

Fruitfulness Project for Ordination and Full Membership
South Georgia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

Effective with the 2012 Discipline, those seeking ordination will present “a project that demonstrates fruitfulness in carrying out the church’s mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

The biblical emphasis upon fruitfulness is clear. Jesus spoke of his disciples being known by their fruitfulness. John Wesley asked his ministers again and again, “Are there fruits?” We are accountable for achieving outcomes that move us toward our mission. The emphasis upon fruitfulness is what moves the church from a maintenance mentality to a mission mentality.

The Ordination Project should demonstrate your leadership skills in the church, your understanding of your ministry setting, your ability to work with others, and your understanding of what fruitfulness is and how it is achieved. You will need to define what aspect of disciple-making your project highlights. Is it the recruiting of disciples, the connecting of disciples with the Body of Christ, the training of disciples, or the sending of disciples into the world to serve and witness? You will also need to describe how you intend for your project to result in the transformation of some aspect of the world around your ministry setting. What about the interrelatedness of disciple-making and transformation?

Guidelines for the Fruitfulness Project

1. Choosing an Ordination Project

- a. It should be a new ministry or a new initiative within an existing ministry intended to bring forth new fruit.
- b. It should involve others, including lay persons, in your ministry setting. You do not have to be the “star” of the project.
- c. It should involve needs within the ministry setting that are not currently being met.
- d. There should be a distinct difference between what you are doing and a project that might be done by any civic organization. That is, your project should visibly be a ministry of Christ.
- e. It may be an ecumenical, cross-cultural, or cooperative ministry.
- f. It may be a one-time event, or a short-series of events. Take on a project that is manageable in the coming months or year. If it is a one-time event, you will want to plan a preparation phase, an implementation phase, and follow-up phase to insure that disciple-making and transformation occur.
- g. Find a focus where your passion and that of the congregation converge, or a place where the Spirit is already moving in the form of readiness, or where there is a consensus on the need for change.

2. Ordination Project Proposal

- a. You will be expected to create and submit a written proposal for your project to present publicly to your fellow Residency in Ministry (RIM) participants at the January RIM retreat of your first year. At the retreat, your proposal will be reviewed by your colleagues, mentors, and Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) representatives. If the BOM Representatives determine that the proposal needs further refinement, you will be asked to make the necessary changes as soon as possible so that implementation may begin.
- b. The written proposal should include:
 - i. Description of the ministry setting
 - ii. A Purpose Statement
 1. The purpose statement should state why this is being done, what need it is addressing, and finished with a “so that” statement that shows the fruit you intend for the project to produce. The fruit is not the new ministry, activity, or initiative you may be doing; it is the outcome your project is designed to achieve.
 2. A scriptural inspiration or basis for the project. What scripture verse or verses might be lived out in this project?
 - iii. Goals/Objectives

1. Flesh out the fruit in your “so that” statement. What specific goals do you hope to accomplish? How will you know you have accomplished the goals?
 - iv. Detailed Plan (should include the “nuts and bolts” of the project)
 1. What will be done?
 2. How will you proceed?
 3. Who will be involved?
 4. What will be the timeline?
 5. What resources will be used?
 6. How will this bring about the anticipated “fruit” of the project?
- 3. Written Report and Reflection after completion of the project**
- a. Write a report and reflection of the completed project addressing the topics listed below (i-iv). Your written reflection will be due by the January RIM Retreat of your second year of RIM so that you may present the project publicly to your peers.
 - i. For your written reflection, write a description of the project addressing these topics. What changed between the proposal and the reality of what took place?
 - ii. How did the project accomplish the goals/objectives that were set? Why or Why not? What were the fruits?
 - iii. What worked well?
 - iv. What might you change if you were to do this project again?
 - b. Reflect on the spiritual aspects of the project.
 - i. Where did you see Christ at work?
 - ii. How did you grow?
 - iii. How did this help others grow/make disciples?
 - iv. How was the “world” impacted?
- 4. Assessment by the Board**
- a. The Fruitfulness Project will be given the designation of acceptable or unacceptable by the BOM Representatives present at the RIM Retreat where the Project is presented and discussed by your colleagues, mentors, and BOM representatives.

(12/23/2013 – Content adapted from the North Georgia Conference, the Susquehanna Conference, the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, and Guidelines from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.)