

Let me be one of the first to say,

## “Welcome to our Greater Ohio Team!”

The journey you are about to take is one filled with joy and struggle. When God places His call upon us to be the shepherds of His flock, it is an incredible honor but it is an even bigger responsibility. The days that lay ahead will be exciting as you learn new concepts, are challenged in your thinking, and develop your skills to work with God’s church. It can also become frustrating as you write papers, read books, stretch your mental resources further than they have been before, and fill out a lot of paperwork documenting your journey and your call.

Our district looks forward to partnering with you, not just to prepare you for a license or ordination, but to walk with you throughout your entire pastoral journey. As the District Board of Ministerial Development (DBMD), we are here to help guide you, answer questions, and also assess your preparation spiritually, emotionally, and relationally for pastoral ministry.

We look forward to getting to know you better over the upcoming years!



Flyer produced by  
Rev. John W. Baker  
Chairman of the Greater Ohio  
District Board of Ministerial Development  
In cooperation with DBMD Team  
February, 2022  
File: Pathway to Ordination Brochure



A simple guide for  
pastors and students  
interested in preparing  
for vocational ministry  
through ordination

## The Pathway to **Ordination**

By the Greater Ohio  
District Board of  
Ministerial  
Development

## Important Contact Information

Denomination Student Website:  
<https://www.wesleyan.org/ecd/ministerial-preparation>

DBMD Chairman: Rev. John W. Baker  
pjbaker@lifesc.net (330)242-7691

District Superintendent: Rev. Les Crossfield  
les@gowesleyan.org (614)718-9031

District Administrator: Abby Peters  
office@gowesleyan.org (614)718-9031

District DBMD Website:  
<https://gowesleyan.org/dbmd>

Transferring Minister's Info. and Forms:  
<https://gowesleyan.org/dbmd>

Wesleyan Educational Pathways:  
<https://www.wesleyan.org/ecd/pathways-to-ministry>

Student Portal (transcript information)  
<https://secure.wesleyan.org/emcam>

Wesleyan World Headquarters' switchboard:  
(317)774-7900

## Clear Pathway to Ordination in the Greater Ohio District...

### Local Church Focus (this focus should take about a year)

1. Meet with your local pastor and complete "Exploring the Call" (6-9 months) (the materials are on our district website at: <https://gowesleyan.org/dbmd>)
2. Student registers with HQ (Headquarters)
3. Student begins (or continues) in their educational pathway and does so all through this process
4. Pastor recommends to the local board that the student be granted a local lay license (see Lay Minister's Brochure at <https://gowesleyan.org/dbmd>)
5. Local board recommends the local lay license to the Local Church Conference for approval or denial
6. Local Church Conference (or board if duly appointed to do so) grants the local license. Notice should be given to the district ([form for notification can be found at above website](#))

*The importance in this step is that the local church is the primary witness to the call and giftings of a potential ordination student and the local church needs to fully support this student in their journey toward ordination.*

### District Focus (this focus should take about a year)

1. The student must make official application for the District Student Process. To do so the following documents must be submitted by the student to the district (all forms <https://gowesleyan.org/dbmd>):
  - Initial Application
  - Submission of a photo for our records
  - DBMD #1 (Background and history)
  - 3 DBMD #2s (Reference forms by those who know student well)
  - Supplemental Personal Data Inventory form
  - "Why I'm called" essay
  - Credit and Criminal Background check release form
2. Once documents are all on file, the student will be invited for an initial interview to grant or deny entrance into credentialing program
3. If the student is approved for the program the student...
  - will be assigned a cohort that they will join over the next few years as they prepare for ordination
  - will continue in his or her coursework
  - will be expected to attend the yearly DBMD retreat held in the spring
  - must make full payment of the district program assessment of \$250
  - will be assigned and must complete an MMPI (Psychological test) through the DBMD counseling team
4. Upon completion of the six core classes (6 pack), full payment of the assessment, and completion of the MMPI the student will be eligible for a district student license

### Local Church and District working together (this focus should take about two years)

1. The student must complete a DBMD #3 and request an interview for district license
2. Once interviewed and granted a district license he/she begins 2 years of service within the district at a local church
3. During this period (and the sooner the better) the student will begin working to complete the supervised ministry course (this course often takes up to 2 years to complete)
4. The student continues meeting with his/her cohort and attending annual retreats
5. Once 2 years of service is nearing completion, courses are completed, supervised ministry is completed, and satisfactory involvement with cohort is completed, the student must fill out DBMD #5 and seek to have an ordination interview with the DBMD team and the student's cohort leader
6. If approved for ordination by the DBMD, the student is then recommended to the district conference and granted ordination