

The Southern Methodist Church
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE CLERGY

Name Last First Middle Date

Current Address: How Long?

City, State, Zip

Previous Address: How Long?

City, State, Zip

Home Phone: Office Phone:

E-mail Address:

Date of Birth: Social Security Number:

Marital Status: Single Married Widower Divorced Divorced and Remarried

If either the applicant or spouse is or has been divorced, the provisions of ¶602 of the Discipline of the Southern Methodist Church apply. See the attached procedures.

General health and any disabilities or infirmities

Financial Obligations:

Table with 3 columns: Category, Balance, Monthly Payment. Rows include Mortgage, Automobile, Credit Cards, and Other.

Yes No

- Are there existing conditions which could cause unusual financial expenditures...?
Have you ever declared bankruptcy?
Are you currently under litigation regarding any financial situation?
Are you meeting your present financial obligations?

Your Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ How Long? \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ever Divorced? \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ How Long? \_\_\_\_\_

**Dependents (List):**

Name	Age	Sex

**Education (beginning with High School):**

School	Location	From	To	Diploma/Degree earned

**Employment (past five years):**

Employer	Address	From	To	Supervisor

References: (Please give four (4) character and three (3) credit references who have known you five years or more. If coming from another church organization, give references from that organization.

Character

Name	Full Address and Telephone

Credit

Name	Full Address and Telephone

What conference status do you desire?  Supply     Lay Minister     License to Preach  
 Deacon     Elder

- All applicants are required to sign our statement of belief.
- All applicants must be willing to give all information necessary for an investigation, be willing for a credit check by a reputable credit organization, and be agreeable to all our doctrines and the current *Discipline*.
- Prepare and submit this application/questionnaire and an up-to-date transcript of all high school and college work to the President of the Southern Methodist Church, 541 Broughton Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115.

- This application must be submitted at least sixty (60) days before the applicant can come before the Board of Ministerial Examiners.
- Lay Ministerial applications must be accompanied by a signed statement of recommendation from a Local Church Conference.

**STATEMENT OF BELIEF:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, affirm my belief in the doctrines of the Southern Methodist Church as stated in the current *Discipline*. This is in accordance with conference requirements that all ministers of the conference, missionaries and college instructors who teach Bible affirm their belief in these doctrines and support them.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**RELEASE FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND AND/OR CHARACTER CHECKS:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give the Board of Ministerial Examiners of the Southern Methodist Church permission to conduct or have conducted by reputable organizations criminal background and/or character checks.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION AND RELEASE FOR EMPLOYMENT REFERENCES:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify that I have listed all employers (secular and church) and that church-related supervisors listed are those to whom I was amenable, such as District Superintendent, Bishop, etc. I also hereby authorize the Board of Ministerial Examiners to contact such supervisors concerning this application.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR APPLICANTS TO THE CLERGY

### I. PERSONAL

Yes	No	
		1. How long have you been a Christian? (Using a separate sheet, give a typewritten testimony of your conversion experience. Include an account of your call into the ministry, your understanding of that call, and your response to the call.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Are you presently employed? If so, where and what are your duties? (Use a separate sheet if necessary.)
		3. Give a brief history of your church affiliation as a member and/or pastor for the past 15 years. Give the name and address of each church as well as manner of affiliation. (Use a separate sheet if necessary.)
		4. Why do you feel led to give up your present church affiliation to seek admission into the clergy of The Southern Methodist Church? (Use a separate sheet to explain in detail.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Is your wife supportive of this decision? (If not please explain using a separate sheet).
		6. If you are accepted, will you accept a work anywhere within the bounds of your Annual Conference? _____ Within the bounds of The General Conference? _____
		7. Explain if you are already committed to a particular church or area.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Do you feel led to any particular or special ministry other than that of pastor? If so, what, and what experience have you had in this field.
		9. Do you use or have you used in the past five years tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs in any form? _____ Have you ever had a problem with prescription medicines? _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Have you ever been convicted of any crime? If so, explain (use a separate sheet). Conviction includes entering a plea of guilty or <i>nolo contendere</i> . Conviction does not necessarily disqualify you for employment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Since conversion, have you been involved in any form of sexual immorality? (Non-marital sexual contact, homosexuality, multiple partners, extra-marital flirtations.) If the answer is yes please explain using a separate sheet of paper.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Have you thoroughly studied our current <i>Discipline</i> and doctrines?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Are you in agreement with our current <i>Discipline</i> and doctrines? (Using a separate sheet, discuss any areas of disagreement.)

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- | Yes                      | No                       |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Do you believe in the Southern Methodist form of connectional church government as outlined in the current <i>Discipline</i> ?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. Do you understand that if you are accepted as a conference licentiate, deacon or elder, you will become a member of the conference and not a member of any local church? |

## II. DOCTRINAL

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- | Yes                      | No                       |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. Are you familiar with the history of the formation of The Southern Methodist Church?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17. Are you familiar with the history of the Methodist Movement in the United States and its beginning in England?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18. Do you accept the doctrine of the Holy Trinity?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. Do you believe in the virgin birth of Christ?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. Do you believe that the original manuscripts of the Bible were the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21. Do you believe that all men are born with sinful natures and are in need of salvation?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22. If all men are born with sinful natures, what is your view concerning infants or children who die before reaching the age of accountability? (Explain using a separate sheet of paper.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 23. Is sinful man, apart from the grace of God, able of his own will and strength to turn to God?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 24. Using a separate sheet, explain the place of good works in the life of a believer.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 25. Is it possible for a person to sin after he has been saved? If so, what is the remedy for sin after salvation? (Use separate sheet if necessary.)                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 26. Do you believe that a saved person may forsake or abandon his salvation, resulting in eternal loss/final apostasy?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 27. How would you define final apostasy? (Use a separate sheet if necessary)  |

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- | Yes                      | No                       |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28. Do you believe that speaking in tongues is the sign that a person is filled with the Holy Spirit?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 29. Are you now, or have you ever been, involved in the charismatic movement? (If yes, explain your involvement, using a separate sheet.)  |
|                          |                          | 30. Which position best describes your view of the elements of the Lord's Supper?<br><input type="checkbox"/> transubstantiation <input type="checkbox"/> consubstantiation <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual presence <input type="checkbox"/> symbolic only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 31. Do you believe that the communion service should be open to all Christians, whether or not they are members of the Southern Methodist Church?  |
|                          |                          | 32. Briefly describe your understanding of infant baptism and/or infant dedication. (Use a separate sheet.)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 33. Do you believe that a person who received infant baptism, upon receiving Christ as Savior, must be baptized again?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 34. Do you believe that baptism is necessary for salvation?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 35. Do you believe as Wesley taught that baptism is a "Means of Grace"? (Explain your answer using a separate sheet if necessary.)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 36. Do you recognize all three modes of baptism - sprinkling, pouring, and immersion - as being valid? Explain your answer.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 37. Do you believe that God, through prevenient grace, makes it possible for all men to be saved?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 38. Do you believe that true repentance must precede salvation?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 39. Do you believe that the Holy Spirit indwells a believer from the moment of salvation?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 40. Do you believe in the possibility of reaching a state of sinless perfection in this life? If so, explain. (Use a separate sheet, if necessary.)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 41. Do you accept Christian Perfection as stated in the current <i>Discipline</i> ? Explain your understanding of this doctrine. (Use a separate sheet.)   |
|                          |                          | 42. What is your understanding of predestination/God's foreknowledge and how they are related to the eternal destiny of a person's soul? (Use a separate sheet.)   |

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	43. Do you believe that our eternal destiny is dependent upon our abiding in the saving grace of God?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44. Do you believe in the holy catholic church (the universal church consisting of all true believers) as stated in the Apostles Creed?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	45. Do you accept the Genesis account of creation which teaches that all things found their origin in God, Who created, in six literal 24 hour days, by His own fiat, every living thing after its kind?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	46. Do you believe in the five fundamental doctrines of Eschatology? [1) The literal, bodily, pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ. 2) The bodily resurrection of all people. 3) That all will be judged. 4) The eternal reward of all the saved. 5) The eternal punishment of all the wicked.]
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	47. Will you practice and preach Biblical stewardship of one's time, talents, and treasures?

III. GOVERNMENTAL

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	48. Will you, with love, grace and respect, be obedient to those who are over you in the Church, whether individuals or committees?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	49. Will you promise to support and promote the ministries of the Southern Methodist Church (Such as the College, <i>The Southern Methodist</i> , the Missionary Program, the Epworth League work, etc.)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50. Will you promise to fulfill your responsibilities as outlined in the current <i>Discipline</i> ¶246?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	51. Will you be subject to our current <i>Discipline</i> and Church regulations in every area of your ministry and church work?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	52. Will you promise to recognize the position of the laymen in our Church as given in the current <i>Discipline</i> ?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	53. Will you, when seeking advice or counsel in your work, turn first to God and then to the committee or officer in charge of that area of work?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	54. Will you seek to promote a spirit of unity and love among the members of the churches which you may serve, as well as the entire church?



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- | Yes                      | No                       |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 55. Where no Biblical principles or Church doctrines are involved, will you refrain from taking sides in any issue which may arise in churches you serve, thus lessening the chance of dividing a church?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 56. Do you realize that if you are accepted and appointed to a church, you are not to resign or leave that church until the next annual conference? Any resignation from an appointed work during a conference year may be considered as a resignation from the Conference. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 57. Will you at any time, or for any reason, ever try to influence a church to leave the conference?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 58. If you find that you are no longer in agreement with the doctrines, programs, or positions of The Southern Methodist Church and can no longer continue therein, will you notify the President of the Church before taking any action?                                   |

I certify that these questions have been answered by me to the best of my knowledge, information, and beliefs. I also agree to abide by the answers given pertaining to church government.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Procedures To Be Followed For Compliance With The Provisions of  
¶602 of *The Discipline of the Southern Methodist Church***

¶602 No applicant will be accepted into the clergy of the Southern Methodist Church as a lay minister, licensed minister, male or female missionary, if either spouse is divorced or has been divorced, except in the case of innocent parties who have been divorced for Scriptural cause. The General Conference Board of Ministerial Examiners shall investigate to determine if the applicant meets the aforesaid exception. After investigation and recommendation by the General Conference Board of Ministerial Examiners and concurrence by the Annual Conference, the applicant may be received, provided the applicant meets all other requirements.

I. Required procedures:

A. Applicant - (The burden of proof is upon the applicant.):

1. State in writing the facts that Scriptural cause existed.
2. Furnish a certified copy of the divorce decree. (No decision will be made solely upon the divorce decree.)
3. Furnish oral or certified written statements from two or more witnesses stating personal knowledge of the facts attesting the innocence of the divorced party. (These may include ministers, counselors or other persons having knowledge of the facts involved in the divorce proceedings.)
4. Furnish any other corroborating factual or circumstantial evidence which may be helpful to the board in determining acceptability.

B. Board of Ministerial Examiners:

1. Upon receipt of an application involving the provisions of ¶602 of the *Discipline of the Southern Methodist Church*, the Board of Ministerial Examiners shall require the information specified in Section A above before the application can be considered.
2. The Board of Ministerial Examiners shall not be limited to the above, but may use whatever other means it may deem necessary to complete its investigation.