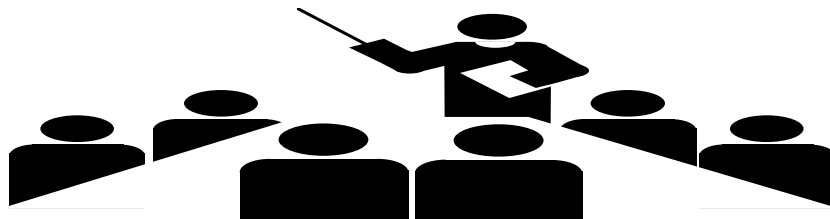


# CHRISTIAN MINISTRY SEMINAR



Facilitator  
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Charlotte, North Carolina



## Calling, Conduct, and Commitment

# The Christian Ministry

Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Facilitator

## “Calling, Conduct, and Commitment”

### I. The Preacher’s Call (*Does he or she have gifts?*) [2000 Book of Discipline, p. 73]

- A. The *internal call* consists of those gifts and graces requisite to the proper and faithful discharge of the duties of the Christian Ministry. We expect those who profess to be moved upon by the Holy Spirit to preach to do the following:
1. To evince an un-mistake-able conception of salvation by faith
  2. To possess a sound mind
  3. To have a clear understanding of the Scriptures
  4. To have a right judgment in the things of God
  5. To have a good degree of utterance as a preacher
- B. The *external call* is designed to confer upon the preacher who is found to possess the inward call, official authority to exercise in the name of God and in the name of the Church, the functions of the Christian Ministry.

### II. The Preacher’s Conduct [2000 Book of Discipline, pp. 73-74]

#### A. Rules pertaining to Graces (*Does he or she have graces?*)

- Rule #2        **Be serious.** Let his motto be “Holiness unto the Lord.” Avoid all lightness, jesting and foolish talking.
- Rule #3        **Be circumspect,** and conduct oneself prudently with the opposite sex.
- Rule #4        **Believe evil of no one without good evidence:** unless he/she sees it done, he/she must take heed how he/she credits it. Put the best construction on everything.
- Rule #5        **Speak evil of no one,** because his/her word, especially, would eat as a canker. Let him/her keep his/her thoughts within his/her own breast till he/she comes to the person concerned.
- Rule #8        **Be ashamed of nothing but sin.**

#### B. Rules Pertaining to Usefulness (*Is he or she useful?*)

- Rule #1:        **Be diligent.** Never be unemployed. Never be trifling employed.
- Rule #6:        As a Methodist Minister he/she must **mind every point, great and small, in the Methodist Discipline.** He will need to exercise all the sense and grace he/she has.
- Rule #7:        **Avoid all affection.** A Preacher of the Gospel is a servant of all.
- Rule #9:        **Be punctual.** Do everything exactly at the time. Not to mend our laws, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience’s sake.
- Rule #10:       He/she should **act in all things,** not according to his/her own will, but **as a son of the Gospel.** As such it is his/her duty to employ his/her time in the manner which his/her brethren direct in preaching and visiting from house to house; in reading, meditation, and prayer. Above all, if he labors with his/her brethren in the vineyard of the Lord, it is needful he/she should do the part of the work that they desire at those times and places with they judge most for the glory of God.

### III. The Preacher’s Pulpit Etiquette [2000 Book of Discipline, p. 74]

- A. Be sure never to disappoint a congregation.
- B. Begin at the time appointed.
- C. Let his/her whole deportment be serious, weighty, and solemn.
- D. Avoid anything awkward or affected either in gestures, phrases, or pronunciations.
- E. Should not usually pray extempore about eight to ten minutes (at most) without intermissions.

**IV. The Preacher's Sermon Preparation [2000 Book of Discipline, pp. 74-75]**

- A. Always suit the subject to the audience.
- B. Choose the plainest text.
- C. Take care not to ramble, but keep to the text or subject, and make out what is taken in hand.
- D. Frequently read and enlarge upon a portion of Scripture.
- E. Let young Preachers often exhort without taking a text.
- F. Let the Preacher always avail himself of the great festivals by preaching on those occasions.

**V. The Preacher's Manner and Method of Preaching [2000 Book of Discipline, p. 75]**

- C. The Best Method of Preaching is to do the following in some manner in every sermon:
  - 1. To convince
  - 2. To offer Christ
  - 3. To invite
  - 4. To build up
- B. The Most Effectual Way of Preaching is always balanced:
  - 1. To preach Christ in all His offices
  - 2. To declare His law as well as His Gospel, both to believers and unbelievers
  - 3. To strongly and forcibly insist upon inward and outward holiness

**VI. The Preacher's Commitment**

- A. Questions for Ministers Entering the Itinerancy (2000 Book of Discipline, pp. 77, 78)
  - 1. Have you saving faith in Christ?
  - 2. Are you going on to perfection?
  - 3. Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
  - 4. Are you groaning after it?
  - 5. Are you resolved to devote yourself to God and His work?
  - 6. Do you know the General Rules of our Church?
  - 7. Will you keep them?
  - 8. Do you constantly attend the Lord's Supper?
  - 9. Have you studied the doctrines of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church?
  - 10. Will you preach and maintain them?
  - 11. Have you studied our form of Church Discipline and Polity?
  - 12. Will you support and maintain them?
  - 13. Have you considered the Rules for Preachers, especially those relating to Diligence, Punctuality, and Doing the work to which you are assigned?
  - 14. Will you keep them for conscience's sake?
  - 15. Are you determined to employ your time in the work of God?
  - 16. Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
  - 17. Will you visit from house to house?
  - 18. Will you recommend fasting and abstinence both by precept and example?
  - 19. Are you embarrassed by debts, so as to prevent you from traveling?
  - 20. Do you use intoxicating drugs or tobacco?

B. Vows of Ordination in the Christian Ministry:

1. **Vows for Deacon's Ordination** (2000 Book of Discipline, pp. 377, 378)

*Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to take upon you the Office of the Ministry in the Church of Christ, to serve God for the promoting of His glory and the edifying of His people?*

*Do you unfeignedly believe all the Cannon Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?*

*Will you diligently read or expound the same to the people whom you shall be appointed to serve?*

*It appertaineth to the Office of a Deacon to assist the Elder in divine services. And especially when he/she ministereth the Holy Communion, to help him/her in the distribution thereof, and to read and expound the Holy Scriptures, to instruct the youth, and to baptize. And furthermore, it is his/her office to search for the sick, and impotent, that may be visited and relieved. Will you do this gladly and willingly?*

*Will you apply all you diligence to frame and fashion your own lives of your families, according to the doctrine of Christ; and to make (both) yourselves and them, as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples to the flock of Christ?*

*Will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions?*

2. **Vows for Elder's Ordination** (2000 Book of Discipline, pp. 371-373)

*Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the order of Elder?*

*Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrine required of necessity for eternal salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge and to teach nothing as required of necessity of eternal salvation but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the same?*

*Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the Doctrines and Sacraments and Discipline of Christ as the Lord hath (has) commanded?*

*Will you be ready with all faithful diligence to banish and drive away all erroneous doctrines contrary to God's Word; and to use both public and private admonitions and exhortations as well to the sick as to the whole within your charge, as need shall require and occasion shall be given?*

*Will you be diligent in prayers and in reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh*

*Will you be diligent to frame and fashion your own lives and the lives of your families, according to the doctrine of Christ; and to make (both) yourselves and them, as much as in you lieth, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?*

*Will you maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love among all Christian people and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge?*

*Will you reverently obey your chief Ministers, unto whom is committed the charge and government over you, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions, submitting yourselves to their godly judgment?*