



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Type your full **name, address, phone number, and email address** at the top right of each page to help the committees easily identify your work.
2. RESTATE each question in full and number it exactly as listed below. Note that several questions have more than one part. Answer each part of the question fully.
3. Answers must be **TYPED, Double-spaced** for 8 ½ x 11, **number** all pages.
4. E-Mail **ONE** copy of **Part II with bibliography to** Clergy Services, clergyservices@umcsc.org.
5. Your answers should be honest reflections of where you are presently on your faith journey. Be straightforward in your answers. You may use resources from another source but not another complete curriculum. Give proper credit if you make use of quotes or paraphrases. Use the Turabian format for your footnotes, citations, and bibliography.
 - Footnote Example: Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad* (New York: Doubleday-Penguin Random House LLC, 2016), 124.
 - Bibliography Example: Whitehead, Colson. *The Underground Railroad*. New York: Doubleday-Penguin Random House LLC, 2016.
6. The responses to Part II should be **no more than 15 pages**.
7. Papers not meeting all of the above instructions and requirements will be returned to the Sender.

FRUITFULNESS PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Jesus spoke of being known by our fruits in Matthew's gospel (Matthew:15-20). John Wesley, in his writings and meetings, regularly asked the question, "are there fruits?" To assist the United Methodist Church to move from the mentality of maintenance to one of mission, the 2012 General Conference made changes requiring those seeking ordination in the UMC as a Deacon or Elder to complete a project "that demonstrates fruitfulness in carrying out the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

FRUITFULNESS PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

1. The fruitfulness project is to be created, led, and implemented by you in collaboration with clergy and laity. It must demonstrate fruitfulness in carrying out the Church's mission of making disciples for Jesus for the transformation of the world in your context. Be as

creative as necessary to demonstrate your ministry as a deacon or as an elder and the equipping of others to fulfill the church's mission.

2. You are expected to present a reflection paper that should address each one of the components/questions contained in this instruction packet. It will be an opportunity to describe life-giving ministry through the lens of fruitful practices in the area of theological reflection, leadership competencies, and spiritual transformation.
3. Your answers are to be an exercise in critical **theological thinking**. Remember that the Discipline requires that you “should demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly in both oral and written forms” (2016 Discipline, Par. 335). Be aware that your reader will take every word you have written seriously. Your responses should be written with the utmost attention to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and style.
4. We expect our candidates to use **inclusive language** throughout their paperwork.
5. A few guides to inclusive language from our UMC seminaries can be found at:
 - a. <https://divinity.duke.edu/sites/divinity.duke.edu/files/documents/scos/COS%20%20Inclusive%20Language%20Policy.pdf>
 - b. <http://candler.emory.edu/programs-resources/course-study/policies-procedures.html>
 - c. <http://www.itc.edu/assets/pdf/Student-Handbook-2013.pdf>

For Questions Contact:

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**FRUITFULNESS PROJECT
FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP DEACON AND ELDER CANDIDATES
¶ 330.4 (5) & ¶335.7 (2016 Book of Discipline)**

FRUITFULNESS PROJECT QUESTIONS

- I. What is your understanding of making disciples for Jesus Christ?

- II. Define the project.
 - a. What do you plan to do?

 - b. Why have you chosen this project for this setting? Consider specific needs in the congregation or community, such as the need for a support group, study group, a type of community outreach, etc.

 - c. What are your goal(s) and desired outcome(s)? Be concise and specific in identifying your goals and outcomes. Note that you DO NOT necessarily need to meet all of your goals or outcomes for your project to be “fruitful.”

- III. Prepare for the project.
 - a. Describe the stakeholders. Who has a stake in the project's outcome, and why do they have a stake?

 - b. Identify participants that are needed for the project to succeed. There are often more participants than immediately come to mind. (leadership team, support team, target audience) These are all the people who need to be on board for the project to be fruitful. These will be different depending on your project.

 - c. What resources will you need for your project to be fruitful? These will be project specific. (People, facilities, finances, supplies, equipment, etc.)

 - d. Compile a comprehensive list of tasks you must accomplish for your project to be fruitful and who will be responsible for each task.

 - e. Create a timeline for the project. Include activity/event, date, time, leader/s, and participants. This may be completed in a calendar, list, or spreadsheet format.

- IV. Implement the Project (This should be the major section of your paper)
 - a. Describe how the project was implemented (what did you actually do?)

 - b. How was the leadership in the project shared with clergy and laity?

 - c. What were the unforeseen challenges? How did you and your team adapt to these challenges?

 - d. What happened as the project unfolded?

 - e. What went as expected?

- f. What surprised you and your team?
- V. Evaluate the project after it is completed. Include the following:
- a. An evaluation form created for this project that participants, stakeholders, and/or others used to evaluate the project.
 - b. A summary of the outcomes and other feedback from the evaluation forms.
 - c. How do the actual outcomes compare to the original goals /desired outcomes? Note that a project may be “fruitful” even if the actual outcome isn’t exactly what you expected.
 - d. The specific fruit throughout the project demonstrated that disciples were being made for the transformation of the world.
 - e. A description of how the project demonstrated your fruitfulness in ministry as a deacon as stated in ¶ 328 or as an elder as stated in ¶ 332 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.
 - f. A description of what went well and what you would do differently if you did this same project again.

Examples of Ministry Projects

(These projects are meant to spur your creativity, but you are not limited to

those listed below) List of suggestions for the first year of implementation:

- *Implement a Worship Design Team to lead the congregation into passionate worship.*
- *Begin home groups to reach un-churched people.*
- *Leading a long-term Bible study, targeting a new population.*
- *Designing new ‘Inviting’ ministries.*
- *Starting a new member class where persons were intentionally led to a profession of their faith and were integrated into the life and work of the congregation.*
- *Starting a new music ensemble for potential new Christians.*
- *Start a community outreach project that seeks to address a social justice issue.*

List of suggestions for subsequent years:

- *Launching a new worship service.*
- *Starting a new church or satellite ministry.*
- *Launching a major outreach project to address a social justice issue.*
- *Beginning ‘home’ groups to reach un-churched persons.*
- *Leading a mission trip.*
- *Initiating a divorce recovery, grief, or a chemical dependency ministry.*
- *Leading a long-term Bible study, targeting a new population.*
- *Designing new ‘Inviting’ ministries.*
- *Starting a new member class where persons were intentionally led to a profession*

of their faith and were integrated into the life and work of the congregation.

- *Leading a confirmation class from start to finish.*
- *Directing a major musical or theatrical production in which the public was invited to participate.*
- *Starting a new music ensemble for potential new Christians.*

Resource for additional information: *Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results* by Tom Berlin and Lovett H. Weems Jr.