

## What is the District Board of Ministerial Development (DBMD)?

*The Wisconsin DBMD is made up of pastors and laypersons responsible for the examination and recommendation to the district conference of all candidates for ordination, license, commission, ministerial study, and transfer from another denomination.*

*For more information on the DBMD process or to locate specific DBMD forms, see the Education and Clergy Development website: <http://wesleyan.org/813/education-and-clergy-development>*

*For more information on the Wisconsin District see <http://www.wisconsinidistrict.org/>*

## Resources

Ministerial Preparation information, forms, and enrollment links are located on the Ministerial Preparation website: <http://wesleyan.org/43/ministerial-preparation>

Wisconsin District specific information is available at <http://www.wisconsinidistrict.org/>

## The Local Church & Pastor's Responsibility for Prospective Ministers



This brochure summarizes the responsibilities of the Local Church and Pastor in assisting the DBMD to identify and confirm candidates who are sensing a call to full time Christian service.

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## Local Pastor Meet with Candidate

Setup an initial interview with the candidate and ask pertinent questions to help them understand the process of becoming a ministerial student.

1. Walk them through paragraph 3006 in *The Discipline of the Wesleyan Church* and discuss the four marks that will be evident in the person whom God has called.
2. Ensure the candidate is a Covenant member of the Local Church or assist them in pursuing membership as needed.
3. Use the Wisconsin District DBMD documents:
  - “What Ministry Track is Right for Me?”
  - “Identifiable Attributes of Wisconsin Pastors”
  - “Ordained Ministry Track Process Guidebook”to discuss options and expectations.
4. Have the candidate obtain and begin to read the book, *The Call of a Lifetime*, by Keith Drury.
5. You may use some of the questions in this book to help the candidate to confirm if they have a genuine call.

## Confirm Call

If the call appears to be genuine then recommend the candidate to your Local Board of Administration. The candidate must obtain LBA approval and be recommended to the DBMD.

## LBA Interview and Recommendation

In *The Discipline* paragraph (3600), directions and sample questions are given.

The WI District LBA Recommendation Form is available on Wisconsin District website. It includes areas that should be assessed during the interview.

The Local Board of Administration should carefully consider the candidate and should not recommend a candidate they would not want serving in their own local church body. This can often be difficult for the LBA when assessing friends and family members. It is far better to be honest with the candidate early in the process rather than have them complete part of the process and then be unable to find a place to serve later on in their journey.

If the LBA approves the candidate then the Local Pastor should notify the District Superintendent and DBMD Chairperson of the LBA’s recommendation in writing (the completed WI District LBA Recommendation Form is preferred).

## Candidate in DBMD Process

The Local Church and Pastor should continue to provide counsel and ministry opportunities to the candidate.

The candidate must enroll with the Education and Clergy Development Division prior to taking courses.

Once the candidate enters the DBMD process a mentor will be assigned by the DBMD. The mentor serves as an extension of the DBMD and is often the candidate’s Local Pastor or a pastor within proximity to the candidate’s current location to facilitate communications.

## Mentor Responsibilities

The mentor is responsible for helping the candidate further clarify their call, complete any remaining review of Drury’s *The Call of a Lifetime*, and work on the “Identifiable Attributes of Wisconsin Pastors.”

The mentor is also responsible for completing an annual evaluation of the candidate and submitting that evaluation to the DBMD each spring before the May DBMD meeting.

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