Standards

Clergy General Evangelist

General Evangelist

The Church exists amid a lost world to give out to each generation the Word of life, and to declare the praises of the One who called us out of darkness into wonderful light (1 Pet 2:9). The world is in such a need of a Savior and of the knowledge of God that Jesus commanded before He left, “Preach the gospel to all creation.” “Make disciples of all the nations.” Every member of the church has the great privilege of sharing the gospel with others, of leading them by God’s grace to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus, and of discipling them in their walk with the Lord. Candidates for General Evangelist must meet all of the standards set by the United Methodist Book of Discipline, by the General Board of Discipleship and by the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. The Book of Discipline mandates the Conference Area on Evangelism Responsibilities are:

To recommend annually, in consultation with the Board of Ordained Ministry, to the conference and to the bishop-in-charge the appointment of certain effective members of the conference as general evangelists, provided that such persons shall meet the standards set for general evangelists by the General Board of Discipleship. This person shall serve as an ex officio member of the conference board of discipleship area of evangelism. If there is more than one General Evangelist in said annual conference, at least one shall be selected by the conference committee on nominations. (Paragraph 630.3(f))

The standards established for the initial approval and the continuation of the General Evangelist in the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference are based on the following two sources.

**General Board of Discipleship’s Evangelism Responsibilities**

(Paragraph 1112.7) Set standards for elders desiring to serve as general evangelists. The board shall send copies of these standards quadrennially to the bishops, district superintendents, conference boards of discipleship, and general evangelists. An elder who feels called by God to be a general evangelist should prepare definitely for such service under the guidance of the annual conference to which that person belongs.

**Book of Discipline Standards for General Evangelist**

1. Persons desiring to serve as a General Evangelist should have a conviction of divine call to this ministry.

2. The Evangelist shall be in harmony with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures as set forth in the United Methodist Articles of Religion

3. Personal and professional qualifications for evangelistic work must be established to the satisfaction of the Conference Board of Evangelism, or Conference equivalent, and the Cabinet.

4. The evangelist must be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and amenable to its rules and policies.

5. Sufficient pastoral experience within the local church shall be required.

6. The evangelist shall declare his/her willingness to give full time to the ministry of evangelism, allowing preference to the United Methodist congregations.

7. The Evangelist shall present annually to the Conference Board of Evangelism, or Conference equivalent, written recommendation from the District Superintendent and/ or an evaluation of three local churches ministries performed in churches served.

8. An additional annual written report shall be presented to the conference Board of Evangelism, or Conference equivalent.

9. Attendance at the session of the Annual Conference is required unless excused by the District Superintendent and Bishop.

10. General Evangelist shall cooperate with the program of the Evangelism ministries of Discipleship Ministries so that the evangelist may be strengthened by fellowship and be kept aware of the current trends of evangelism within the United Methodist Church.

11. General Evangelist shall develop a Continuing Education Program for development in ministry in keeping with standards for Continuing Education in his/her annual conference. Continuing Education funds shall be available to the Evangelist.

12. It is recommended to the leadership of the Annual Conference that they use the General Evangelists, who are highly qualified as consultants in evangelism.

**The Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference Standards**

(Additional standards, policies, guidelines, or procedures established by the Conference Evangelism Team required to meet the specific needs of the WPA Annual Conference.)

**Overall expectations for** **a Candidate seeking approval as General Evangelist**

1. Elders seeking to be approved as General Evangelist must have a mentor. Such a mentor is preferably a General Evangelist from his/her Annual Conference or another Annual Conference. If this is not possible, then a member of the Conference Evangelism Team may fulfill the role as Mentor.

2. The Mentor will work with the candidate to help him/ her to understand, to evaluate, and to fulfill the requirements and guidelines in the following areas:

a. All standards and procedures leading to the recommendation and appointment as a General Evangelist.

b. The calling to specialized ministry

c. Gifts for specialized ministry

d. Family concerns

e. Funding and Finances

f. Structure and reporting

g. Marketing and development

3. Candidates seeking approval by the Conference Evangelism Team as a General Evangelist must demonstrate the experience, gifts and ability in the type of ministry that they would be involved in and provide evidence of the fruitfulness of their ministry in terms of the ability to relate people to Jesus Christ.

4. The above areas will be the bases for the initial evaluation of the Evangelist by the Conference Evangelism Team.

**Process for the Initial Approval by the Conference Evangelism Team and Recommendation to the Annual Conference and to the Bishop.**

1. Meet with your District Superintendent and make your interest known.

a. The General Evangelist is an extension ministry appointment; therefore, the recommendation of the District Superintendent is required to proceed.

2. With the recommendation of the District Superintendent the Candidate should contact the Chairperson of the Conference Evangelism Team to begin the process of approval and recommendation to the annual conference the Bishop.

3. The Conference Evangelism Team will carry out the following actions:

a. Assign the candidate a mentor

b. Consult with the Board of Ordained Ministry

c. Upon the report from the candidates mentor that the mentoring process has been completed, evaluate the candidate based on the areas covered by the mentor.

4. The approved candidate must make a request for an appointment beyond the local church as a General Evangelist to the Bishop, their District Superintendent and to the Board of Ordained Ministry.

5. Once the appointment is approved by the Bishop the Conference Evangelism Team will petition the Annual Conference to approve the candidate as a General Evangelist.

6. The approved full-time General Evangelist may make a request to the Annual Conference through the Conference Evangelism Team for pension and hospitalization benefits paid by the Annual Conference. The Conference Evangelism Team may include this request in their annual budget request to the Annual Conference.

**Continuation of the General Evangelist**

1. Organizational Steps for the Approved General Evangelist

a. Assemble a working Board of Directors

b. Establish a non-profit, tax-exempt status

c. Develop a promotional and preparation packet to be presented to hosting churches or

organizations.

d. An evaluation form will be provided by the Evangelist and completed at each event by the hosting church or organization.

2. Requirements for Annual Continuation and Recommendation as a General Evangelist

a. The General Evangelist must submit an annual report to:

1. Their Charge Conference

2. Their District Superintendent

3. The Board of Ordained Ministry

4. The General Board of Discipleship

5. The Conference Evangelism Team

b. Meet twice each year with his/her Board of Directors.

c. Be an active member of the Conference Evangelism Team (ex-officio without vote).

d. Meet annually with the Conference Evangelism Team and provide the following information to the Secretary of the Conference Evangelism Team at least 2-weeks prior to the scheduled interview.

1. A letter of recommendation from his/her District Superintendent

2. A letter of recommendation from his/her Board of Directors that will include the dates of your meetings for the past year.

3. A schedule of events from the past year and those scheduled for the coming

year.

4. A report from his or her mentor. (This is required for the first three years only)

5. Evaluation forms from three events from the past year.

3. Developmental Expectations

1. The full-time General Evangelist is expected to continue to relate to a mentor for three years after the appointment. The mentor will provide guidance, encouragement and accountability.

2. Full-Time General Evangelist must demonstrate annual growth in scheduling and funding for the first five years of the appointment.

3. Full-Time General evangelist must be able to maintain a salary equivalent to the Annual Conference Minimum for an Elder within 5-years of the appointment.