

**EXAMINATION FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP
NORTH ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

SECTION A: THEOLOGY AND DOCTRINE

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The Board requires substantive answers to the questions -- **a brief paragraph is not sufficient**. Answers should be **600 – 1000 words** in length per answer in essay format, double-spaced with 1 inch margins using 12 point font. The essays should demonstrate a basic understanding of the theological concept(s) the question addresses and should lead to further discussion and clarification in the interview group. Where appropriate use examples from your ministry, life experience, or work settings to illustrate how your theology is integrated into your work.
2. Include each question above your answer. Be sure your name is on all material.
3. **Save this section as: last name, first initial, td [for Theology and Doctrine] example: PatsiosCtd – Do not save each question as a separate document.**

QUESTIONS

1. Describe your personal experience of God and the understanding of God you derive from Biblical, theological, and historical sources.
2. What is your understanding of evil as it exists in the world?
3. What is your understanding of humanity, and the human need for divine grace?
4. What is your understanding of the incarnation?
5. How do you interpret the statement, “Jesus Christ Is Lord”?
6. What is your conception of the activity of the Holy Spirit in personal faith, in the community of believers, and in responsible living in the world?
7. What is your understanding of the Kingdom of God, the Resurrection, and eternal life?
8. How do you intend to affirm, teach and apply Part II of the Discipline (Doctrinal Standards and our Theological Task) in your work and in the ministry to which you have been called?

9. The United Methodist Church holds that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason. What is your understanding of this theological position of the Church?
10. Describe the nature and mission of the Church. What are its primary tasks today?
11. Discuss your understanding of the primary characteristics of United Methodist polity?
12. How do you perceive yourself, your gifts, your motives, your role, and your commitment as a Provisional Member in The United Methodist Church?
13. Describe your understanding of diakonia, the servant ministry of the Church, and the ministry of the Provisional Member and commissioned minister.
14. What is the meaning of ordination, in the context of the general ministry of the Church?
15. Describe your understanding of an inclusive church and ministry.
16. You have agreed as a candidate for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness of the gospel, and in consideration of your influence as a minister, to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life as set forth in Par. 304.2, (2008 Books of Discipline) and to this end agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all personal relationships, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God. **What is your understanding of this agreement?**
17. Write a 2 to 4 page paper on the role and significance of the Sacraments in the ministry to which you have been called, including attention to infant baptism.
18. Summarize, in 3 – 6 pages your understanding of Wesleyan Theology.