

Candidate Medical Examination/Assessment Report Process and Policy Outline 2002

The CPC Board of the Ordained Ministry, out of concern for the clergy candidate's health and wellness, developed a new candidate's medical assessment form created with corresponding policy changes, to be implemented at Annual Conference 2002. The purpose of the new assessment report and policies is to insure better communication of clergy candidate's health and wellness to the DCOM and the Board of the Ordained Ministry. This concern is reflected in the 2000 Book of Discipline paragraph 304.2: "For the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness to the Christian gospel, and in consideration of the influence of an ordained minister on the lives of other persons both within and outside the Church, the Church expects those who seek ordination to make a complete dedication of themselves to the highest ideals of the Christian life. To this end, they agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity integrity in all personal relationships, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility, and growth in grace and in the knowledge and love of God".

This serves as a working outline of the new policies involving the candidate's health and wellness. A more comprehensive report of these policies have been distributed to each of the CPC's District Superintendents.

Declared Candidate to Certified Candidate

1. Each declared candidate's first physical be presented to the DCOM at the time of consideration to become a certified candidate, this would accompany the psychological profile mandated by Discipline. (The United Methodist Church Board of Ordained Ministry Handbook 2000-2004, chapter 8, page 13 states:" " Candidacy :Fitness for Ministry Fitness and potential effectiveness are basic to the purpose of the candidacy interview by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry. Therefore, interest inventories, psychological assessments, and lifestyle issues are dealt with there. The substance of this interview provides background for reference to the person's call in later interviews. Only when unresolved or new fitness issues emerge, or the candidate later questions his or her calling, would it be necessary to include fitness as a focus at the probationary or full conference membership interviews. Interviewing for fitness includes spiritual psychological and physical dimensions. Chronic physical limitations are to be noted and evaluated in the light of the Disciplinary requirement that, " "Disabilities are not to be construed as unfavorable health factors when a person with disability is capable of meeting the professional standards and is physically able to render effective service as a probationary member and commissioned minister." (2000 Discipline, 315. 8) "When a candidate will not be able to render service due to a physical disability it is better to recognize and explore implications of this early in the candidacy process.")

a. Candidate's Medical Assessment:

(1) The current four page Candidate Medical Assessment form provided by the BOM needs to be completed by the candidate's physician. Please note within this

medical form it states “The candidate may be asked about their wellness program and their perceptions of what that should include”

(2) All medical assessments need to be current , within 5 years.

(3) BOM and/or DCOM may request a more current medical report in cases of exceptional circumstances that may be come evident through the DS, mentor reports, BOM interactions, or other sources.

b. Psychological Assessment:

(1) The Psychological assessment does not need to be current within 5 years.

(2) The DCOM and BOM may request a more current psychological profile in cases of exceptional circumstances that may become evident through the DS, mentor reports, BOM interactions, or other sources.

2. Probationary Membership and Commissioning

a. The second candidate physical be presented to the BOM at the time of consideration to become a probationary member, per Disciplinary requirement paragraph 315.8.

(1) The current four page Candidate Medical Assessment form provided by the BOM needs to be completed by the candidate’s physician. Please note within this medical form it states “The candidate may be asked about their wellness program and their perceptions of what that should include”

(2) All medical assessments need to be current, within 5 years.

(3) BOM may request a more current medical report in cases of exceptional circumstances that may be come evident through the DS, mentor reports, BOM interactions, or other sources.

(4) BOM reserves the right to request a second medical report to be completed by a Board selected physician. In question medical reports could include incomplete medical reports. Payment for this additional medical report, requested by BOM and completed by the conference physician would be assumed by the BOM.

b. Psychological Assessment:

(1) Per policy and discipline a new psychological assessment does not need to be submitted at this time.

(2) The BOM may request a more current psychological profile in cases of exceptional circumstances that may become evident through the DS, mentor reports, BOM interactions, or other sources.

The candidate is expected to actively maintain accountability to responsible personal control habits, growth in grace and knowledge and love of God, with a covenant group. The BOM is responsible for the establishment of the covenant groups.