

## Procedures for Persons Seeking EMC Credentials

- Credential candidates must meet with the Conference Superintendent for evaluation.
- Upon the recommendation of the Conference Superintendent the credential candidate completes and submits a *Personnel Blank* to the Conference Superintendent. In addition, the Conference Superintendent will instruct the candidate to submit official college or seminary transcripts to the attention of the EMC General Secretary (original transcripts are retained at Headquarters and copies are forwarded to the HSOM Dean for evaluation).
- Conference Superintendent signs and submits the Personnel Blank to EMC Headquarters.
- EMC Headquarters will initiate a background investigation on all credential candidates.
- With a clear background check the Headquarters will notify the candidate to expect a contact from the Chair of the General Board of Ministerial Relations for an interview.
- The General Board of Ministerial Relations will schedule and conduct an interview with the candidate.
- Upon the recommendation of the General Board of Ministerial Relations the candidate is either referred to the General Board of Ministerial Education to enroll in the Haggard School of Ministry and/or the Evangelical School of Ministry, or move directly to Admission on Trial. The Dean of the Haggard School of Ministry (HSOM) or the Dean of the Evangelical School of Ministry (ESOM) will receive enrollment applications that are obtained from Headquarters or downloaded from the web site.
- Credential candidates admitted to either HSOM or ESOM will complete the required courses for the particular credential sought (Deacon/Deaconess, Local Preacher, Elder).
- The educational path for credential candidates without a bachelors degree can be as short as one year (Deacon/Deaconess) or as long as five years (Elder).
- The Haggard School of Ministry prepares candidates without bachelors degrees in ministerial related resident and non-resident courses (**HSOM & ESOM replaces the former Course of Study program**). The completion of HSOM fulfills the requirements for Local Preachers License, which is a status that may be maintained or choose to pursue Elder's Orders.
- The Evangelical School of Ministry prepares candidates for Elders Orders who have completed either HSOM or hold a bachelors degree in a ministry related field.
- Credential candidates with degrees from non-recognized EMC colleges or seminaries may be asked to attend specific classes in ESOM or HSOM. All ministerial candidates must attend "This is the EMC" regardless of their ministerial placement.
- Chapter 6, paragraph 872 of the Discipline of the Evangelical Methodist Church covers the procedures for "*Receiving Ministers from Other Churches.*"

