gifts as are or have been specifically given to the Commission on Chaplains.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- Scope expanded beyond chaplain endorsement to include 'related ministries'
- Added programmatic responsibilities related to ministry with laity in institutional settings
- Increased descriptive detail regarding functions and inter-agency cooperation
- Board composition adjusted to include additional representative chaplains

1972 – Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries (¶¶ 1234–1238)

¶ 1234. There shall be a Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The location of the division shall be determined by the Council on Ministries in consultation with the board.

¶ 1235. The Division of Chaplains shall represent The United Methodist Church: (a) in the recruitment, endorsement, and general oversight of all United Methodist ministers serving as chaplains in the U.S. armed forces and federal agencies; (b) in the recruitment, endorsement, and general oversight of all United Methodist ministers serving as chaplains in industry; in state and local, public and private institutions who have been endorsed by the division at their own request, or at the request of the institution in which they serve. Chaplains in similar institutions of The United Methodist Church may be included in the program at their own request when they have met the qualifications required by the division. The division shall render such other services to these chaplains and their constituencies as may be referred to it by the Council of Bishops; (c) in planning and implementing the ministry of the Church to its lay people who are in the military service and institutions. It shall work in cooperation with the Board of Discipleship and with other agencies of the Church in preparing materials, planning programs, and otherwise providing a continuing ministry to these persons. It shall work with the local church in helping it to fulfill its responsibility of keeping in touch with its people who are away from home.

¶ 1236. The division shall be composed of bishops, ministers, and lay persons in accord with ¶¶ 803-804. The division shall elect not more than five representative chaplains as members who may serve a maximum of four years.

¶ 1237. The division is authorized to receive and distribute such share of the World Communion Offering as may be determined by the General Conference, and such other funds and special gifts as are or have been specifically given to the Division on Chaplains and Related Ministries.

¶ 1238. The division shall cooperate with the Council of Bishops in assisting chaplains to maintain their relationships with Annual Conferences.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- Structural relocation from a standing commission to a division within a general agency (GBHEM)
- Governance shifted from General Conference–established body linked to the Council of Bishops to program unit within board structure
- Authority and oversight located within agency framework rather than commission structure
- Continuation of prior functional responsibilities within new organizational location

1976 – Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries (¶¶ 1607–1609)

¶ 1607. There shall be a Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

¶ 1608. The Division of Chaplains shall represent The United Methodist Church:

1. In the recruitment, endorsement, and general oversight of all United Methodist ministers who desire to serve, or who are serving, as chaplains in the U.S. armed forces and federal agencies; in industry; in state and local, public, and private institutions. Chaplains in similar institutions of The United Methodist Church may be included in the program at their own request when they have met the qualifications required by the division.

2. In planning and implementing the ministry of the Church to its lay people who are in the military service and institutions. It shall work in cooperation with the Board of Discipleship and with other agencies of the Church in preparing materials, planning programs, and otherwise providing a continuing ministry to these persons. It shall work with the local church in helping it to fulfill its responsibility of keeping in touch with its people who are away from home.

¶ 1609. The division is authorized to receive such share of the World Communion Offering as may be determined by the General Conference, and such other funds as may be allocated by the board. Also the division shall receive and distribute other funds and special gifts as have been or shall be given specifically to the division.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- Division structure within GBHEM retained
- Language simplified and consolidated
- Functional responsibilities largely continued without major structural revision
- Relationship to broader board structure normalized

1980 – Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries (§§ 1609–1610)

§ 1609. There shall be a Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

§ 1610. The Division of Chaplains shall represent The United Methodist Church.

1. All persons have the right to receive the full ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church is aware of its responsibility to provide adequate professional ministry to persons in special situations beyond the local church. In order to assure high standards of competency, the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries shall have responsibility for clergy in extension ministries (§ 439.1b), such as: chaplaincy in the armed forces, Veterans Administration, industry, correctional institutions, health care fields, and those other related ministries which conference Boards of Ordained Ministry and bishops may designate. Clergy to be appointed to any of the above extension ministries shall receive ecclesiastical endorsement through the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries.

2. Duties. – a) Recruitment.- The division, in cooperation with other units of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and other agencies of the Church, shall recruit persons for ministry in the above categories through contacts in college, seminary, post graduate, national professional societies and also with the structure of the local church and boards and agencies of the Annual Conferences.

b) Interpretation.-The division is charged with the responsibility to interpret to the Church at large the need to have adequately trained clergy to staff hospitals, homes, corrections, industry, the armed forces, and counseling centers.

c) Endorsement.-In order to assure high standards of competency for ministers serving in extension ministries, all United Methodist ministers appointed in the above categories shall receive endorsement from the division prior to such appointment. However, provisional endorsement can be granted for appointment purposes to institutions related to an Annual Conference. Specific requirements of various ministries, requiring professional certification, where applicable, shall be met prior to endorsement and appointment. The division, through the evaluation of readiness of the candidate for endorsement, shall facilitate the entry of clergy into these ministries.

d) General Oversight.-The division shall provide general oversight for all those under endorsement, particularly for those serving outside the bounds of their Annual Conferences. The division shall assure conference Boards of Ordained Ministry of the validity of ministry and quality of performance of clergy serving under its endorsement.

e) Annual Recommendation.-The division shall verify annually to bishops and conference Boards of Ordained Ministry those clergy under its endorsement and request their reappointment.

f) Advocacy.-The division shall serve as an advocate for persons serving in extension ministries

under its endorsement. Such advocacy may include: representing their interests within the nonchurch institutional systems where they serve; representing their interests within the connectional system of The United Methodist Church in conferences and boards and agencies; being in dialogue with the various professional and certifying agencies; helping to facilitate, as an agent on their behalf, the transition into or out of extension ministries; and giving attention to the needs for continuing education for those under endorsement.

3. Overseas Laity.-The division shall assist in providing a ministry to United Methodist laity in or associated with the armed forces stationed in overseas locations. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry through the division shall cooperate with the General Board of Discipleship, General Board of Global Ministries, and other agencies of the Church in preparing materials, planning programs, and providing a continuing ministry, such as: retreats, confirmation classes, and other pastoral functions.

¶ 1610. The division is authorized to receive such share of the World Communion offering as may be determined by the General Conference and such World Service funds as may be allocated by the board. Also, the division shall receive and distribute other funds and special gifts as have been or shall be given specifically to the division.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- Substantial expansion of descriptive and regulatory language
- Formal articulation of endorsement standards and competency requirements introduced
- Distinct administrative functions separately enumerated
- Programmatic and procedural dimensions significantly expanded
- Relationship between endorsement and extension ministry more explicitly systematized

1984 – Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries (¶¶ 1510–1512)

DIVISION OF CHAPLAINS AND RELATED MINISTRIES

¶ 1510. There shall be a Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

¶ 1511. The Division of Chaplains shall represent The United Methodist Church.

1. All persons have the right to receive the full ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church is aware of its responsibility to provide adequate professional ministry to persons in special situations beyond the local church. In order to assure high standards of competency, the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries shall have responsibility for clergy in appointments beyond the local church (¶443.1b), such as: chaplaincy in the armed forces, Veterans Administration, industry, correctional institutions, health care fields, community service organizations, and those other related ministries which conference Boards of Ordained Ministry and bishops may designate. Clergy to be appointed to any of the above appointments beyond the local church shall receive ecclesiastical endorsement through the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries.

2. Duties. – a) Recruitment.- The division, in cooperation with other units of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and other agencies of the Church, shall recruit persons for ministry in the above categories through contacts in college, seminary, post graduate, national professional societies and also with the structure of the local church and boards and agencies of the Annual Conferences.

b) Interpretation.-The division is charged with the responsibility to interpret to the Church at large the need to have adequately trained clergy to staff hospitals, homes, corrections, industry, the armed forces, and counseling centers.

c) Endorsement.-All United Methodist ministers appointed in the above categories shall receive endorsement from the division prior to such appointment. Endorsement is affirmation that a person is performing a valid ministry of The United Methodist Church and has presented evidence of having the special training and skills necessary to perform that ministry. Provisional endorsement can be granted for appointment purposes to institutions related to an Annual Conference. Specific requirements of various ministries, requiring professional certification, shall be met prior to endorsement and appointment. The division, through the evaluation of readiness of the candidate for endorsement, shall facilitate the entry of clergy into these specialized ministry settings. The Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries shall have the authority to adopt rules of procedure for removal of endorsement, after appropriate recommendations, providing that the rights of appeal shall be adequately safeguarded. An endorsing committee, made up of ordained members of the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries, and chaired by a bishop, shall represent The United Methodist Church in all endorsing procedures.

d) General Oversight.-The division shall provide general oversight for all those under endorsement, particularly for those serving outside the bounds of their Annual Conferences. The division shall assure conference Boards of Ordained Ministry of the validity of ministry and quality of performance of clergy serving under its endorsement.

e) Annual Recommendation.-The division shall verify annually to bishops and conference Boards of Ordained Ministry those clergy under its endorsement and request their reappointment.

f) Advocacy.-The division shall serve as an advocate for persons serving in extension ministries under its endorsement. Such advocacy may include: representing their interests within the nonchurch institutional systems where they serve; representing their interests within the connectional system of The United Methodist Church in conferences and boards and agencies; being in dialogue with the various professional and certifying agencies; helping to facilitate, as an agent on their behalf, the transition into or out of extension ministries; and giving attention to the needs for continuing education for those under endorsement.

3. Overseas Laity.-The division shall assist in providing a ministry to United Methodist laity in or associated with the armed forces stationed in overseas locations. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry through the division shall cooperate with the General Board of Discipleship, General Board of Global Ministries, and other agencies of the Church in preparing materials, planning programs, and providing a continuing ministry, such as: retreats, confirmation classes, and other pastoral functions.

¶ 1512. The division is authorized to receive such share of the World Communion offering as may be determined by the General Conference and such World Service funds as may be allocated by the board. Also, the division shall receive and distribute other funds and special gifts as have been or shall be given specifically to the division.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- “Appointments beyond the local church” language replaces “extension ministries” language
- Endorsement is defined as affirmation of valid ministry
- Provisional endorsement is introduced
- Removal-of-endorsement procedures and appeal rights are added
- Endorsing committee chaired by a bishop is specified

1988 – Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries (¶¶ 1510–1512)

1. DIVISION OF CHAPLAINS AND RELATED MINISTRIES

¶ 1510. There shall be a Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

¶ 1511. The Division of Chaplains shall represent The United Methodist Church.

1. All persons have the right to receive the full ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church is aware of its responsibility to provide adequate professional ministry to persons in special situations beyond the local church which calls for an ecumenical ministry to persons of different denominations and faith groups. In order to assure high standards of competency, the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries shall have responsibility for clergy in appointments beyond the local church (¶443.1b), such as: chaplaincy in the armed forces, Veterans Administration, industry, health care fields, pastoral counseling, correctional institutions, community service organizations, and those other related ministries which conference Boards of Ordained Ministry and bishops may designate. Clergy to be appointed to any of the above appointments beyond the local church shall receive ecclesiastical endorsement through the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries.

2. Duties. – a) Recruitment.- The division, in cooperation with other units of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and other agencies of the Church, shall recruit persons for ministry in the above categories through contacts in college, seminary, post graduate, national professional societies and also with the structure of the local church and boards and agencies of the Annual Conferences.

b) Interpretation.- The division is charged with the responsibility to interpret to the Church at large the need to have adequately trained clergy to staff health care settings, homes, correctional settings, industry, the armed forces, and counseling centers. The division will also interpret to its constituents the ongoing concerns of the denomination.

c) Endorsement.- All United Methodist ministers appointed in the above categories shall receive endorsement from the division prior to such appointment. Endorsement is affirmation that a person is performing a valid ministry of The United Methodist Church and has presented evidence of having the special training and skills necessary to perform that ministry. Specific requirements of various ministries, requiring professional certification, shall be met prior to endorsement and appointment. When dictated by unique circumstances, provisional endorsement may be granted by the endorsing committee for appointment purposes. Provisional endorsement is a temporary status that implies verifiable, ongoing movement towards full endorsement and must be authorized annually by the endorsing committee. The division, through the evaluation of readiness of the candidate for endorsement, shall facilitate the entry of clergy into these specialized ministry settings. The Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries shall have the authority to adopt rules of procedure for removal of endorsement, after appropriate recommendations, providing that the rights of appeal shall be adequately safeguarded. An endorsing committee, made up of ordained members of the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries, and chaired by a bishop, shall represent The United Methodist Church in all endorsing

procedures.

d) General Oversight.- The division shall provide general oversight for all those under endorsement, particularly for those serving outside the bounds of their Annual Conferences. The division shall assure conference Boards of Ordained Ministry of the validity of ministry and quality of performance of clergy serving under its endorsement.

e) Annual Recommendation.-The division shall verify annually to bishops and conference Boards of Ordained Ministry those clergy under its endorsement and request their reappointment.

f) Advocacy.-The division shall serve as an advocate for persons serving in extension ministries under its endorsement. Such advocacy may include: representing their interests within the nonchurch institutional systems where they serve; representing their interests within the connectional system of The United Methodist Church in conferences and boards and agencies; being in dialogue with the various professional and certifying agencies; helping to facilitate, as an agent on their behalf, the transition into or out of extension ministries; and giving attention to the needs for continuing education for those under endorsement.

3. Laity Outside the United States.-The division shall assist in providing a ministry to United Methodist laity in or associated with the armed forces stationed in locations outside the United States. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry through the division shall cooperate with the General Board of Discipleship, General Board of Global Ministries, and other agencies of the Church in preparing materials, planning programs, and providing a continuing ministry, that includes such activities as retreats, confirmation classes, and other pastoral functions. Basic to all such ministry will be involvement in the life of the local United Methodist community and existing ecumenical and interreligious programs. These shall take into account the language and cultural needs of the person involved.

¶ 1512. The division is authorized to receive such World Service funds as may be allocated for the support of its responsibilities. The division shall also receive and distribute other funds and special gifts as have been or shall be given specifically to the division.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- Ecumenical and interfaith context is added to the description of ministry settings
- Pastoral counseling is added among listed ministry fields
- Interpretation role expands to include ongoing denominational concerns
- Provisional endorsement is defined as temporary and requiring annual authorization
- Overseas laity section expands to include ecumenical, interreligious, language, and cultural considerations

1992 – Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries (¶¶ 1510–1512)

DIVISION OF CHAPLAINS AND RELATED MINISTRIES

¶ 1510. There shall be a Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

¶ 1511. The Division of Chaplains shall represent The United Methodist Church.

1. All persons have the right to receive the full ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church is aware of its responsibility to provide adequate professional ministry to persons in special situations beyond the local church which calls for an ecumenical ministry to persons of different denominations and faith groups. In order to assure high standards of competence and keep faith with ecumenical agreements concerning uniform standards for ministry in specialized settings, the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries shall have responsibility for clergy in such appointments beyond the local church (¶443.1b) as: federal and other governmental chaplaincies, health care ministry settings, pastoral counseling, industrial and community service ministries, and other related ministry settings which conference Boards of Ordained Ministry and bishops may designate. Clergy to be appointed to any of the above appointments beyond the local church shall receive ecclesiastical endorsement through the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries.

2. Duties. – a) Recruitment.- The division, in cooperation with other units of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and other agencies of the Church, shall recruit persons for ministry in the above categories through contacts in undergraduate and graduate schools, including theological schools, national professional societies and also within the structures of the local church and boards and agencies of the Annual Conferences.

b) Interpretation.-The division is charged with the responsibility to interpret to the Church at large the need to have adequately trained clergy to staff health care settings, homes, correctional settings, industry, the armed forces, and counseling centers. The division will also interpret to its constituents the ongoing concerns of the denomination.

c) Endorsement.-All United Methodist ministers appointed in the above categories shall receive endorsement from the division prior to such appointment. Endorsement is affirmation that a person is performing a valid ministry of The United Methodist Church and has presented evidence of having the special training, skills, and, when required, professional certification necessary to perform that ministry. Endorsement is authority granted by the denomination to be appointed to and provide ministry in a specific setting. When such authority is no longer required, the endorsement ceases to exist. The Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries, through its endorsing committee, shall have the authority to grant and remove endorsement and to adopt appropriate rules of procedure for such, providing that the rights of appeal shall be adequately safeguarded. An endorsing committee, made up of ordained members of the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries, and chaired by a bishop, shall represent The United Methodist Church in all endorsing procedures.

d) General Oversight.-The division shall provide general oversight for all those under endorsement, particularly for those serving outside the bounds of their Annual Conferences. The

division shall assure conference Boards of Ordained Ministry of the validity of ministry and quality of performance of clergy serving under its endorsement.

e) Annual Recommendation.-The division shall verify annually to bishops and conference Boards of Ordained Ministry those clergy under its endorsement and request their reappointment.

f) Advocacy.-The division shall serve as an advocate for persons serving in extension ministries under its endorsement. Such advocacy may include: representing their interests within the nonchurch institutional systems where they serve; representing their interests within the connectional system of The United Methodist Church in conferences and boards and agencies; being in dialogue with the various professional and certifying agencies; helping to facilitate, as an agent on their behalf, the transition into or out of extension ministries; and giving attention to the needs for continuing education and ongoing spiritual formation for those under endorsement.

g) Standards.-The division shall establish standards for endorsements for all ministry setting in ¶443.1c). In addition, it shall provide standards for use by Annual Conference Boards of Ordained Ministry in determining the appropriateness of other extension ministry settings not identified in ¶443.1 and will assist, as requested, in evaluating specific settings. It shall provide advocacy for persons appointed under ¶443.1d) and encourage new efforts to enrich the missional emphases of our denomination through the development of new extension ministry settings.

3. Laity Outside the United States.-The division shall assist in providing a ministry to United Methodist laity in or associated with the armed forces, particularly those stationed in locations outside the United States. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry through the division shall cooperate with the General Board of Discipleship, General Board of Global Ministries, and other agencies of the Church in preparing materials, planning programs, and providing a continuing ministry, that includes such activities as retreats, confirmation classes, and other pastoral functions. Basic to all such ministry will be involvement in the life of the local United Methodist community and existing ecumenical and interreligious programs. These shall take into account the language and cultural needs of the person involved.

¶ 1512. The division is authorized to receive such World Service funds as may be allocated for the support of its responsibilities. The division shall also receive and distribute other funds and special gifts as have been or shall be given specifically to the division.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- Ecumenical agreements concerning uniform standards are explicitly referenced
- Ministry categories shift toward broader governmental, health-care, counseling, and community-service settings
- Endorsement is defined both as affirmation of ministry and denominational authority
- Continuing education and ongoing spiritual formation responsibilities are added
- Standards-setting authority for evaluating extension ministry settings is expanded

1996 – Division of Ordained Ministry / Section of Chaplains and Related Ministries (¶¶ 1410–1412)

DIVISION OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

SECTION OF CHAPLAINS AND RELATED MINISTRIES

¶ 1410. There shall be a Section of Chaplains and Related Ministries of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

¶ 1411. The section shall represent The United Methodist Church.

1. All persons have the right to receive the full ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church is aware of its responsibility to provide adequate professional ministry to persons in special situations beyond the local church, which calls for an ecumenical ministry to persons of different denominations and faith groups. In order to ensure high standards of competence and keep faith with ecumenical agreements concerning uniform standards for ministry in specialized settings, the Section of Chaplains and Related Ministries shall have responsibility for appointments in extension ministries (¶ 335.1b), including but not limited to: ministry in the military, correctional institutions, the Department of Veterans Affairs, health-care settings, pastoral counseling, marriage and family counseling, workplace ministries, community service ministries, and other related ministry settings that conference boards of ordained ministry and bishops may designate. Clergy to be appointed to any of the above appointments beyond the local church shall receive ecclesiastical endorsement through the Section of Chaplains and Related Ministries. The section shall assist annual conferences to validate the appropriateness of special ministry settings.

2. Duties- – a) Recruitment- The section, in cooperation with other units of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, other agencies of the Church, and the annual conferences, shall recruit persons for ordained ministry in the above categories through contacts in undergraduate and graduate schools-including theological schools, in national professional societies, and also within the structures of the local church and boards and agencies of the annual conferences.

b) Interpretation-The section is charged with the responsibility to interpret to the Church at large the need to have trained clergy to staff health-care settings, homes, correctional settings, industry, the armed forces, and counseling centers. The section will also interpret to its constituents the ongoing concerns of the denomination.

c) Endorsement- All United Methodist ordained ministers appointed in the above categories shall receive endorsement from the section prior to such appointment. Endorsement is affirmation that a person is performing a valid ministry of The United Methodist Church and has presented evidence of having the special education, training, skills, and, when required, professional certification necessary to perform that ministry. Endorsement is authority granted by the denomination to be appointed to and provide ministry in a specific setting. When such authority is no longer required, the endorsement ceases to exist. The Section of Chaplains and Related Ministries, through its endorsing committee, shall have the authority to grant and remove endorsement and to adopt appropriate rules of procedure for such, providing that the rights of appeal shall be adequately safeguarded. An endorsing committee, made up of ordained members

of the Section of Chaplains and Related Ministries and chaired by a bishop, shall represent The United Methodist Church in all endorsing procedures.

d) General Oversight-The section shall provide general oversight for all those under endorsement, particularly for those serving outside the bounds of their annual conferences. The section shall assure conference boards of ordained ministry of the validity of ministry of clergy serving under its endorsement.

e) Annual Recommendation-The section shall verify annually to bishops and conference boards of ordained ministry those clergy under its endorsement and request their reappointment.

f) Advocacy-The section shall serve as an advocate for persons serving in extension ministries under its endorsement. Such advocacy may include: representing their interests within the nonchurch institutional systems where they serve; representing their interests within the connectional system of The United Methodist Church in conferences and boards and agencies; being in dialogue with the various professional and certifying agencies; helping to facilitate, as an agent on their behalf, the transition into or out of extension ministries; and giving attention to the needs for continuing education and ongoing spiritual formation for those under endorsement.

g) Standards-The section shall establish standards for endorsements for all ministry settings in ¶ 335.1b. In addition, it shall provide standards for use by annual conference boards of ordained ministry in determining the appropriateness of other extension ministry settings not identified in ¶ 335.1 and will assist, as requested, in evaluating specific settings. It shall provide advocacy for persons appointed under ¶ 335.1d and encourage new efforts to enrich the missional emphases of our denomination through the development of new extension ministry settings.

3. Laity Outside the United States-The section shall assist in providing a ministry to United Methodist laity in or associated with the armed forces, particularly those stationed in locations outside the United States. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, through the section, shall cooperate with the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, and other agencies of the Church in preparing materials, planning programs, and providing a continuing ministry that includes such activities as retreats, confirmation classes, and other pastoral functions. Basic to all such ministry will be involvement in the life of the local United Methodist community and existing ecumenical and interreligious programs. These shall take into account the language and cultural needs of the persons involved.

¶ 1412. The section is authorized to receive such World Service funds as may be allocated for the support of its responsibilities. The section shall also receive and distribute other funds and special gifts as have been or shall be given specifically to the division.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- Organizational designation changes from Division to Section
- Placement within the Division of Ordained Ministry becomes explicit
- “Appointments beyond the local church” language shifts to “appointments in extension ministries”
- Marriage and family counseling is specifically added among ministry settings
- Annual conferences are given an explicit role in validating special ministry settings

2000 – Division of Ordained Ministry / Section of Chaplains and Related Ministries (¶ 1422)

DIVISION OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

SECTION OF CHAPLAINS AND RELATED MINISTRIES

¶ 1422. Duties-The Section of Chaplains and Related Ministries (SCRM) supports chaplains and clergy in endorsed extension ministries and the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church locally and globally through programs and activities that:

1. Identify, assess, and support clergymen and clergywomen who serve in pastoral care, making the church visible for persons in health-care settings, retirement homes, prisons, workplaces, counseling centers, and the armed forces.
2. Establish standards calling for endorsed persons to have special education, training and skills, and, when required, professional certification, in order to ensure that The United Methodist Church provides quality pastoral care to prisoners, patients, counselees, armed forces personnel, and workers.
3. Carry out procedures for providing Ecclesiastical Endorsement for elders and, when required, for deacons under appointment to ministries of chaplaincy and pastoral care.
 - a) The Section of Chaplains and Related Ministries, through its endorsing committee, shall have the authority to grant and remove endorsement and to adopt appropriate rules of procedure for such, providing that the rights of appeal shall be adequately safeguarded.
 - b) An endorsing committee, consisting of elected members of the section and representation from the other sections of the division and chaired by a bishop, shall represent The United Methodist Church in all endorsing procedures.
 - c) Endorsement is affirmation that a person is performing a valid ministry of The United Methodist Church and has presented evidence of having the special education, training, skills, and, when required, professional certification necessary to perform that ministry. Endorsement is authority granted by the denomination to be appointed to and provide ministry in a specific setting. When such authority is not longer required, the endorsement ceases to exist.
4. Carry out procedures for Ecclesiastical Approval for persons in the armed forces student chaplain candidate programs, intermittent chaplaincy with the Department of Veterans Affairs, certain volunteer chaplaincy settings such as those relating to the Civil Air Patrol, the International Conference of Police Chaplains, and other entities.
5. Maintain programs for the oversight, support, and advocacy of endorsed/approved persons

General Oversight-The section shall provide general oversight for all those under endorsement, particularly for those serving outside the bounds of their annual conferences. The section shall assure conference boards of ordained ministry of the validity of ministry of clergy serving under its endorsement. The section shall verify annually to bishops and conference boards of ordained ministry those clergy under its endorsement and request their reappointment.
6. Establish and maintain standards for ecclesiastical endorsement and professional certification.
 - a) The section shall establish standards for endorsements for all ministry settings in ¶335.1b. In addition, it shall provide standards for use by annual conference boards of ordained ministry in determining the appropriateness of other extension ministry settings not identified in ¶335.1 and will assist, as requested, in evaluating specific settings. It shall provide advocacy for persons

appointed under ¶335.1d and encourage new efforts to enrich the missional emphases of our denomination through the development of new extension ministry settings.

b) The section shall work with certifying bodies in the development of standards for pastoral care certification in a variety of ministry settings.

7. Link congregations, conferences, and church structures with those persons in specialized ministry settings.

8. Resource congregations, conferences, and church structures in the development of programs of pastoral care in specialized settings.

9. Interpret these specialized ministries to the church and serve as an advocate for persons in extension ministries under its endorsement. Such advocacy may include: representing their interests within the non-church institutional systems where they serve; representing their interests within the connectional system of The United Methodist Church in conferences and boards and agencies; being in dialogue with the various professional and certifying agencies; helping to facilitate, as an agent on their behalf, the transition into or out of extension ministries; and giving attention to the needs for continuing education and ongoing spiritual formation for those under endorsement.

10. Assist in providing a ministry to United Methodist laity in or associated with the armed forces, particularly those stationed in locations outside the United States. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, through the section, shall cooperate with the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, and other agencies of the Church in preparing materials, planning programs, and providing a continuing ministry that includes such activities as retreats, confirmation classes, and other pastoral functions. Basic to all such ministry will be involvement in the life of the local United Methodist community and existing ecumenical and interreligious programs. These shall take into account the language and cultural needs of the persons involved.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- Responsibilities reorganized into a numbered programmatic structure
- “Section of Chaplains and Related Ministries (SCRM)” formally abbreviated and operationally defined
- Ecclesiastical Approval procedures are added alongside Ecclesiastical Endorsement
- Endorsement authority and endorsing committee procedures are more fully articulated
- Professional certification and standards development receive expanded emphasis
- Specialized ministries and extension ministries are increasingly integrated conceptually
- Advocacy language expands to include continuing education and ongoing spiritual formation
- Ministry to United Methodist laity outside the United States receives substantial elaboration

2004 – Division of Ordained Ministry (¶ 1421.5 Endorsement)

DIVISION OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

¶ 1421. Duties and Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry—The Division of Ordained Ministry shall be responsible for leading and serving the church in inviting, equipping, and supporting faithful and effective spiritual leaders from all cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds, who serve as ordained deacons and elders, licensed local pastors, diaconal ministers, certified persons in specialized ministries, and clergy endorsed for extension ministries in order to fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church and the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The division's work includes all men and women who are serving in categories of appointment by a bishop. This responsibility shall be discharged in active relationship with bishops, schools of theology, annual conference boards of ordained ministry, cabinets, jurisdictional boards or committees on ordained ministry, central conferences, ethnic caucuses, and other appropriate bodies. This division shall be responsible for the promotion of theological education and its support for the whole church.

In fulfillment of this responsibility and in accordance with the disciplinary requirements established for each region of the church in the world, the division will organize its work around the following core responsibilities:

...

5. Endorsement-a) Identify, assess, and support chaplains and clergy who show demonstrated ability to provide pastoral care in health-care settings, children's homes, retirement homes, prisons, workplaces, counseling centers, and the military.
 - b) Establish standards required for endorsed persons in the areas of specialized education, training and skills, and when required, professional certification, to ensure that The United Methodist Church provides quality pastoral care to patients, residents, prisoners, workers, counselees, and military personnel and their families.
 - c) Maintain policies and procedures to provide Ecclesiastical Endorsement for associate members, deacons and elders under appointment to ministries of chaplaincy and pastoral care where endorsement is required.
 - (1) The Division of Ordained Ministry, through its endorsing committee, has the authority to grant and remove endorsement and to adopt appropriate rules of procedure, to include procedure for appeals.
 - (2) An endorsing committee consisting of elected members of the Division of Ordained Ministry and chaired by a bishop shall represent The United Methodist Church in all endorsing procedures.
 - (3) Endorsement is the credential which certifies that a clergyperson performs a valid ministry of The United Methodist Church and has presented evidence of required specialized education, training, skills, and, when required, professional certification necessary to perform that ministry. Once the clergyperson no longer serves in that particular setting, the endorsement is withdrawn.
 - d) Establish and follow procedures for Ecclesiastical Approval for persons in the military student chaplain candidate programs, intermittent chaplaincy with the Department of Veteran Affairs, and other identified entities.
 - e) Maintain programs for the oversight and advocacy of endorsed/approved persons.
 - f) Provide general oversight for all those under endorsement, particularly those serving outside the bounds of their annual conferences.

- g) Assure conference boards of ordained ministry concerning the validity of ministry of clergy serving under endorsement.
- h) Verify annually, to bishops and conference boards of ordained ministry, those clergy under endorsement and where necessary request their reappointment.
- i) Establish and maintain standards for ecclesiastical endorsement.
- (1) Establish standards for endorsements for all ministry settings in ¶ 344.1b
- (2) Provide standards for use by annual conference boards of ordained ministry to determine the appropriateness of other extension ministry settings not identified in ¶ 344.1, and will assist, as requested, to evaluate specific settings.
- (3) Provide advocacy for persons appointed under ¶ 344.1d and encourage new efforts to widen the understanding of ministry through the development of new extension ministry settings.
- (4) Coordinate with certifying bodies in the development of standards for pastoral care certification in a variety of ministry settings.
- j) Link congregations, conferences and church agencies with those persons in extension ministry settings.
- k) Advise congregations, conferences, and church agencies in the development of programs of pastoral care in extension ministries.
- l) Interpret extension ministries to the church and serve as an advocate for persons in extension ministries under its endorsement.
- m) Assist in providing a ministry to United Methodist laity in or associated with the military, particularly outside the continental United States. The Division of Ordained Ministry, with GBOD, GBGM and other agencies of the Church, shall work together to prepare materials, programs, and continuing ministries that include retreats, confirmation classes and other pastoral functions.
- n) Receive and distribute funds and special gifts as have been or shall be given specifically for the support of endorsing agency responsibilities.
- o) Sponsor the Chaplains Supplemental Pension Grant Fund for certain endorsed clergy, with administration and oversight provided by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- Standalone “Section of Chaplains and Related Ministries” is no longer separately identified
- Endorsement responsibilities are incorporated into the broader Division of Ordained Ministry structure
- “Clergy endorsed for extension ministries” appears within the Division’s clergy-category framework
- Endorsement is defined primarily as a credential attached to a ministry setting
- Oversight, standards, advocacy, approval, and endorsement functions are consolidated under Division authority

- Professional credentialing and institutional accountability become increasingly central to endorsement language
- Extension ministry is framed more explicitly within the Church's larger clergy leadership system

2008 – Division of Ordained Ministry (§ 1421.5 Endorsement)

DIVISION OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

¶ 1421. Duties and Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry—The Division of Ordained Ministry shall be responsible for leading and serving the church in inviting, equipping, and supporting faithful and effective spiritual leaders from all cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds, who serve as ordained deacons and elders, licensed local pastors, diaconal ministers, certified persons in specialized ministries, and clergy endorsed for extension ministries in order to fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church and the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The division's work includes all men and women who are serving in categories of appointment by a bishop. This responsibility shall be discharged in active relationship with bishops, schools of theology, annual conference boards of ordained ministry, cabinets, jurisdictional boards or committees on ordained ministry, central conferences, ethnic caucuses, and other appropriate bodies. This division shall be responsible for the promotion of theological education and its support for the whole church.

In fulfillment of this responsibility and in accordance with the disciplinary requirements established for each region of the church in the world, the division will organize its work around the following core responsibilities:

...

5. Endorsement—
 - a) Identify, assess, and support chaplains and clergy who show demonstrated ability to provide pastoral care in health-care settings, children's homes, retirement homes, prisons, workplaces, counseling centers, and the military.
 - b) Establish standards required for endorsed persons in the areas of specialized education, training and skills, and when required, professional certification, to ensure that The United Methodist Church provides quality pastoral care to patients, residents, prisoners, workers, counselees, and military personnel and their families.
 - c) Maintain policies and procedures to provide Ecclesiastical Endorsement for associate members, deacons and elders under appointment to ministries of chaplaincy and pastoral care where endorsement is required.
 - (1) The Division of Ordained Ministry, through its endorsing committee, has the authority to grant and remove endorsement and to adopt appropriate rules of procedure, to include procedure for appeals.
 - (2) An endorsing committee consisting of elected members of the Division of Ordained Ministry and chaired by a bishop shall represent The United Methodist Church in all endorsing procedures.
 - (3) Endorsement is the credential which certifies that a clergyperson performs a valid ministry of The United Methodist Church and has presented evidence of required specialized education, training, skills, and, when required, professional certification necessary to perform that ministry. Once the clergyperson no longer serves in that particular setting, the endorsement is withdrawn.
 - d) Establish and follow procedures for Ecclesiastical Approval for persons in the military student chaplain candidate programs, intermittent chaplaincy with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other identified entities.
 - e) Maintain programs for the oversight and advocacy of endorsed/approved persons.
 - f) Provide general oversight for all those under endorsement, particularly those serving outside the bounds of their annual conferences.

- g) Assure conference boards of ordained ministry concerning the validity of ministry of clergy serving under endorsement.
- h) Verify annually, to bishops and conference boards of ordained ministry, those clergy under endorsement and where necessary request their reappointment.
- i) Establish and maintain standards for ecclesiastical endorsement.
- (1) Establish standards for endorsements for all ministry settings in ¶ 344.1b
- (2) Provide standards for use by annual conference boards of ordained ministry to determine the appropriateness of other extension ministry settings not identified in ¶ 344.1, and will assist, as requested, to evaluate specific settings.
- (3) Provide advocacy for persons appointed under ¶ 344.1d and encourage new efforts to widen the understanding of ministry through the development of new extension ministry settings.
- (4) Coordinate with certifying bodies in the development of standards for pastoral care certification in a variety of ministry settings.
- j) Link congregations, conferences and church agencies with those persons in extension ministry settings.
- k) Advise congregations, conferences, and church agencies in the development of programs of pastoral care in extension ministries.
- l) Interpret extension ministries to the church and serve as an advocate for persons in extension ministries under its endorsement.
- m) Assist in providing a ministry to United Methodist laity in or associated with the military, particularly outside the continental United States. The Division of Ordained Ministry, with GBOD, GBGM and other agencies of the Church, shall work together to prepare materials, programs, and continuing ministries that include retreats, confirmation classes and other pastoral functions.
- n) Receive and distribute funds and special gifts as have been or shall be given specifically for the support of endorsing agency responsibilities.
- o) Sponsor the Chaplains Supplemental Pension Grant Fund for certain endorsed clergy, with administration and oversight provided by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- Organizational treatment of endorsement remains substantially stable from 2004
- “Clergy endorsed for extension ministries” continues within the Division’s clergy-category structure
- Endorsement continues to function primarily as a credentialing and oversight mechanism
- Military and extension ministry provisions remain largely unchanged
- Standards, certification, advocacy, and endorsement oversight continue within a unified administrative framework
- Endorsement remains one functional responsibility among many within the broader Division of Ordained Ministry

2012 – Division of Ordained Ministry (§ 1421.5 Endorsement)

DIVISION OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

¶ 1421. Duties and Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry—The Division of Ordained Ministry shall be responsible for leading and serving the church in inviting, equipping, and supporting faithful and effective spiritual leaders from all cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds, who serve as ordained deacons and elders, licensed local pastors, diaconal ministers, certified persons in specialized ministries, and clergy endorsed for extension ministries in order to fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church and the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The division's work includes all men and women who are serving in categories of appointment by a bishop. This responsibility shall be discharged in active relationship with bishops, schools of theology, annual conference boards of ordained ministry, cabinets, jurisdictional boards or committees on ordained ministry, central conferences, ethnic caucuses, and other appropriate bodies. This division shall be responsible for the promotion of theological education and its support for the whole church.

In fulfillment of this responsibility and in accordance with the disciplinary requirements established for each region of the church in the world, the division will organize its work around the following core responsibilities:

...

5. Endorsement-The Division shall:
 - a) Identify, assess, and support chaplains and clergy who show demonstrated ability to provide pastoral care in health-care settings, children's homes, retirement homes, prisons, workplaces, counseling centers, and the military.
 - b) Establish standards required for endorsed persons in the areas of specialized education, training and skills, and when required, professional certification, to ensure that The United Methodist Church provides quality pastoral care to patients, residents, prisoners, workers, counselees, and military personnel and their families.
 - c) Maintain policies and procedures to provide Ecclesiastical Endorsement for associate members, deacons and elders under appointment to ministries of chaplaincy and pastoral care where endorsement is required.
 - (1) The Division of Ordained Ministry, through its endorsing committee, the United Methodist Endorsing Agency, has the authority to grant and remove endorsement and to adopt appropriate rules of procedure, to include procedure for appeals.
 - (2) An endorsing committee consisting of elected members of the Division of Ordained Ministry and chaired by a bishop shall represent The United Methodist Church in all endorsing procedures.
 - (3) Endorsement is the credential which certifies that a clergyperson performs a valid ministry of The United Methodist Church and has presented evidence of required specialized education, training, skills, and, when required, professional certification necessary to perform that ministry. Once the clergyperson no longer serves in that particular setting, the endorsement is withdrawn.
 - d) Establish and follow procedures for ecclesiastical approval for persons in the military student chaplain candidate programs, intermittent chaplaincy with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other identified entities.
 - e) Maintain programs for the oversight and advocacy of endorsed/approved persons.
 - f) Provide general oversight for all those under endorsement, particularly those serving outside the bounds of their annual conferences.

- g) Assure conference boards of ordained ministry concerning the validity of ministry of clergy serving under endorsement.
- h) Verify annually, to bishops and conference boards of ordained ministry, those clergy under endorsement and where necessary request their reappointment.
- i) Establish and maintain standards for ecclesiastical endorsement.
- (1) Establish standards for endorsements for all ministry settings in ¶ 344.1b.
- (2) Provide standards for use by annual conference boards of ordained ministry to determine the appropriateness of other extension ministry settings not identified in ¶ 344.1, and will assist, as requested, to evaluate specific settings.
- (3) Provide advocacy for persons appointed under ¶ 344.1d and encourage new efforts to widen the understanding of ministry through the development of new extension ministry settings.
- (4) Coordinate with certifying bodies in the development of standards for pastoral care certification in a variety of ministry settings.
- j) Link congregations, conferences and church agencies with those persons in extension ministry settings.
- k) Advise congregations, conferences, and church agencies in the development of programs of pastoral care in extension ministries.
- l) Interpret extension ministries to the church and serve as an advocate for persons in extension ministries under its endorsement.
- m) Assist in providing a ministry to United Methodist laity in or associated with the military, particularly outside the continental United States. The Division of Ordained Ministry, with GBOD, GBGM and other agencies of the Church, shall work together to prepare materials, programs, and continuing ministries that include retreats, confirmation classes and other pastoral functions.
- n) Receive and distribute funds and special gifts as have been or shall be given specifically for the support of endorsing agency responsibilities.
- o) Sponsor the Chaplains Supplemental Pension Grant Fund for certain endorsed clergy, with administration and oversight provided by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- The “United Methodist Endorsing Agency” is explicitly named within the endorsing committee structure
- “Clergy endorsed for extension ministries” remains embedded within the Division’s clergy-category framework
- Organizational structure and endorsement procedures remain substantially stable from 2008
- Endorsement continues to be treated primarily as a credentialing and accountability function
- Procedural and administrative language remains dominant
- Institutional identity of the endorsing function becomes more formally articulated

2016 – Division of Ordained Ministry (§ 1421.5 Endorsement)

DIVISION OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

¶ 1421. Duties and Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry—The Division of Ordained Ministry shall be responsible for leading and serving the church in inviting, equipping, and supporting faithful and effective spiritual leaders from all cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds, who serve as ordained deacons and elders, licensed local pastors, diaconal ministers, certified persons in specialized ministries, and clergy endorsed for extension ministries in order to fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church and the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The division's work includes all men and women who are serving in categories of appointment by a bishop. This responsibility shall be discharged in active relationship with bishops, schools of theology, annual conference boards of ordained ministry, cabinets, jurisdictional boards or committees on ordained ministry, central conferences, ethnic caucuses, and other appropriate bodies. This division shall be responsible for the promotion of theological education and its support for the whole church.

In fulfillment of this responsibility and in accordance with the disciplinary requirements established for each region of the church in the world, the division will organize its work around the following core responsibilities:

...

5. Endorsement—The division shall:
 - a) Identify, assess, and support chaplains and clergy who show demonstrated ability to provide pastoral care in health-care settings, children's homes, retirement homes, prisons, workplaces, counseling centers, and the military.
 - b) Establish standards required for endorsed persons in the areas of specialized education, training and skills, and when required, professional certification, to ensure that The United Methodist Church provides quality pastoral care to patients, residents, prisoners, workers, counselees, and military personnel and their families.
 - c) Maintain policies and procedures to provide Ecclesiastical Endorsement for associate members, deacons and elders under appointment to ministries of chaplaincy and pastoral care where endorsement is required.
 - (1) The Division of Ordained Ministry, through its endorsing committee, the United Methodist Endorsing Agency, has the authority to grant and remove endorsement and to adopt appropriate rules of procedure, to include procedure for appeals.
 - (2) An endorsing committee consisting of elected members of the Division of Ordained Ministry and chaired by a bishop shall represent The United Methodist Church in all endorsing procedures.
 - (3) Endorsement is the credential which certifies that a clergyperson performs a valid ministry of The United Methodist Church and has presented evidence of required specialized education, training, skills, and, when required, professional certification necessary to perform that ministry. Once the clergyperson no longer serves in that particular setting, the endorsement is withdrawn.
 - d) Establish and follow procedures for ecclesiastical approval for persons in the military student chaplain candidate programs, intermittent chaplaincy with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other identified entities.
 - e) Maintain programs for the oversight and advocacy of endorsed/approved persons.
 - f) Provide general oversight for all those under endorsement, particularly those serving outside the bounds of their annual conferences.

- g) Assure conference boards of ordained ministry concerning the validity of ministry of clergy serving under endorsement.
- h) Verify annually, to bishops and conference boards of ordained ministry, those clergy under endorsement and where necessary request their reappointment.
- i) Establish and maintain standards for ecclesiastical endorsement.
- (1) Establish standards for endorsements for all ministry settings in ¶ 344.1b.
- (2) Provide standards for use by annual conference boards of ordained ministry to determine the appropriateness of other extension ministry settings not identified in ¶ 344.1, and will assist, as requested, to evaluate specific settings.
- (3) Provide advocacy for persons appointed under ¶ 344.1d and encourage new efforts to widen the understanding of ministry through the development of new extension ministry settings.
- (4) Coordinate with certifying bodies in the development of standards for pastoral care certification in a variety of ministry settings.
- j) Link congregations, conferences, and church agencies with those persons in extension ministry settings.
- k) Advise congregations, conferences, and church agencies in the development of programs of pastoral care in extension ministries.
- l) Interpret extension ministries to the church and serve as an advocate for persons in extension ministries under its endorsement.
- m) Assist in providing a ministry to United Methodist laity in or associated with the military, particularly outside the continental United States. The Division of Ordained Ministry, with the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, and other agencies of the Church, shall work together to prepare materials, programs, and continuing ministries that include retreats, confirmation classes, and other pastoral functions.
- n) Receive and distribute funds and special gifts as have been or shall be given specifically for the support of endorsing agency responsibilities.
- o) Sponsor the Chaplains Supplemental Pension Grant Fund for certain endorsed clergy, with administration and oversight provided by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- Organizational structure and endorsement procedures remain substantially stable from 2012
- “Clergy endorsed for extension ministries” remains embedded within the Division’s clergy-category framework
- The United Methodist Endorsing Agency continues as the named endorsing authority
- Endorsement continues to function primarily as a credentialing and accountability mechanism
- Administrative, standards, and oversight language remains dominant
- Institutional continuity outweighs structural or conceptual change

2020/2024 – General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (¶ 1406.10–11)

Section VIII. General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

¶ 1401. There shall be a General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, hereinafter referred to as the board.

...

¶ 1406. Responsibilities – The responsibilities of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall be:

...

10. To provide support and advocate for endorsed clergy through the United Methodist Endorsing Agency.

11. To grant Ecclesiastical Endorsement for clergy under appointment to ministries where endorsement is required and to remove endorsement when necessary.

Compared with the previous quadrennium:

- Endorsement language is reduced to two responsibility statements within the broader GBHEM framework
- Detailed endorsement procedures, standards, oversight, and advocacy language are removed from the disciplinary text
- The United Methodist Endorsing Agency remains explicitly identified
- Endorsement continues to function primarily as an institutional and credentialing responsibility
- Distinct organizational treatment of chaplaincy and extension ministry is no longer separately articulated
- Administrative compression significantly alters the visual and structural prominence of endorsement within the Discipline

Concluding Observation

Across the editions represented in this compilation, the disciplinary location, organizational structure, and descriptive language surrounding ecclesiastical endorsement changed substantially. Independent commissions became divisions; divisions became sections; sections became integrated responsibilities within broader administrative structures; and, eventually, endorsement was expressed in only a small number of responsibility statements within the work of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

At the same time, the disciplinary record also preserved a continuing institutional and legal connection to the former Commission on Chaplains and Related Ministries.

Beginning in the 1976 edition of *The Book of Discipline*, the incorporation language associated with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry included the following statement:

¶ 1604. *Incorporation.*—The Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall be responsible for the functions previously conducted by the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Education and the Commission on Chaplains and Related Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Variations of this language continued in subsequent editions even as the visible disciplinary prominence, organizational location, and descriptive treatment of endorsement ministry evolved.

Over time, however, the visual and intellectual linkage between these incorporation and succession statements and the implementation paragraphs governing endorsement ministry appears to have become increasingly detached within the structure of the Discipline itself.

This compilation does not attempt to explain the causes of those developments or assign interpretive conclusions to them. It simply presents the documentary progression through which those organizational and disciplinary changes may be observed.

Michael T. “Terry” Bradfield
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May 2026