

Resources for Candidate Formation

Characterized by spiritual maturity and a strong sense of call to ministry.

They are shaped by the spiritual disciplines, root their identity and calling firmly in Christ, and model a Spirit-led life of holiness.

- *Invitation to a Journey*. Robert Mullholland, Jr.
- *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters*. N.T. Wright
- *God's Call to Be Like Jesus*. David Kendall
- *Celebration of Discipline*. Richard Foster
- *Sacred Rhythms*. Ruth Haley Barton
- *Prayer: Finding Your Heart's True Home*. Richard Foster
- *The Great Omission*. Dallas Willard
- *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*. Eugene Peterson
- *The Pastor*. Eugene Peterson
- *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration of Vocational Holiness*. Eugene Peterson
- *Let Your Life Speak*. Parker Palmer

Demonstrate a high level of self-awareness.

They understand and articulate their strengths and weaknesses, build teams around their blind spots, and know how their leadership and communication style impacts others both positively and negatively.

- *The Wounded Healer*. Henri Nouwen
- *The Leadership Ellipse: Shaping How We Lead by Who We Are*. Robert Fryling.
- *Wounds that Heal*. Stephen Seamands.
- *Changes that Heal*. Henry Cloud.
- *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*. Ruth Haley Barton

Live a well-balanced life that can sustain the demands of ministry.

They attend adequately to their physical, emotional, and mental needs; schedule regular time for play and recreation; and live simple lives free of unhealthy addiction and compulsion.

- *Replenish*. Lance Witt
- *Reframing Your Ministry*. Anthony Headley
- *Margin*. Richard Swenson
- *Boundaries*. Henry Cloud & John Townsend
- *Every Man's Battle: Winning the War on Sexual Temptation One Victory at a Time*. Stephen Arterburn
- *"Financial Peace University."* Dave Ramsey

Live a life shaped by love for others.

Those who are married and/or raising children prioritize their families. They build and maintain healthy, close relationships with people inside and outside of the church. In addition, they cultivate relationships for both confession and accountability.

- *Boundaries in Marriage*. Henry Cloud
- *The Second Half of Marriage*. David & Claudia Arp
- *The Love List*. Les & Leslie Parrott

Model humility.

They remain teachable and accept correction when given; maintain a non-defensive posture toward leaders, followers, and peers; and willingly seek the perspective of others.

- *Cultivating a Life for God*. Neil Cole
- *Spiritual Mentoring*. Keith Anderson & Randy Reese.
- *Christ-Centered Coaching: 7 Benefits for Ministry Leaders*. Jane Creswell.
- *The Call to Be Like Jesus*. David Kendall.

Exhibit biblical understanding.

They possess holistic biblical knowledge, have a Wesleyan hermeneutic that accepts the authority of Scripture, and demonstrate their ability to root their Wesleyan worldview in the Bible.

- *Eat this Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*. Eugene Peterson
- *The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read the Bible*. Scot McKnight
- *Nelson's Introduction to the Christian Faith: What Christians Believe and Why*.
- *The New Joy of Discovery in Bible Study*. Oletta Wald
- *Bible Study that Works*. David Thompson
- *The Old Testament Story*. John Tullock & Mark McEntire
- *A Survey of the New Testament*. Robert Gundry

Demonstrate a Wesleyan theological integration.

They know and embrace the history, polity, Articles of Religion, and core values of the FMC. They articulate Wesleyan distinctives compellingly, and they understand and embrace a Wesleyan relational theology.

- *Responsible Grace*. Randy Maddox
- *John Wesley Sermons*. Albert Outler (ed.)
- *Recapturing the Wesley's Vision*. Paul Wesley Chilcote
- *Postmodern and Wesleyan?* Jay Richard Akkerman, Thomas Jay Oord, & Brent Peterson (eds.)
- *Grace, Faith, and Holiness*. H. Ray Dunning
- *God's Great Salvation*. Wesley Duewel
- *A Theology of Love*. Mildred Bangs Wynkoop
- *The Radical Wesley*. Howard Snyder
- *Basic Beliefs: An Introduction Guide to Christian Theology*. Donald Demaray
- *Cross Purposes – Exploring the Crossroads of Justice and Reconciliation*. Mark Miler
- *Foundations of Wesleyan-Arminian Theology*. Mildred Bangs Wynkoop
- *Introduction to the History of Christianity*. Tim Dowley
- *Christian Theology (3 volumes)*. H. Orton Wiley
- *Marston Memorial Historical Center*. <http://fmcusa.org/historical/>
- "Nine Strategies." <http://fmcusa.org/uniquelyfm/>
- "Free Methodist Distinctives." <http://fmcusa.org/uniquelyfm/>
- "Free Methodist Doctrine." <http://fmcusa.org/uniquelyfm/doctrine/>
- "Papers from the FM Study Commission on Doctrine." <http://fmcusa.org/scod/>
- "Free Methodist History." <http://fmcusa.org/uniquelyfm/history/>
- *The Book of Discipline*. <http://fmcusa.org/bookofdiscipline/>
- *Pastors Handbook*. http://fmcusa.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/45/files/2011/07/PCLMan_Web.pdf

Have a theological education commensurate with ordained ministry.

They have completed an undergraduate degree and some graduate work in theology. Additionally, they model and promote life-long learning.

- *Association of Free Methodist Educational Institutions*. Listed at <http://fmcusa.org/leadership/colleges-and-universities/>
- *MD&C Correspondence, J-Term, and Approved Courses*. Listed at <http://fmcusa.org/leadership/courses/>

Hold an ecumenical posture toward the Church and the world.

They actively seek to build and maintain bridges among fellow Christian groups. They demonstrate an appreciation for the contribution of other Christian traditions while wholeheartedly embracing the FMC's. They also exhibit a growing appreciation for humanity and value all people regardless of their belief systems.

- *Everything Belongs*. Richard Rohr.
- *Theology in the Context of World Christianity*. Timothy Tennent

Possess the ability to practically apply learning.

They model an ability to make complex theology understandable to all, to find God's redemptive activity in daily life, and to deepen faith through real-life experiences.

- *Creative Bible Teaching*. Lawrence Richards & Gary Bredfeldt
- *The Language of Love*. Gary Smalley & John Trent.

Demonstrate fruitfulness in ministry.

They have a track record of transformational preaching, teaching, and leading; engage in personal and corporate evangelism; and personally, and corporately engages in evangelism build and maintain healthy and diverse faith communities.

- *Mobilizing for Compassion*. Robert Logan & Larry Short
- *Growing a Healthy Church*. Dann Spader & Gary Maryes
- *Hit the Bullseye*. Paul D. Borden
- *An Introduction to Homiletics*. Donald Demaray.
- *Understanding Church Growth*. Donald McGavran & C. Peter Wagner

Embrace ministries of justice and compassion.

They challenge injustice and discrimination wherever it is found, engage local and global needs of the broken and poor, and continually focus ministry on the margin, seeking to emancipate all who exist within enslaving systems.

- *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. Gregory Boyle
- *Same Kind of Different as Me*. Ron Hall & Denver Moore
- *When Helping Hurts*. Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert
- *Toxic Charity*. Robert Lupton
- *Set Free Movement*. <http://setfreemovement.com/>
- *Empowering Lives International*. <http://empoweringlives.org/>
- *Clear Blue Water Project*. <http://clearblueproject.com/>
- *The Eden Projects*. <http://www.edenprojects.org/>
- *Olive Branch Mission*. <http://www.obmission.org/>

Operate as a servant-leader.

They promote the development of others; serve the local and global church, demonstrating cross-cultural competency in so doing; and create healthy ministry environments characterized by safety and non-judgment.

- *The Emotionally Healthy Church*. Peter Scazzero
- *What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty*. Bill Ehlig & Ruby Payne
- *The Road to Reality*. K.P. Yohannan

Empower others to discover and function within their God-given design.

They demonstrate wholehearted support of women in leadership; facilitate and promote multicultural community and staff; and actively help others discover their brilliance.

- *Why Not Women?* Loren Cunningham & David Joel Hamilton
- *The Black Swan Effect.* Felicity Dale
- *The Resignation of Eve.* Jim Henderson
- *The Other 80 Percent.* Scott Thumma & Warren Bird
- *The 17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player.* John Maxwell
- *The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork.* John Maxwell

Lead with creativity and vision.

They seek best practices of contextual and culturally relevant ministry; envision alternatives and successfully leads others towards more creative and effective outcomes; and cast compelling vision and develop strategic plans to accomplish it.

- *Spiritual Leadership.* Henry & Richard Blackaby
- *Courageous Leadership.* Bill Hybels
- *Leaders on Leadership: Wisdom, Advice, and Encouragement on the Art of Leading God's People.* George Barna