



# **ACTS 12:24 CHURCHES**

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ACTS PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS



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**All links referenced in this book can be found at this link / QR code**

**<https://acts1224churches.com/pathway/links/>**

# PATHWAY TO LMC



## ○ God's Call

You are seriously considering a call to vocational ministry. Make it public. Meet with your pastor to share and pray. Initiate a discipleship journey toward ministry activation & ordination. Officially begin the LMC training pathway.

## ○ Discipleship

Enter into a mentoring & coaching relationship with your pastor/mentor. Utilize the provided outline & resources to establish your LMC formation plan.

## ○ Discernment

Upon the recommendation of your pastor, meet with your local Board of Administration for an LMC interview and ministry guidance. Following approval, apply for ministry with the Acts 12:24 Conference.

## ○ Celebration

The pastor will lead the church in recognizing this sacred milestone in your life and ministry. Answer the LMC questions. Receive Prayer.



# PATHWAY TO LMC



## God's Call

You are seriously considering a call to vocational ministry.

Make it public. Meet with your pastor to share and pray. Initiate a discipleship journey toward ministry activation & ordination. Officially begin the LMC training process.

### To the potential **Local Ministerial Candidate**

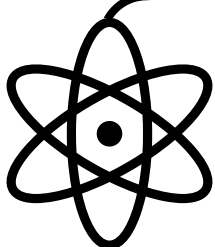
- A. A local ministerial candidate is one who is seriously considering a call to vocational ministry and who has completed the processes of licensing. Local ministerial candidate status provides the opportunity to explore the perceived call to ministry with the pastor in the context of the local church. Prior to being approved to work toward a local ministerial candidate license, the person shall have been a member of the church long enough to have given evidence of possessing the developing qualities and gifts normally expected of a Christian minister: a heart for God and the mission of the church, leadership potential, good conduct and the ability to work with people.<sup>1</sup>
- B. Persons who do not show adequate potential of being an elder who can lead a congregation to fulfill the mission of the Church and our expected outcomes should be counseled at an early time to consider the support and service role of a deacon.<sup>1</sup>

**Note:** The expectation for the potential LMC in the "Pathway to LMC" is to take initiative in setting meetings with their pastor/mentor and completing the LMC formation plan.

### To the **Local Church Pastor/Mentor**

- C. The pastor shall enter into a mentoring relationship with the potential local ministerial candidate, establishing a Formation Plan. The pastor shall journey with the individual through licensing as local ministerial candidate, and possibly even through licensing as a conference ministerial candidate. A local ministerial candidate shall be amenable to instruction, supervision and related discipline to assure growth in grace, knowledge and leadership skill (see ¶6300.Q, ¶6320.B.10).<sup>1</sup>

**Note:** The expectation for the pastor/mentor is to disciple the potential LMC into the depth of their calling. You may add additional criteria to the Acts 12:24 Churches minimum viable process (MVP) and/or delegate the mentoring to a suitable mentor.



## MINIMUM VIABLE PROCESS

**MVP**

**MVP** is a commitment to achieve the desired outcomes with simple and clear requirements. MVP removes all unnecessary constraints in an effort to accelerate completion while providing you freedom to add material based on the unique needs of your ministry context.

# PATHWAY TO LMC



## Discipleship

Enter into a mentoring & coaching relationship with your pastor/mentor. Utilize the provided outline & resources to complete your LMC formation plan.

**Note:** Each session is intended to cover one item in the LMC FORMATION PLAN. The general meeting rhythm is one per month. Some of the requirements may require additional time. The pastor may add additional criteria to the Acts 12:24 Churches minimum viable process (MVP) and/or delegate the mentoring to a suitable mentor.

LMC FORMATION PLAN		DONE	DATE
1	<b>Topic 1: My Call</b>		
	1.a. Share the story of how you came to follow Jesus. Share about your baptism. 1.b. How do you sense Jesus calling you to ordained ministry? 1.c. What are your expectations for this journey? 1.d. Do a Bible Study together on the topic of calling. 1.e. How can I pray for you? <b>HOMEWORK:</b> Take the Uniquely You 9 Spiritual Gifts and 4 DISC Personality Types Online Profile <a href="https://uniquelyyou.org/content/combining-9-spiritual-gifts-and-4-disc-personality-types-online-profile">https://uniquelyyou.org/content/combining-9-spiritual-gifts-and-4-disc-personality-types-online-profile</a>		
2	<b>Topic 2: My Spiritual Gifts</b>		
	2.a. What are your spiritual gifts (results from the Uniquely You Profile)? 2.b. How do you see these gifts utilized in the context of your ministry calling? 2.c. What is your DISC personality type (results from the Uniquely You Profile)? 2.d. How will your personality shape the application of your ministry calling? 2.e. Do a Bible Study together on the topic of Spiritual Gifts. How can I pray for you?		
3	<b>Topic 3: Discipleship</b>		
	3.a. Have you ever been discipled? What did you learn from that experience? 3.b. Do a Bible Study together on the example of Jesus making disciples. 3.c. A local minister is a disciple-maker: Who will you disciple? When will you start? 3.d. How can I pray for you?		
4	<b>Topic 4: Membership</b>		
	4.a. Do a Bible Study together on the topic of membership. Why is church membership important? 4.b. What does it mean to be a member of this local church? What is required? 4.c. A local minister is a member of the Free Methodist Church: Are you a member? If not, will you join? 4.d. How can I pray for you?		
5	<b>Topic 5: Leadership</b>		
	5.a. Share about your current understanding of your call to ordained ministry. 5.b. Do a Bible Study together on the topic of servant-leadership. 5.c. What are your ministry leadership roles at the church? What are you learning? 5.d. What areas can you step up into an expanded leadership role at the church? 5.e. How can I pray for you?		

# PATHWAY TO LMC



## Discernment

Upon the recommendation of your pastor, meet with your local Board of Administration for an LMC interview and ministry guidance. Following approval, apply for ministry with the Acts 12:24 Conference.

**Discuss:** Are you ready to take a step toward ordained ministry or do you sense a call to local ministry only (leader or deacon)?

### MY NEXT STEP: Choose One

#### OPTION 1: Do not pursue the ordained ministry & remain a local leader

Persons who do not show adequate potential of being an elder who can lead a congregation to fulfill the mission of the Church and our expected outcomes should be counseled at an early time to consider the support and service role of a *local ministry leader* (deacon).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Excerpt from the Free Methodist Book of Discipline (2019) ¶6500.

#### OPTION 2: Interview to become an LMC

Request an interview with, and approval by, the local Board of Administration.

##### INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. When and how did you come to know Christ as Savior and Lord?
2. Describe your life as it relates to the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
3. Describe the call of God in your life to full-time ministry.
4. What preparations and plans are you making in order to follow God's will for your life?
5. What do you see as your primary spiritual gifts?
6. In what ways do you plan to witness and minister as a local ministerial candidate?

The local Board of Administration will offer prayer and ministry guidance.

##### NOTE:

Completion of the Pathway to LMC does not guarantee that you will become a Local Ministerial Candidate. The decision is made by the Local Church Leadership Board.



##### ADMINISTRATION:

- Report the names of all approved LMCs to your Regional MEG Board.
- A Local Ministerial Candidate shall maintain membership in the society that licensed him/her, unless appointed as a licensed pastor (see ¶6500.H).

# PATHWAY TO LMC



## Celebration

The pastor will lead the church in recognizing this sacred milestone in your life and ministry. Answer LMC questions. Receive Prayer.

### Questions for a local ministerial candidate before the congregation:

1. Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and do you offer yourself in service to Him as a local ministerial candidate? (I do.)
2. Recognizing that being a local ministerial candidate in this congregation is an important step in confirming the call of God on your life, do you pledge to diligently seek the Lord's will for your life through prayer and study? (I do.)
3. Will you seek and accept the guidance of your pastor and the local Board of Administration in order to fulfill these goals? (I will.)

**The pastor will present a certificate to the local ministerial candidate.**

# *Congratulations!*



LOCAL  
MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE

*This Certifies that*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Is commissioned for ministry in the local church  
and a candidate for ordination in the*

**ACTS 12:24 CHURCHES CONFERENCE  
OF THE  
FREE METHODIST CHURCH**



\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PASTOR



# PATHWAY TO CMC



I am currently an...

**LMC**  
LOCAL MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE

You (LMC) begin by submitting an "Application for Ministry" form.

## Discipleship

Continue in a mentoring & coaching relationship with your pastor/mentor. Utilize the provided outline & resources to establish your CMC formation plan.

## Discernment

Upon the recommendation of your pastor, meet with your Regional MEG Board for a CMC interview and ministry guidance. Following approval, plan to attend the next Acts 12:24 Annual Conference. Your pastor completes a CMC recommendation form.

## Celebration

The Superintendent & Bishop will lead the conference in recognizing this sacred milestone in your life. Answer CMC questions. Receive Prayer.



# PATHWAY TO CMC



I am currently a...



You (LMC) begin by submitting an "Application for Ministry" form.

To the potential: **Conference Ministerial Candidate**

- A. A conference ministerial candidate is a member of the Free Methodist Church who has been received by an annual conference in preparation for ordained ministry.<sup>1</sup>
- B. The conference ministerial candidate shall:
  1. be a local ministerial candidate;
  2. be thoroughly acquainted with the history and conversant with the polity of the Free Methodist Church, normally as provided in an approved course of study;
  3. have completed application for ministry appointment;
  4. be interviewed, certified and recommended by the Ministerial Education and Guidance Board (MEG) and received by the annual conference upon satisfactory response to the questions (see ¶8710);
  5. be under the guidance of the conference superintendent and an assigned coach/mentor;
  6. maintain membership in a Free Methodist Society;
  7. maintain relationship as a conference ministerial candidate by annual recommendation of the MEG Board.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Excerpt from the Free Methodist Book of Discipline (2019) ¶5340.

## NOTE to the Candidate:

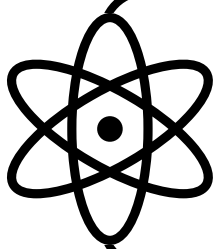
The expectation for the potential CMC in the "Pathway to CMC" is to take initiative in setting meetings with their pastor/mentor and completing the CMC formation plan.

**NOTE to the Pastor/Mentor:** The expectation for the pastor/mentor is to disciple the potential CMC into the depth of their calling. You may add additional criteria to the Acts 12:24 Churches minimum viable process (MVP) and/or delegate the mentoring to a suitable mentor.



## ADMINISTRATION:

- Candidate to submit, "Application for Ministry" form.



## MINIMUM VIABLE PROCESS

**MVP**

**MVP** is a commitment to achieve the desired outcomes with simple and clear requirements. MVP removes all unnecessary constraints in an effort to accelerate completion while providing you freedom to add material based on the unique needs of your ministry context.

# PATHWAY TO CMC



## Discipleship

Continue in a mentoring & coaching relationship with your pastor/mentor. Utilize the provided outline & resources to complete your CMC formation plan.

**Note:** The minimum viable process (MVP) requires one meeting per month with your pastor/mentor to discuss your progress. Some of the requirements may require additional time and meetings. The pathway to CMC will take roughly one year. The pastor may add additional criteria to the Acts 12:24 Churches minimum viable process (MVP) and/or delegate the mentoring to a suitable mentor.

CMC FORMATION PLAN		DONE	DATE
1	<b>Assemble Your Prayer Team</b>		
	Your prayer team consists of people who will pray for you for the remainder of this process & your ministry. Establish a means of communication with them (email, text, social group, phone, etc) and provide regular updates. You can find a guide to assemble a prayer team on <a href="#">page 71</a> of this document.		
2	<b>Read "Celebration of Discipline" by Richard Foster</b>		
	The purpose of this assignment is to understand and incorporate the spiritual disciplines into your life and ministry. Discuss your findings with your mentor. Your mentor may suggest a different book or alternate material to accomplish the same goal.		
3	<b>Take the "CliftonStrengths" Strengths Finder 2.0</b>		
	The assessment measures your unique talents -- your natural patterns of thinking, feeling and behaving -- and categorizes them into the 34 CliftonStrengths themes. Discuss your strengths with your mentor and how they inform your ministry goals. Your mentor may suggest a different assessment or alternate material to accomplish the same goal.		
4	<b>Take a "Free Methodist History and Polity" Class</b>		
	The purpose of this course is to examine the history, organization, mission, beliefs, and practices of the Free Methodist Church with the intended outcome of determining "fit" for a life of ministry within the denomination. Submit final grade and transcript when requesting your CMC interview		
5	<b>Discuss Conference Membership Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b>		
	The purpose of this discussion is to understand the difference between local church membership and conference membership. Topics include your rhythms of district meetings, annual conference, & MEG interviews.		
6	<b>Serve in a Leadership Position in the Local Church</b>		
	Ministry assignments may include preaching opportunities, visiting the sick, evangelism, leading ministry teams, facilitating small groups, leading Bible studies, organizing events or activities, etc. Meet with your pastor for assignments and coaching.		

# PATHWAY TO CMC



## Discernment

Upon the recommendation of your pastor/mentor, meet with your Regional MEG Board for a CMC interview and ministry guidance. Following approval, plan to attend the next Acts 12:24 Annual Conference.

**Discuss:** Are you ready to take a step toward ordained ministry or do you sense a call to local ministry only (leader or deacon)?

### MY NEXT STEP: Choose One

#### OPTION 1: Do not pursue the ordained ministry & remain a local leader

Persons who do not show adequate potential of being an elder who can lead a congregation to fulfill the mission of the Church and our expected outcomes should be counseled at an early time to consider the support and service role of a *local ministry leader* (deacon).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Excerpt from the Free Methodist Book of Discipline (2019) ¶6500.

#### OPTION 2: Interview to become a CMC

**Step 1:** Pastor/Mentor completes “Recommendation for CMC” form

**Step 2:** Candidate completes the “CMC Interview Request” form

Request an interview with, and approval by, the Regional Ministerial Education & Guidance (MEG) Board.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS MAY INCLUDE:

**Heart:**

1. Share the story of how you came to follow Jesus & how you sense Jesus calling you to ordained ministry.
2. How do you care for your soul? What spiritual disciplines do you practice?
3. Where have you struggled in your faith journey?

**Head:**

4. How have you worked through theological areas that are hard to understand?
5. Why do you want to join the Free Methodist Church?
6. Do you agree with the Free Methodist position on Marriage?

**Hands:**

7. Tell us about someone you recently led to Jesus and have been discipling.
8. How do you balance the needs of your family and ministry?
9. How have you taught a new disciple to share their faith and testimony?

The Regional Ministerial Education & Guidance (MEG) Board will offer prayer and ministry guidance.

#### NOTE:

After the interview, the MEG will pray for you and dismiss you from the meeting. They will then spend time praying together, reviewing your interview and submitted information, and determine your next steps. Possibilities include:

1. Approval to be received as a CMC at the next Acts 12:24 Churches Annual Conference and to begin the Pathway to Ordained Elder.
2. Recommendation to spend additional time working to address some specific areas that caused the MEG hesitation for approval.
3. Redirection to non-ordained ministry in the local church with feedback and recommendation for growth areas.

# PATHWAY TO CMC



## Celebration

The Superintendent & Bishop will lead the conference in recognizing this sacred milestone in your life. Answer CMC questions. Receive Prayer.

### Questions for a conference ministerial candidate before the Acts 12:24 annual conference:

1. Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and offer yourself in service to Him as a conference ministerial candidate in the Acts 12:24 Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church? (I do.)
2. Recognizing that being a conference ministerial candidate in this annual conference is an important step toward full membership and ordination, do you pledge to equip yourself spiritually, morally, and intellectually for the Christian ministry? (I do.)
3. Will you seek and accept the guidance of your superintendent and the Ministerial Education and Guidance Board to fulfill these goals? (I will.)

**The president of the conference shall present a certificate to the newly received conference ministerial candidate(s).**

# *Congratulations!*



# PATHWAY TO ORDAINED ELDER



I am currently a...



**CMC**  
CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE



Continue in a mentoring & coaching relationship with your pastor/mentor.

## Discipleship

Demonstrate the gifts, knowledge, and skills for ordained ministry based upon the "Head, Heart, Hands" criteria. Utilize the provided outline & resources to complete the Elder formation plan.

## Discernment

Upon the recommendation of your pastor, meet with the Regional MEG Board for your ordination interview. Following approval, plan to attend the next Acts 12:24 Annual Conference.

## Celebration

The Bishop will lead the conference in recognizing this sacred milestone in your life. Answer Elder questions. Receive Prayer.



# PATHWAY TO ORDAINED ELDER



To the potential: **Ordained Elder**

- A. A minister may be received into membership, elected to elder’s orders and granted a seat in the annual conference upon providing satisfactory answers to conference membership questions (see ¶8720) and receiving the recommendation of the MEG Board based on his/her demonstrated proficiency in the Outcomes-Based Ordination areas (see ¶5410).
- B. Election to elder’s orders constitutes the acknowledgement of the annual conference that the person so elected has met all the biblical (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1) and ecclesiastical requirements to serve as an overseer in the Church. Only an ordained elder may serve as a ministerial delegate to General Conference, a conference superintendent or a bishop.
- C. The elder shall administer baptism and the Lord’s Supper, solemnize marriages, and lead in divine worship. When appointed to a society, an elder shall perform the responsibilities of a pastor.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Excerpt from the Free Methodist Book of Discipline (2019) ¶5400.

**NOTE to the Candidate:**

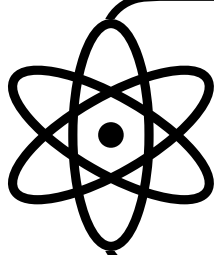
The expectation for the candidate in the "Pathway to Ordained Elder" is to take initiative in setting meetings with their pastor/mentor and completing the Elder formation plan.

**NOTE to the Pastor/Mentor:** The expectation for the pastor/mentor is to disciple the potential Ordained Elder into the depth of their calling. You may add additional criteria to the Acts 12:24 Churches minimum viable process (MVP) and/or delegate the mentoring to a suitable mentor.



**ADMINISTRATION:**

- Establish a regular rhythm for meeting with your mentor to debrief your ministry experiences and to review your progress toward your goals. Your mentor will guide you to join them in ministry and help you find preaching & other ministry opportunities.



## MINIMUM VIABLE PROCESS

**MVP**

**MVP** is a commitment to achieve the desired outcomes with simple and clear requirements. MVP removes all unnecessary constraints in an effort to accelerate completion while providing you freedom to add material based on the unique needs of your ministry context.

# PATHWAY TO ORDAINED ELDER



## Discipleship

Demonstrate the gifts, knowledge, and skills for ordained ministry based upon the "Head, Hands, Heart" criteria. Utilize the provided outline & resources to complete the Elder formation plan.

**Note:** The Elder Formation Plan is topical, non-linear, and not based on one session per topic. The minimum viable process (MVP) requires one meeting per month. Some of the requirements may require additional time and meetings. The pathway to Ordained Elder may take 3-5 years to complete. The pastor/mentor may add additional criteria to the Acts 12:24 Churches minimum viable process (MVP) and/or delegate the mentoring to a suitable mentor.

### ELDER FORMATION PLAN: Mentorship Discussions

With you pastor/mentor, discuss and evaluate your progress and growth over time in these areas:

#### HEAD

The purpose is to gain an adequate foundation of knowledge and on developing the necessary habits of learning.

1. Demonstrates a biblical understanding
2. Demonstrates a Wesleyan theological integration.
3. Has sufficient theological education.
4. Clearly and humbly states deeply held biblical understandings, listening respectfully, and pursuing shared goals whenever possible.
5. Possesses the ability to practically apply learning.

#### HANDS

The purpose is to focus on increasing skills and the capacity to expand the Kingdom of God on earth by making disciples and reproducing Jesus-centered groups:

1. Demonstrates fruitfulness in ministry.
2. Cultivates the expansion of God's Kingdom.
3. Operates as a servant-leader.
4. Empowers others to discover and function within their God-given design.
5. Leads with creativity and vision.

#### HEART

The purpose is to focus on the spiritual condition and personal lifestyle of a follower of Jesus:

1. Models humility.
2. Demonstrates a high level of self-awareness.
3. Lives a life shaped by love for others.
4. Lives a well-balanced life that can sustain the demands of ministry.
5. Characterized by spiritual maturity and a strong sense of a call to ministry.



# PATHWAY TO ORDAINED ELDER



ELDER FORMATION PLAN: Head, Heart, Hands		DONE	DATE
<b>HEAD: Coursework</b>			
<p>The purpose of this requirement is to establish a lifestyle of rigorously studying the Bible, studying works of theology, and studying how God works and reveals himself in all of creation. Educational courses are essential to stretching and strengthening you in needed areas of knowledge and skill.</p> <p>A completed pastoral or ministry course of study (degree or certificate) from an approved Ministry Education Center will satisfy the coursework requirement. There are many options to achieve the educational goals, including Ministry Education Centers in the Acts 12:24 Churches, the Free Methodist Center for Pastoral Formation, Bible Institutes, Colleges, and Seminaries. Ask the conference office, in advance of starting a program, if you are uncertain if your coursework will satisfy the ministry requirements. A list of approved Ministry Education Centers can be found, with a link to their course offerings, on the Acts 12:24 Churches website: <a href="https://acts1224churches.com/pathway/links/">https://acts1224churches.com/pathway/links/</a></p>			
<b>HEAD: Wesleyan Theology</b>			
<p>If a Wesleyan Theology course was not a part of your other coursework, you will need to complete this additional course as a part of the formation plan. You may take this course at any of our approved Ministry Education Centers.</p>			
<b>HEART: Attend a Ministry or Leadership Conference</b>			
<p>The goal of this requirement is to establish a commitment to life-long learning. Our prayer is that attendance at ministry and leadership conferences will become a regular part of your life and leadership. The ministry or leadership conference can be of your choosing with focused attention to areas of ministry that are specific to your call and gifting.</p> <p>Discuss your experience and application with your mentor.</p>			
<b>HEART: Attend a Spiritual Holiness Retreat</b>			
<p>The purpose of this assignment is for your personal soul care. Attend a corporate or solo retreat as a participant (not a leader, worker, or volunteer). Spending time in prayer and retreat teaches us to have a submissive spirit, draw close to Jesus, and be transformed. The outpouring of your ministry to others will be fed by the inpouring of Jesus into your heart through the word and prayer. A personal spiritual retreat is crucial to the life of all Christians for the vitality of their personal spiritual life.</p> <p>You and your mentor can determine a suitable retreat to satisfy this requirement. Journal your experience. Following the retreat, meet with your mentor to discuss what the Lord revealed to you.</p>			
<b>HANDS: Attend a CDN Encounter</b>			
<p>The purpose of this assignment is to activate the strategies and principles of church planting, rapid kingdom expansion, and multiplication. As a part of the Encounter you will create a plan to form a new group in your local ministry setting. This may take some time to see fruitfulness and you will work with your mentor to guide you in the process. It is expected that you will form a new group, implement the 5 strategies, lead people to Jesus, and disciple them to obey his teachings.</p> <p>Discuss your experience and application with your mentor.</p>			
<b>HANDS: Ministry Assignments</b>			
<p>Engage in meaningful ministry roles in your local church which may include preaching opportunities, visiting the sick, evangelism, leading ministry teams, facilitating small groups, leading Bible studies, organizing events and activities, etc.</p> <p>Meet with your pastor for assignments and coaching.</p>			

# PATHWAY TO ORDAINED ELDER



## ELDER FORMATION PLAN: Conference Participation

<b>Attend District Meetings</b>	
	A part of the Free Methodist structure includes geographic districts where our Pastors and CMCs meet together for encouragement, accountability, & fellowship. Most districts meet monthly and are led by an appointed district leader. If you have work constraints or concerns about attending your District Meetings, speak with your Regional Superintendent.
<b>Attend Annual Conference</b>	
	This is the annual gathering of the Acts 12:24 Churches Conference. It is an important time to connect with other pastors, pray together, and hear the mission and vision for our region. If you have any concerns about attending Annual Conference, speak with your regional superintendent.
<b>Submit a “CMC Annual Report” form</b>	
	Each year you will submit an annual report to your Regional MEG with updates on your "Head, Heart, Hands" progress. You will have space to report on your ministry work and any objectives you have completed. Submit the annual CMC progress report on the Acts 12:24 MEG Website.

# PATHWAY TO ORDAINED ELDER



## Discernment

Upon the recommendation of your pastor, meet with the Regional MEG Board for your ordination interview. Following approval, plan to attend the next Acts 12:24 Annual Conference.

**Discuss:** Are you ready to take the next step toward ordained ministry or do you sense a call to local ministry only (ministry leader, deacon)?

### MY NEXT STEP: Choose One

#### OPTION 1: Remain a CMC, Redirect, or Wait on the Lord's timing.

Persons who do not show adequate potential of being an elder who can lead a congregation to fulfill the mission of the Church and our expected outcomes should be counseled at an early time to consider the support and service role of a *local ministry leader* (deacon).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Excerpt from the Free Methodist Book of Discipline (2019) ¶6500.

#### OPTION 2: Interview to Become an Ordained Elder

**Step 1:** Candidate completes "Written Ministry Plan" form

The purpose of 1-page ministry plan is to help you intentionally think through your upcoming season in ministry.) Answer these two questions, "Where do I want my ministry to be in 5 years?" & "How will I get there?"

**Step 2:** Candidate completes "Theological Questionnaire" form

This is a detailed, theological assessment. This is not a pass/fail assessment, rather it is meant to give your Regional MEG Board an idea of how you have developed theologically. This is an "open book" assessment, and you can take your time.

**Step 3:** Spouse completes "Spouse Questionnaire" form if applicable

**Step 4:** Pastor/Mentor completes "Recommendation for Ordination" form

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS MAY INCLUDE:

**Heart:**

1. Tell us about how you practice spiritual gifts & how do you cultivate them in others?
2. How have you seen your personal walk with Jesus provide a leading for your family?
3. What have you done in the past year to develop your prayer life?

**Head:**

4. What are some unique Wesleyan and/or Free Methodist distinctives that draw you to our denomination?
5. Tell us about your understand of living a holy, or totally sanctified, life.
6. What areas of the Free Methodist Church structure or doctrine cause you discomfort?

**Hands:**

7. How have you recently seen God work in an "everyday" situation?
8. Tell us about a recent faith conversation you have had with someone.
9. What ministries have you been involved in that are life giving? Life draining?

The Regional Ministerial Education & Guidance (MEG) Board will offer prayer and ministry guidance.

# PATHWAY TO ORDAINED ELDER



## **NOTE:**

After the interview, The MEG will pray for you and dismiss you from the meeting. They will then spend time praying together, reviewing your interview, submitted information, and determine your next steps.

## **Possibilities include:**

1. Recommend that you be received as a member of Acts 12:24 Churches and Ordained as an Elder.
2. Recommend that you spend additional time addressing specific areas that caused the MEG hesitation for approval.
3. Redirection to non-ordained ministry in the local church with recommendations for growth areas.

As mentioned, Ordination is not guaranteed by the completion of this program. Neither is the recommendation to non-ordained ministry to be construed as a failure. Acts 12:24 Churches wants to deploy many people into the harvest fields so that we can reach many people for Jesus. However, we only want to ordain elders that Jesus has called into the ordained ministry. Non-ordained options for ministry are very diverse and highly necessary in the Church of Jesus.

We want all disciples of Jesus to work “with all their might” (Eccl. 9:10) for Jesus. It is our prayer that many leaders will be raised up to do a mighty work for Jesus so that “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God, as the waters cover the sea.” (Hab. 2:14).

# PATHWAY TO ORDAINED ELDER



## Celebration

The Bishop will lead the conference in recognizing this sacred milestone in your life. Answer Elder questions. Receive Prayer.

**The ordination ritual and questions for Elders are located in ¶8400.  
The president and the elders present shall lay their hands upon the head of each of them and the president, addressing each by name shall say:**

The Lord pour upon you the Holy Spirit for the office and work of an elder in the Free Methodist Church now committed unto you by the laying on of our hands.

**They shall continue to kneel and the president shall say:**

Take authority to minister the Word of God. Faithfully proclaim his Word, declare his forgiveness, celebrate the sacraments, shepherd his people.

**The president will present credentials to each and offer congratulations.**

# *Congratulations!*



# HOW TO BUILD YOUR PRAYER TEAM

## 1. Humble yourself before the Lord.

Admit to God that you desperately need intercessors; ask Him to help you build your team.

## 2. Listen to God.

Let God shape your vision. God will speak to you about whom to recruit for your prayer team. He will give you a clear vision and key Scriptures that will guide your prayer team. List the names of specific people you can invite to join your team. Let them know how you expect them to pray consistently.

Clearly define the specific commitment you expect. Identify your commitment to them.

(Write to them once a week; once a month, etc.) List specific requests you will pass on to your intercessors and ask them to continually cry out to God on your behalf. These requests should be specific, measurable, challenging and biblical.

## 3. Begin recruitment.

It is always good to make certain personal invitations by phone or in person to build a core group of intercessors and then cast your net to a larger group. Once your team is recruited, no matter how small it is, begin affirming them and communicating with them, sharing your struggles as well as your victories.

## 4. Select a leader.

If possible, select a leader for your Prayer Shield Team who will assist in overseeing communication.

## 5. Honor your intercessors.

Most intercessors do not want to be acknowledged publicly by name but they like to know they are appreciated even by indirect reference. For your core intercessors, it is good to periodically give them a gift, treat them to dinner with you or in some way express your deep personal appreciation.

## 6. Pray for your intercessors.

Each week, by name, pray for your intercessors. Just as you need their prayers, they need your prayers.

There are few people in ministry with whom you will share a more intimate partnership!

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Source: College of Prayer International, "How to Build a Prayer Shield" (2014).

## FIVE GOOD REASONS TO BUILD A PRAYER SHIELD

### **It's biblical.**

The Apostle Paul built a prayer team as did countless other Christian leaders through church history.

### **It's efficient.**

All God's works are done by prevailing prayer. All Christian leaders involved in Kingdom ministry would benefit from an effective team of personal intercessors.

### **It's humbling.**

To ask for prayer is not egotistical. On the contrary, it is away of humbling ourselves.

### **It builds teamwork.**

God loves to draw His people into tighter relationship with each other.

Rather than people randomly praying on their own, it is more helpful to build them into a group with a common purpose to pray in the same direction.

### **It's a blessing.**

Calling people to prayer is calling them to spend time before the Father and nothing is a greater blessing than that. When people pray for our ministry, they share in the reward of the fruit of Christ will produce through us.

# Mentorship Guidelines

**Candidate:** The expectation for the candidate who is entering into one of the pathways to take initiative to set the initial meeting with their local pastor.

**Pastor:** The expectation for the pastor is to disciple (mentor/coach) the candidate into the depth of their calling. The pastor may delegate the mentoring to a suitable mentor.

The pastor/mentor will bring the candidate with them to do pastoral care, bible study, family home visits, etc. If the mentor is not in an active ministry role, they can will connect the candidate with a pastor that they will be able to shadow.

The pastor/mentor will help the candidate to locate multiple opportunities to lead in preaching/teaching opportunities, pastoral care, bible study, family home visits, etc. and debrief them on what happened.

**Together:** Set expectations, training goals, and intended milestones for progress.

Characteristics	Benefits
<p>Effective Mentors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are real &amp; honest.</li> <li>• They have earned respect.</li> <li>• They are reliable.</li> <li>• They are highly relational.</li> <li>• They are willing to serve as role models.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To the organization               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased productivity.</li> <li>• Increase rate of organizational growth, reduce turnover, and maintain organizational stability.</li> <li>• Increase organizational communication and understanding.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>What Mentors Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentors share their lives.</li> <li>• Mentors are willing to ask the tough questions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigative questions.</li> <li>• Discovery questions.</li> <li>• Provide networking resources.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To the mentor               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced self esteem.</li> <li>• Renewed passion for ministry.</li> <li>• Close personal relationships.</li> <li>• Larger sphere of influence.</li> <li>• Lasting legacy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Pitfalls to Avoid in Mentoring Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid giving advice</li> <li>• Taking too much personal control</li> <li>• Having unrealistic or unfulfilled expectations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To the mentee               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress more rapidly</li> <li>• Experience better overall job satisfaction</li> <li>• Increase connection points within and outside an organization</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

MEETING DATE/TIME	LOCATION	TOPIC

# Ministry Opportunities

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY	DATE ASSIGNED	DATE COMPLETED	MEET & REPORT