

RULES OF CONFERENCE

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE RULES

At its October 2018 meeting the National Ministry Team recommended to National Conference 2019 a number of changes to the Rules of Conference. These additional changes are provided for the National Ministry Team's consideration and recommendation to National Conference 2019. The red indicates a proposed change: red strikethrough is to be removed; plan red text is new to be inserted.

Under Section 400 National Conference

403 Finance - The committee receives budgetary requests and prepares a budget that provides for the overall ministry of the National Conference. The budget and annual ministry funds rate are recommended to the National Conference by this committee. It quarterly reviews all financial functions of all National Conference Funds and recommends policies to the National Conference. The committee recommends ~~minimum salary levels compensation~~ and benefits packages for pastors, the Bishop, the Executive Director, Associates, District Field Directors, and the Stationing Elders. The membership shall include the treasurer who shall serve as chair. The Executive Director shall serve as an advisory member.

~~805.2.1.3.4. A Licensed Pastor shall receive a salary based on the minimum compensation set by the Pastoral Compensation Committee recommendation and mandated by National Conference approval for a Licensed Pastor.~~

Under Section 803 Ministerial Elder's Ordination and Itinerancy

803.1.3.1. If, in the ~~considered~~ judgment of ~~the Board of Examiners the Ministerial Development Community and the National Conference~~, an applicant for ministry possesses a degree of maturity and experience, and has training equivalent to a Master of Divinity degree, he may be considered for ordination provided that he receives additional training for Evangelical Congregational history, polity, and doctrine as determined by the Board of Examiners.

~~803.1.3.2. If an applicant does not have training equivalent to a Master of Divinity degree, they may require the applicant to receive supplemental education.~~

Under Section 803.2. Itinerancy

~~803.2.1. The Itinerancy defines the ordained ministerial membership of the National Conference. An Itinerant Ordained Elder makes a commitment to the Evangelical Congregational Church to serve as assigned until released for good and sufficient reason by the National Conference.~~ The Itinerancy is a self-disciplining body of ordained Elders who accept the priority of the cause of Christ in service to the Lord and who are committed to a lifetime of service under the authority of the EC Church.

803.2.3. An Itinerant Ordained Elder makes a commitment to the Evangelical Congregational Church to serve as assigned under the direction of the National Conference, until such time as he is released ~~for good and sufficient reason by the National Conference~~.

Under Section 804.2.2. Board of Examiners Interviews

~~804.2.6. All applicants will be provided a required educational plan based on an educational rubric established by the Board of Examiners.~~

Under Section 804.3. Advancement

804.3.2. All licensed ~~and local~~ pastors and Itinerant Ordained Elders shall be required to take the courses pertaining to Evangelical Congregational history, polity, and doctrine. Approved elders shall be required to take these courses after their first year in service.

Under Section 805.1.4. Restrictions (All Candidates)

805.1.4.1. All candidate statuses are subject to annual renewal.

~~805.1.4.1.1. Candidates are required to complete and submit a renewal application annually.~~

~~805.1.4.1.2. Beginning in the third year after receiving their credentials, candidates shall appear before the Board of Examiners, and thereafter, every five years to provide updates.~~

~~805.1.4.1.3. If a local or licensed candidate remains dormant in making progress toward his educational advancement for (4) years or more, the Ministerial Development Community may take action with his status.~~

Under Section 805.2.1.3. Licensed Pastor

~~805.2.1.3.4. A Licensed Pastor shall receive a salary based on the minimum compensation set by the Pastoral Compensation Committee recommendation and mandated by National Conference approval for a Licensed Pastor.~~

~~805.2.1.3.4.1. A Licensed Pastor in his first two (2) years shall be compensated accordingly; however after completion of his second full year, he shall be compensated as a Licensed Pastor II.~~

Under Section 805.2.4. Restrictions (All Pastors)

~~805.2.4.1. If a local or licensed pastor remains dormant in making progress toward his educational advancement for (4) years or more, the Ministerial Development Community may take action with his status.~~

Under Section 805.3.3. Procedure for Application (Itinerant Ordained Elders only)

~~805.3.3.4. Even if an applicant possesses a qualified ordination from another denomination and is approved as an Ordained Elder, the Board of Examiners may still require the applicant to receive supplemental training, before being considered for itinerancy.~~

Under Section 805.4. All Specialized Personnel

~~805.4.1.4.1. The Certified Lay Preacher status is subject to annual renewal.~~

~~805.4.1.4.1.1. Certified Lay Preachers are required to complete and submit a renewal application annually.~~

~~805.4.1.4.1.2. Beginning in the third year after receiving their credentials, Certified Lay Preachers shall appear before the Board of Examiners, and thereafter, every five years to provide updates.~~

~~805.4.2.4.1. The Licensed Deacon/ess status is subject to annual renewal.~~

~~805.4.2.4.1.1. Licensed Deacons/esses are required to complete and submit a renewal application annually.~~

~~805.4.2.4.1.2. Beginning in the third year after receiving their credentials, Deacons/esses shall appear before the Board of Examiners, and thereafter, every five years to provide updates.~~

Under 805.5. Transfer of Credentials from Other Denominations

805.5.1. Requirements

~~805.5.1.3. The applicant shall possess a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent in order to be considered for credentials as an Ordained Elder. If he does not have a Master of Divinity or its equivalent, He shall then be required to apply for and follow the procedure for an Approved, Local, or Licensed Pastor (see section 805.2).~~

~~805.5.1.3.1. If, in the judgment of the Board of Examiners, an applicant for ministry possesses a degree of maturity and experience, and has training equivalent to a Master of Divinity degree, he may be considered as an Ordained Elder and would only be required to receive additional training for Evangelical Congregational history, polity, and doctrine.~~

~~805.5.1.3.2. If in the judgment of the Board of Examiners, an applicant does not have training equivalent to a Master of Divinity degree, he shall then apply for and follow the procedure for an Approved, Local, or Licensed Pastor (see section 805.2). The Board of Examiners will inform the applicant of the supplemental education necessary in order to be considered as an Ordained Elder.~~

~~805.5.1.3.3. Even if an applicant possesses a qualified ordination from another denomination and is approved as an Ordained Elder, the Board of Examiners may still require the applicant to receive supplemental education before being considered for Itinerancy.~~

Under Section 807.1.3. Provisions (Inactive Classifications)

~~807.1.3.2. The National Conference shall also provide for the moving expense of retiring pastors and elders and for widows whose husbands were in active ministry at the time of their death provided that the distance is within the boundaries of the National Conference and is required by stationing (see rule 910.2.3 for schedule).~~

Under Section 906 Stationing Classifications

~~906.1. Full-time Pastors. A full time pastor is a pastor who has been assigned to a church or charge, receives the full time cash salary adopted by National Conference plus the base compensation benefits defined in the NC rule 1002; is designated as full time on the Statement of Church's Compensation form, and has no other employment unless agreed to by the District Field Director and Ministerial Development Associate in consultation with the church or charge.~~

~~906.2. Part-Time Pastors (PT). A part time pastor is a pastor who has been assigned to a church or charge and receives less than the minimum annual salary package as established by the National Conference and has permission to seek outside employment. To assure adequate compensation for the level of part time work expected by a congregation and to assist the Benefits Corporation in assigning certain benefits, part time pastors shall be classified in one of three categories: Quarter time- 10-15 hours per week; Half time- 20-25 hours per week; Three-quarters time- 30-35 hours a week~~

Under Section 910 Moving of Ministers

910.2.4. Effective January 1, 2018 the cost of moving a stationed or superannuated pastor **who is required to move due to stationing** is taxable income in all circumstances if paid by the National Conference or the local church. Pastors with a move paid for by the National Conference will receive a 1099-MISC tax form by January 31 of the next calendar year. The National Conference will reimburse the pastor up to 25% of the cost of the move to cover the additional federal income taxes due on the cost of the move.

Under Section 1020. Miscellaneous Benefits

1020.1. Death Benefits. At the death of a **full-time** pastor who was assigned by appointment, a cash sum in the amount of \$5,000 **for part time or \$10,000 for full time** shall be paid to the surviving wife; **and/or if no surviving spouse then to the dependent children living in the residence; then to the deceased pastor's estate.** This amount shall be paid from the Disability Fund.
