

Candidacy Retreats Begin Again in August



candidacy journey. The January retreats will be held at Camp Wesley Woods.

Candidates for ministry in the Iowa Annual Conference will once again have the opportunity to participate in a candidacy retreat as part of the [updated candidacy process](#). Retreats will be held in August and January annually with the first scheduled for August 10 and 11, 2018, at Pictured Rocks UM Camp. **All candidates who enter the process as of January 1, 2018, will be required to attend** though any candidate in process is welcome, regardless of when they began their

Recognizing some candidates who entered the process after January 1, 2018, have been certified so they can attend Licensing School this week, will be under appointment, and we are in a period of transition to this new model, the Retreat should be considered as other educational requirements are. In this case, the candidate should be made aware they are required to attend the Retreat in August or January. If they do not, dCOMs should not renew the candidate's status due to noncompliance. This exception is offered in response to a request from a Cabinet member as well as in the spirit of flexibility and grace we all wish to exhibit.

While at the retreat, candidates will be served by clergy and laity members of the Iowa Annual Conference who will assist them with many of the first steps of the process, including filling out all required forms, registering with UMCares, and fulfilling the requirements of the first three of six meetings with their candidacy mentor/group. The retreat will also feature worship with candidates and retreat facilitators.

Registration Information

Online registration for the candidacy retreat is available [here](#). Candidates should register as early as possible, no later than one month ahead of the scheduled retreat.

There is a fee of \$75 to attend the candidacy retreat. *Candidates who are unable to meet the financial expectations should appeal to their local churches for assistance. Limited scholarships are available through the Board of Ordained Ministry when other resources are not available.* Application should be made through an email request sent to Director of Ministerial Services Lisa Steel at lisa.larson@iaumc.org.

Per the updated process, the following steps are required **before** attending the candidacy retreat:

Step 1: Inquiring Phase

- Contact the pastor of your local church or campus ministry, another elder or deacon, or the District Superintendent (DS); read and discuss *The Christian as Minister*.
- With your pastor, or designated elder/deacon, put into writing a first draft of your statement of call. Submit this call story to the DS and request an introductory meeting with the DS for the purpose of admission to the candidacy process. Copy Lisa Steel, Director of Ministerial Services, at lisa.larson@iaumc.org
- Introductory meeting with SPPRC or equivalent encouraged to discuss initial sense of call.
- Apply to attend candidacy retreat.

The CARE Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry invites your prayers and support for the candidacy retreat. We believe this gathering will be fruitful and help candidates navigate the process with less stress due to completing so many requirements while attending. We are also hopeful it will be a significant discernment opportunity for candidates as they respond to the call placed on their hearts to enter set aside ministry in one of many forms.

Please contact Ann Trimble-Ray at anntrimbleray@gmail.com or Rev. Mara Bailey at mara.bailey@simpson.edu with questions.