

# DCOM Expectations

District Committee on Ordained Ministry

## **Expectations**

Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church  
2019

The appointment to serve on the District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM) is a sacred trust. One who is appointed is expected to be centered in Christ and rooted and grounded in the Christian faith and the doctrines of the United Methodist Church. This ministry requires its members to examine candidates objectively, relative to their readiness to be recommended for Certified Lay Ministry, approved as Certified Candidates for licensed or ordained ministry, and to consider all matters that come before them with integrity, honesty and fairness.

To this end, we now enter into this agreement which will be reviewed, ratified and modified annually. I affirm my support and acceptance of the DCOM Expectations for the 2018-2019 Conference year:

- 1 I will at all times bring the fullness of my Christian experience and understanding of the church to the DCOM. I understand that the Committee functions best when we have the collective wisdom and experience of the full membership.
- 2 I understand and accept that CONFIDENTIALITY is essential to the ministry and our work. I agree that discussions relative to CLM applicants, ministry candidates and other clergy must remain within DCOM meetings. Disclosure of confidential information clearly violates our Covenantal Expectations and destroys unity within the Body. I understand that if it is substantiated that I revealed confidential information, I will be asked to resign.
- 3 There are times when fuller explanations of our decisions are required to further the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM). In fact, the Book of Discipline describes the District Committee in terms of their function as “subcommittees of the board (paragraph 635.1.g). Members of the committee may discuss DCOM decisions at BOOM meetings when this is critical to the work of the BOOM. Further, the DCOM chairperson or designated representative may go into more detail about the Board's decision when it is necessary for interpreting the Board's action to a candidate who was not approved by the Board. However, in no case may names of Board members or the actual vote count be used.
- 4 Having accepted the privilege and obligations of serving on DCOM, I will fully participate in its work. If I find I cannot do the work I have been assigned, I will

notify the DCOM Chair, and seek another way of serving on the committee.

- 5 I will share any information I have concerning any candidate or applicant that may be helpful to the process. My information may be correct, incorrect, or need verification, but in all cases, it will be offered and used only to help the DCOM assess the candidate's readiness for ministry.
- 6 I will abide by and honor the collective decisions of the DCOM, trusting in the Holy Spirit on issues that are unresolved in my mind. I will engage in holy conferencing to resolve differences of opinion, and I will not take my disagreements with committee decisions to persons not on the committee.
- 7 I understand that at any time that I discover that I am unable or unwilling to abide by this Covenant, I will voluntarily resign from the DCOM. I will do so in writing, in a letter written to the Chair and copied to my District Superintendent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME (signature above and printed below)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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