Helpful Terms to Know

**Associate Member** - Associate members are clergy members of the Annual Conference and have voice and vote at annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments and matters of ordination, clergy character and conference relations of clergy.

**Book of Discipline (BOD)** - The book of history, law, doctrine and policies of the UMC, all numbers refer to the 2016 BOD.

**Certified Candidacy** - Candidacy phase when a candidate has completed the mentoring process and other requirements and has met with and been certified as a candidate for licensed or ordained ministry by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM).

**Commissioning** - The credentialing of provisional deacons and elders. The act of the church that publicly acknowledges God's call and response, talents, gifts and training of the candidate.

**Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM)** - The body that oversees, cares for, and evaluates candidates for ministry through the candidacy process, and is also responsible for maintaining a relationship with local pastors in the conference.

**Course of Study (COS)** - The basic theological education program of the GBHEM. It is provided for those who are licensed as local pastors who choose not to attend an approved seminary. Participants in the program must be a certified candidate, attended licensing school, recommended for license by DCOM and serving in an appointment from the bishop.

**Deacon** - Persons called by God, authorized by the Church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word, Service, Compassion and Justice to both the community and the congregation.

**District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM)** - The body that oversees, cares for, and evaluates candidates for ministry through the candidacy process, and is also responsible for maintaining a relationship with local pastors in each district, we have five districts. (Big Waters, North Star, River Valley, Southern Prairie, Twin Cities)

**District Superintendent (DS)** - An elder appointed by the bishop. The DS oversees the ministry of the district's clergy and churches, provides spiritual and pastoral leadership, works with the bishop
and others in the appointment of ordained and licensed ministers to serve the district's churches, presides at meetings of the charge conference, and oversees programs within the district.

**Elder** - Persons who are ordained to a lifetime ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order and Service; authorized to preach and teach the Word of God, to administer the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion, and to order the life of the Church for mission and ministry.

**General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM)** - GBHEM is the leadership development agency of the United Methodist Church. It prepares global leaders for a global church and the world.

**Licensed Local Pastor (LLP)** - Persons who are licensed and appointed to preach, conduct divine worship, and perform the duties of a pastor in the context of a specific appointment, but are not ordained as elders. Licensed local pastors are clergy members of the Annual Conference and have voice and vote on all matters except constitutional amendments and matters of ordination, clergy character and conference relations of clergy.

**Ordination** - The church affirms and continues the apostolic ministry through persons empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**Ordained:** People who have been through the Ordination process.

**Provisional Member** - Conference relationship of commissioned ministers (deacons and elders) who are in preparation for membership in full connection in the annual conference as deacons and elders. During that period, they may participate in the Clergy Leadership Academy and under the care of the Conference BOM. Provisional members have voice and vote at annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments and matters of ordination, clergy character, and conference relations of clergy.