**Interim and Final Approvals and Credentialing Needed for Clergy Status Changes in GNJ for 2020-2021 Appointment Year**

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| **Credentialing**  **Benchmarks** | **Discipline** | **BAC DQ #’s** | **Interim Recommendation – For those entering these relationships – NOTE: CLERGY SESSION DATE 10/4/20** | **July 1, 2020 Appointment** | **Sept 1, 2020 Appointment** | **Jan 1, 2021 Appointment** |
| Initial Licensing | ¶ 315  ¶ 317 | 20, 21, 23 | Bishop appoints based on approval for an *ad interim* license for pastoral ministry (¶ 317) upon recommendation of the dCOM, cabinet, and BOM Executive Committee until the clergy session meets for approval. *Note*: the full BOM is also able to make this recommendation. | Ad interim approval by dCOM, cabinet, BOM Exec  Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session | Ad interim approval by dCOM, cabinet, BOM Exec  Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date of 9/1/2020 | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| License Renewal | ¶ 315  ¶ 319.2 | 20, 21, 23 | Bishop appoints and renews license for pastoral ministry upon recommendation of dCOM and Board of Ordained Ministry. Licenses that are being renewed do not require an annual dCOM interview, only annual dCOM recommendation. | Recommendation by dCOM and BOM  Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session | Recommendation by dCOM and BOM  Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date of 9/1/20 | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Associate Membership | ¶ 322 | 27 | Since this person would already be serving as a local pastor, the bishop appoints and renews license for pastoral ministry upon recommendation of Board of Ordained Ministry. Continue to serve under a license until clergy session approves for Associate Membership. | Continue as LP  AM Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session | Continue as LP  AM Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Provisional Membership | ¶ 322.4  ¶ 324  ¶ 317 | 28 | **Associate Members moving to Provisional Membership** – Continue serving as an AM until clergy session approval and Celebration of Ministry Service. | Continue as AM  PM Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session | Continue as AM  PM Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session effective 9/1/20 | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session and Celebration of Ministry Service effective date 1/1/2021 |
| **Provisional Elders** – If not already licensed, the bishop appoints and issues an *ad interim* license for pastoral ministry (¶ 317, ¶ 326.2) upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry in order to begin appointive ministry. *Ad interim* license allows appointment until clergy session approval and participation in Celebration of Ministry Service. | Bishop issues *ad interim* LP license if needed with BOM reco  -entered into pension/health insurance system as PM  PE Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session | Bishop issues *ad interim* LP license if needed with BOM reco  -entered into pension/health insurance system as PM – effective 9/1/20  PE Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session – effective 9/1/20 | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session and commissioning effective date 1/1/21 |
| **Provisional Deacons** – Using the process in ¶ 317, the bishop appoints and issues an *ad interim* license for the work of a deacon (¶ 326.1) which provides clergy credentials until the clergy session approves provisional membership and the Provisional Deacon is commissioned. | Bishop issues *ad interim* LP license for Deacon if needed with BOM reco. -entered into pension/health insurance system as PM  PD retroactively approved at 10/4 Clergy Session | Bishop issues *ad interim* LP license for Deacon if needed with BOM reco.  -entered into pension/health insurance system as PM – effective 9/1/20  PD retroactively approved at 10/4 Clergy Session | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session and commissioning effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Full Membership | ¶ 331, ¶ 335 | 32, 33, 34 | Deacons and Elders – Continue serving under the credentials for commissioning and provisional membership until clergy session approval and ordination. | Continue as PM  Approved at Clergy Session and ordination  With effective date 10/4/20 | Continue as PM  Approved at Clergy Session and ordination  With effective date 10/4/20 | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session and ordination  With effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Serving from Other Christian Denominations | ¶ 331.8  ¶ 346.1, 2 | 25 | Serve upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry until clergy session approves. | Serve with BOM recommendation  Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session | Serve with BOM recommendation  Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date of 9/1/2020 | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Affiliate Membership | ¶ 586.4  ¶ 334.5  ¶ 344.4 | 26 | Delay decision until clergy session meets. | Delay  Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session | Delay  Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date of 9/1/2020 | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Transfers | ¶ 347 | 30, 31, 38, 39, 41 | Continue serving in current relationship until clergy session approval. | Continue as are  Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session | Continue as are  Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date of 9/1/2020 | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Readmissions | ¶¶ 364-368 | 35, 36 | *Repeat above* | Continue as are  Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session | Continue as are  Retroactively Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date of 9/1/2020 | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Provisional Member Discontinuance (Voluntary) | ¶ 327 | 42 | Allow status to be effective at start of new appointment year, upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry, pending clergy session approval. | Effective 7/1/20 upon BOM reco, pending Clergy Session approval | Effective 9/1/20 upon BOM reco, pending Clergy Session approval | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Honorable Location | ¶ 358 | 43a | *Repeat above* | Effective 7/1/20 upon BOM reco, pending Clergy Session approval | Effective 9/1/20 upon BOM reco, pending Clergy Session approval | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Voluntary Leaves of Absence (Personal, Family, Sabbatical) | ¶ 351  ¶ 353 | 50a, 51 | *Repeat above* | Effective 7/1/20 upon BOM reco, pending Clergy Session approval | Effective 9/1/20 upon BOM reco, pending Clergy Session approval | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Medical Leave | ¶ 356 | 52 | *Repeat above* | Effective 7/1/20 upon BOM reco, pending Clergy Session approval | Effective 9/1/20 upon BOM reco, pending Clergy Session approval | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Retirement (Mandatory or Voluntary) | ¶ 357 | 53, 54 | *Repeat above* | Effective 7/1/20 upon BOM reco, pending Clergy Session approval | Effective 9/1/20 upon BOM reco, pending Clergy Session approval | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Provisional Member Discontinuance  (Involuntary, Upon Appeal) | ¶ 327 | 42c | There is currently no constitutional process in place for involuntary status changes (see Judicial Council Decision 1383). | Recommend calling a special Clergy Session | Recommend calling a special Clergy Session | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Administrative Location | ¶ 359 | 43c | *Repeat above* | Recommend calling a special Clergy Session | Recommend calling a special Clergy Session | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Involuntary Leave of Absence | ¶ 354 | 50b | *Repeat above* | Recommend calling a special Clergy Session | Recommend calling a special Clergy Session | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |
| Involuntary Retirement | ¶ 357.3 | 53, 54 | *Repeat above* | Recommend calling a special Clergy Session | Recommend calling a special Clergy Session | Approved at 10/4 Clergy Session with effective date 1/1/2021 |

Notes from GBHEM and GCFA:

* Unless otherwise specified, the effective dates of all status changes would be effective July 1, 2020.
* Per GCFA, the effective date of this year’s Business of the Annual Conference Report (BAC) will remain as 7/1/2020. Appointments recorded by GCFA stay open-ended until GCFA is provided an update by each annual conference. Should the annual conference provide an update after July 1, with an effective date of July 1, the appointment will be recorded by GCFA as beginning July 1. GCFA does not need to receive an Interim Change of Appointment Form (effective 7/1/2020) for the period between July 1 and when the appointment list is available since the appointments are open-ended.
* If credentialing and other status changes will be effective only after a post-July 1 clergy session and not retroactively, Wespath recommends entry in accordance with the conference relationships identified in the Interim Recommendations listing above, with a subsequent second entry to record the actions of the clergy session. Please check with Wespath for any questions related to health and pension benefits.
* Keep in mind that even if your annual conference session is postponed, the bishop has the authority to call a clergy session to consider questions relating to matters of ordination, character, and conference relations (¶ 369.5). That session may meet separately from the annual conference session. If the clergy session is unable to meet before the start of the appointment year, the chart offers guidance for interim credentialing and approval of status changes.
* For Associate, Provisional, and Full Membership, the credentialing is not complete until the clergy session approves the membership recommendation and the clergy participates in the Celebration of Ministry service.

Notes from Wespath:

* If the Clergy Session is going to approve the provisional membership retroactively to July 1 (or September 1), the benefits staff should just enter them into Benefits Access as provisional members from the start, and they would never appear as local pastors.
* If the Clergy Session will not be electing them retroactively but instead making provisional membership effective as of whenever the Clergy Session meets, then they would be entered first as local pastors and subsequently updated to provisional members as of whatever date the Clergy Session makes the provisional membership effective.
* Primary idea is we’d want the Benefits Access service records to agree with the service records in the annual conference.

**Recommendation from Subgroup of Leadership Team: Our recommendation is to only hold the regularly scheduled clergy session on October 4, 2020, UNLESS there is an involuntary status change that needs approval, as there is no disciplinary interim action/approval for such situations. All other credentialing and status changes can be made by following the recommendations on the chart above.**