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KY-TN District of The Wesleyan Church

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Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in being a Ministerial Student in The Wesleyan Church and within the Kentucky-Tennessee District in particular. I am excited about the call of God on your life and your willingness to obey and answer. Serving God in ministry is a wonderful thrill and privilege, and I am always blessed to hear of those willing to put God first in their lives and follow His call.

A minister friend of mine always says "A call to preach is a call to prepare!" I agree with him — Jesus spent several years training His Disciples before sending them out in ministry. While we don't have the same opportunity of literally sitting at the feet of Jesus and having Him teach us, every successful preacher, pastor, and servant of God will always have some preparation for the service they are called to give. God has blessed us with gifted writers, teachers, and leaders to help us in this area. I applaud your desire to move forward and know God will bless your time of preparation with His presence and help.

There are several steps to being a Ministerial Student in The Wesleyan Church. I will outline and explain them below.

1. You must be a member of a local Wesleyan congregation.
2. The Local Board of Administration of the church where you hold your membership must recommend you to be a Ministerial Student. They may use the form that is provided with this packet. This must be sent to the District Office by April 15.
3. You must fill out the initial questionnaire that is provided and return it to the District Office by April 15. The address of the District Office is 3677 Gloucester Drive | Lexington KY 40510. If you have any previous credits from a Bible College or University (online or traditional) that you would like to be credited to your educational file, please send a transcript of these credits along with your initial questionnaire.
4. You need three people who have known you for an extended time in a spiritual setting to submit a recommendation, testifying to their confidence in your spiritual walk / testimony. One of the individuals providing the recommendation should be your pastor. The others are up to you to choose. We have provided recommendation forms for them to fill out as part of this packet. These forms must also be returned to the District Office by April 15.
5. Once the recommendations and questionnaire are received by the District Office, you will be contacted to set up an initial interview with the District Board of Ministerial Development. Initial interviews are conducted in the month of May or June, usually on a Saturday.
6. Once the DBMD reviews your questionnaire / recommendations and meets with you for the initial interview, if you are approved, they will recommend you to the Annual District Conference held in July where you and all other prospective ministerial students will be voted on for approval as District Ministerial Students. Once approved at that level, you will receive a welcome letter and Ministerial Student Credentials in August.
7. Upon the approval of the Annual District Conference, we will also register you with the Education and Clergy Development Department of The Wesleyan Church. There is a one-time \$20 fee for registering that is covered by the District. You will be able to access your educational portfolio online and see the results as you progress toward Ordination.

"ONWARD and UPWARD!"

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8. There are several requirements to maintain your Ministerial Student status:
- A. **You need to complete two educational courses per year.** We recommend several options to get this taken care of, including Indiana South District Clergy Development Classes, FLAME online courses, Correspondence Courses via Kingswood Extended, and online CROSS Training via Oklahoma Wesleyan. Please visit our **District Ministerial Student Information** page at kytnwesleyan.com for more information. You can also fulfill your two class per year requirement by taking on site or online courses at an approved Bible college / Christian university.
 - B. To continue in the Ministerial Student Program, you will need to complete a yearly questionnaire and participate in an annual DBMD follow up interview. You will also be assigned a mentor who will contact you periodically to check on your progress, encourage you and pray with you for whatever needs you would like to share. Once you have completed the initial six classes needed to become a Licensed Minister, the DBMD may recommend you transition to that next level. Generally, once you are a Licensed Minister, you are eligible for appointment as a pastor of a church — although that could happen earlier or later depending on the church, the student, and the leading of the Lord.

I imagine that all of this may sound a bit overwhelming as you read this broad overview that I have provided, but it really isn't as complicated as it sounds. Interviews with the District Board of Ministerial Development can seem intimidating as can the thought of educational classes, especially if you are an older student or someone who hasn't been in classes for a number of years.

Two final things to keep in mind:

1. The DBMD is made up of caring and kind Christians whose main goal and purpose is to help Ministerial Students be what God has called them to be. Nearly every Ministerial Student that meets with the DBMD, comes away stating that the meeting was a blessing and not at all as bad as they feared it might be!
2. As you take educational classes, you will be surprised and blessed at how God develops and matures your personal walk with Him and the equipping for ministry that will take place as a result of these courses. As your education expands, your confidence and ability will increase as well.

If after reading all of this, your heart still burns within you to follow the call of God on your life, start working your way through the steps outlined above and get ready for a new adventure of preparing for the ministry to which God has called you. Personally, I look forward to working with you and seeing how God uses you within our District as you seek to follow His leading!

Please contact our Office Administrator Tim Linick (270-790-1341 | kytndistrict@gmail.com) with any further questions you may have. You may feel free to contact me as well.

Blessings and Prayers,

Rev. Aaron P. Sherman
District Superintendent
Chairman of the DBMD

