



INITIAL REFERENCE FORM

Instructions to Candidate: Your local church conference has recommended you for licensing by the Regional Board of Ministerial Development as a ministerial student or licensed minister. Follow the instructions of your Regional Board of Ministerial Development as to appropriate persons who can complete this confidential evaluation.

Please give this Reference Form to the following:

1. The Pastor at the local Wesleyan Church where you hold membership
2. Vice Chair of the Local Board of your church
3. Another leader whom you serve in ministry with at your church

Fill in your name and address in the appropriate places on this form before giving printed copies to your references.

It is preferred that you email these to your references and have them returned to:
rbmd@thegl.org

If your references wish to mail them back, please supply them with a stamped envelope addressed to :

Great Lakes Region Board of Ministerial Development
3040 Ivanrest Ave SW, Grandville, MI 49418

The information provided on this form is confidential. It is only for use by the Wesleyan Regional Board of Ministerial Development and Wesleyan Church officials and will not be released or provided to any other parties.

I hereby freely give permission for the use of this information by the district and general officials of The Wesleyan Church and waive my right to examine any confidential information about me provided by other persons.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Instructions to the Respondent:

_____ has completed an application for licensing as a ministerial student or as a licensed minister with the Great Lakes Region of the Wesleyan Church. The applicant/candidate has requested that you be one of the persons to make a candid evaluation to help our Regional Board of Ministerial Development better evaluate the potential of the candidate. Nurture and counsel of the candidate will be advanced by an honest and frank assessment of each of the areas listed. The information you give will be used discreetly as a means of directing and assisting the candidate in discovering God's will concerning the ministry.

Name of person filling out this form: _____

1. In what relationship did you know the applicant?

For how long?

2. In your judgment, does the applicant demonstrate he/she has experienced genuine conversion?

3. In your judgment, does the applicant demonstrate a sense of God's calling to vocational ministry?

4. How do you evaluate him/her as to:

- | | | | |
|---|------|--|-----|
| a. Personal Integrity/honesty | High | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Low |
| b. Maintaining a consistent Christian lifestyle | High | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Low |
| c. Cooperative spirit | High | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Low |
| d. Church attendance | High | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Low |
| e. Promptness | High | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Low |
| f. Ability to meet and relate to people | High | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Low |
| g. Family relationships (<i>with parents/spouse/children</i>) | High | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Low |

h. Depth of spiritual life	High	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Low
i. Reputation in the community	High	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Low
j. Personal appearance	High	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Low
k. Management of finances	High	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Low
l. Speaking ability, communication	High	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Low
m. Aptitude or potential for ministry	High	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Low

5. **Have people been led to a personal relationship with Jesus and made a part of the local church body through the candidate's labors?**

6. **Have people grown spiritually due to the involvement of the candidate in their lives?**

7. **List the areas of greatest strength you see in the candidate.**

8. **List the areas you feel the candidate could improve and thereby enhance effectiveness as a person and as a ministerial aspirant.**

9. **In your judgment, does the candidate demonstrate social behaviors or a lack of social skills that could serve as a deterrent to effective ministry?
If so, please explain.**

10. **In your judgment, does the candidate present any emotional or psychological issues that could serve as a deterrent to effective ministry?
If so, please explain.**

- 11. Give any other information that may be of help in understanding and advising the applicant in preparation for the ministry.**

- 12. Are you aware of any circumstances, past or present, which cause you to question the applicant's qualifications for ministry?
If so, please provide details.**

- 13. Are there other individuals we should check with before licensing this person?
If so, please identify them.**

- 14. Would you be willing to hire this person as a staff member in your church if you had an opening and available finances to provide for their employment?
If not, please explain.**

Full name of person completing form: _____

Your role: _____

Date: _____

Forms can be returned to rbmd@thegl.org



‘Get To Know You’ Inventory

This inventory has been thoughtfully designed to help introduce you to your Regional Board of Ministerial Development (RBMD) as part of your application for Regional ministerial standing. We encourage you to complete the inventory with honesty and care, as this will allow the RBMD to gain a better understanding of your background and experiences. In turn, this will enable the RBMD to offer more personalized support as you continue on your journey toward earning your ministerial credentials.

IDENTIFICATION DATA

- 1. Full name.**

- 2. E-Mail address.**

- 3. Cell Phone:**

- 4. Have you registered with Educational and Clergy Development and submitted any college transcripts to them?**

MILITARY RECORD

If you do not have military record, move to Family Relationships.

- 5. List branch of service, rank and years served.**

- 6. Discharge type.**

- 7. Special training.**

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

- 8. How many children are in the family you grew up in?**

- 9. Briefly survey your childhood home environment, parents' relationship to each other, affection in the home, and your religious training.**

- 10. What is your family's attitude toward the prospect of you entering the ministry? (supportive, passive, opposed)**

MARITAL STATUS

- 11. What is your marital status (single, married, widow(er))?**

- 12. If you are single, are you contemplating marriage?**

- 13. If you are engaged, give planned date of marriage?**

- 14. What is your fiancé's name?**

(Unmarried or not engaged persons move to question 25)

- 15. Explain any hesitancy or resistance your spouse or fiancé may have with your desire to become a minister.**

- 16. If married, spouse's name.**

- 17. Spouse's occupation.**

- 18. Are you and your spouse maintaining a life of sexual purity and faithfulness in your marriage covenant?**

- 19. Have you or your spouse been involved in sexual activity with a minor?**
- 20. Are you living with your spouse?**
- 21. If not, explain.**
- 22. Have you or your spouse been divorced?**
- 23. If yes, explain.**
- 24. If divorced, has it been more than once?**
- 25. Have you or your spouse had a previous marriage terminated by death?**
- 26. If yes, please give date and other information which might help your RBMD understand your situation and loss.**
- 27. Does your spouse plan to continue employment after you are engaged in active ministry?**
- 28. Does your spouse profess to be converted?**
- 29. Is there a hesitancy or problem you know of which might affect your ability to serve effectively?**
- 30. List the ways your spouse might contribute to/complement your ministry.**

FAMILY DEPENDENTS

- 31. Number of children.**
- 32. List children in order with name, sex, age, dependent (y/n) and living (y/n).**
- 33. List other dependents.**

HEALTH INFORMATION

- 34. Do you have any serious physical or emotional issues affecting your ability to minister to others?**
- 35. If yes, explain.**
- 36. What do you consider to be your present state of health?**

OTHER PERSONAL DATA

- 37. Give names of all patriotic, civic, social, fraternal, or athletic societies to which you belong or have belonged.**
- 38. Have you been a member of an organization commonly considered politically subversive?**
- 39. If yes, include an explanation.**
- 40. Have you been a user of tobacco, alcohol, or other harmful drugs?**
- 41. Are you currently using?**

42. What is your attitude toward the above practices or other personal habits which are injurious physically or hurtful to one's influence?
43. Have you been convicted, pled guilty or pled "no contest" to a criminal offense?
44. If yes, attach a full explanation (identify each conviction or guilty plea, when and where each incident occurred, and the sentence received).

EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCES

45. Give your employment record, listing each place over the last 5 years you have worked (beginning with the most recent), including the employer's name and address, the position you held, and the dates employed.
46. Have you been dismissed from a job (other than laid off due to lack of available work)?
47. If yes, what was the job and reason for your dismissal?
48. If you are unemployed, upon whom are you dependent?
49. Have you held a position where you had to plan your own time?
50. What position?
51. Have you been in a position where you supervised others?
52. What position?
53. List the total amount of your indebtedness.

- 54. What is the monthly amount necessary to service your debt?**
- 55. Are you or have you been in arrears on repayment of any debt or obligation?**
- 56. If yes, explain.**
- 57. Could your financial obligations, in any way, interfere with your influence as a minister?**
- 58. If yes, how?**
- 59. Will you make every effort to assure your influence will not be marred nor bring reproach to the gospel, either by your personal obligations or your lifestyle?**

EDUCATIONAL RECORD

- 60. List the name, dates attended, degree or certificate of each high school, university, and seminary you have attended.**
- 61. If you have a high school equivalency diploma, give number and year of issue.**
- 62. Are you enrolled, or do you plan to enroll, in one of our Wesleyan universities, Wesley Seminary or one of the General Board-approved seminaries?**
- 63. Have you completed any part of the education requirements for the credential you are pursuing?**
- 64. If yes, what education requirements have you completed?**

- 65. Are you aware of the education requirements for the credential you are pursuing and, if licensed by the district, is it your purpose to pursue immediately any remaining education requirements to be credentialed?**

RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE AND CHURCH RELATIONSHIP

- 66. List the church or churches you have attended.**
- 67. Of which local Wesleyan church are you now a member?**
- 68. How long have you held membership in that church?**
- 69. Is your spouse or finance a member of a Wesleyan Church?**
- 70. If not, in what church does he/she hold membership?**
- 71. Describe the relations which have existed between you and your local church(es).**
- 72. When were you converted or become born again?**
- 73. Describe your Christian development.**
- 74. When were you baptized?**
- 75. Entire Sanctification is a keystone theological belief for the Wesleyan Church. It usually comes after conversion and involves surrendering all that we know of ourselves to all that we know of God. Do you feel you understand this doctrine well?**

Do you feel you have had the experienced this continuing surrender and the refining work God in entire sanctification?

- 76. If not, will you seek this experience and walk in the light God reveals regarding this experience?**
- 77. Have you ever held a ministerial position with a church or religious institution?**
- 78. If yes, state institution(s) or church and dates.**
- 79. Have you resigned or been dismissed from such a position?**
- 80. If yes, attach a full explanation (describe when and where each resignation or dismissal occurred, and the basis for each such case).**
- 81. Do you feel a definite call to the Christian ministry?**
- 82. Describe how you were called.**
- 83. Is it your goal to make the ministry your life's work?**
- 84. Do you feel led to any specific type of ministry?**
- 85. Describe your personal Bible reading and prayer habits.**
- 86. Describe your personal evangelism practice.**

- 87. Describe your involvement in the lives of others which are producing spiritual growth in them.**

- 88. Do you believe in the practice storehouse tithing as defined in Discipline 465?**
“Storehouse tithing is a scriptural and practical performance of faithfully and regularly placing the tithe into that church to which the member belongs. Therefore, the financing of the church shall be based on the plan of storehouse tithing, and The Wesleyan Church shall be regarded by all its people as the storehouse. All who are a part of The Wesleyan Church are urged to contribute faithfully one-tenth of all their increase as a minimum financial obligation to the Lord and freewill offerings in addition as God has prospered them.”

- 89. Have you read, and do you fully subscribe to the Articles of Religion of The Wesleyan Church as found in the Constitution? (See The Discipline, Article 2, paragraphs 210-268). See Wesleyan.org/discipline**

- 90. State any reservations you have regarding the Articles of Religion.**

- 91. Have you read and do you meet the membership conditions (Paragraphs 553-558—The Discipline of the Wesleyan Church) and The Guides and Helps to Holy Living (Paragraphs 260-268--DTWC) of The Wesleyan Church.**

- 92. What reservations do you have in promoting the Guides and Helps to Holy Living (260-268) in a local church where you may serve?**

- 93. Can you support the entire Church with her departments and institutions?**

- 94. What preaching experience have you had?**

- 95. What local church offices have you held?**

96. Are you prepared to report regularly to the region?
97. Describe any hesitancy you may have in accepting the authority, discipline, nurture, and guidance of the Region Board of Ministerial Development regarding their evaluation of your gifts, graces, and usefulness as you work toward ordination.
98. Why have you chosen to minister as a part of The Wesleyan Church?
99. Have you been a credentialing candidate in another denomination or local church?
100. Explain the circumstances under which you left the previous denomination or church.
101. The Wesleyan Church believes God calls women and men into ordained or commissioned ministry. Will you support and advocate for this position?
102. Do you believe in, and can you articulate the ordination and commissioning of men and women as biblically and theologically sound?
103. Please sign the following statements:

I understand that ordination/commissioning by the Wesleyan Church is a privilege granted me, not a right that I claim. I hereby acknowledge the authority of the Church in granting ordination/commissioning to those who, after thorough examination, are believed to have the gifts, graces, fruit and call of God. Further, I understand that though I may complete all academic requirements for ordination, it does not guarantee my ordination/commissioning.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

- 104. The information provided on this form is confidential. It is only for use by the Wesleyan District Regional Board of Ministerial Development and Wesleyan Church officials and will not be released or provided to any other parties. I hereby freely give permission for the use of this information by the district and general officials of The Wesleyan Church and waive my right to examine any confidential information about me provided by other persons.**

Date: _____

Signature: _____