DBMD STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

**First Year Students**

* Covenant membership in a local Wesleyan Church
* Recommendation for ministerial credentialing by the LBA of your local church
  + Letter of recommendation sent to Pastor Dan Jones, DBMD chairperson
    - Letter should include student’s name, address, and email
  + This recommendation should verify your spiritual aptitude for ministry as well as your standing within the church.
* Sign up with Education and the Ministry online at: <https://regserv.wesleyan.org/eventmanager/OnlineRegistration.asp?EventCode=9KF>
* Complete CNY DBMD A (form is online at: [www.avonwesleyanchurch.com](http://www.avonwesleyanchurch.com) follow the links for DBMD by the end of February of the year you are going to be listed
* Have 3 references fill out DBMD 2 found online
* Interview with the DBMD
  + Interview dates are announced in December
  + Paperwork (DBMD A, DBMD 2) must be completed prior to the interview
  + Your spouse (if married) is encouraged to come to your first interview
  + Come prepared to discuss the following at your first interview
    - Journey into faith
    - Family background
    - Experience and confirmation of God’s call into ministry
    - Educational background and plans for completion of educational requirements

**2nd year and beyond**

* Maintain Covenant membership in a Wesleyan Church in good standing.
* Completion of DBMD B (found online at [www.avonwesleyanchurch.com](http://www.avonwesleyanchurch.com) ) three weeks prior to your interview.
* Complete a minimum of 2 educational courses unless granted exemption by the DBMD
* Attend interview in February, March or April
  + If married your spouse is encouraged to attend the interview with you
  + Be prepared to report on your education and spiritual growth in the past year
  + Be prepared to report on your work in the church in the past year
  + Interviews will increasingly deal with theological understanding as you move closer to the completion of your program (ordination or commissioning)
    - Topics that every student should be able to clearly articulate and provide biblical support for (use Scripture to support your explanation) include:
      * + Not every topic will be explored every year. The chairperson will note topics of emphasis for the year along with the interview date notifications
      * Authority of Scripture
      * Person of Christ
      * Work of Christ
        + Justification
        + Adoption
        + Regeneration
        + Salvation
      * Sanctification
        + Holiness
        + Lordship of Christ
      * Church
        + Form and function
    - These topics are stated in our Articles of Religion
      * The student should be able to articulate and explain as well as willingly assent to the statements of faith in our Articles of Religion as explained in the Discipline
    - Topics not directly addressed but which are frequently asked and the student should be familiar with include:
      * Difference between Calvinism and Wesleyan-Armenian theology
      * Difference between The Wesleyan Church and Catholic Church
      * Social issues of the day and a Wesleyan response
        + Abortion
        + Divorce
        + Marriage
      * Evangelism
        + Method and practice of personal evangelism (philosophy of evangelism)
      * Discipleship
        + Methods and practice in your life
      * Family
      * Membership Commitments
      * Pastoral Roles
        + Including possible scenarios and case studies

**Licensed Ministers**

* Complete CNY DBMD Form B (found online at [www.avonwesleyanchurch.com](http://www.avonwesleyanchurch.com) )
* Complete at least 2 educational courses (unless coursework is completed or exempted by the DBMD)
* Interview with the DBMD in March or April
  + See the expectations for 2nd year and beyond Ministerial Students
  + Note that with licensing the expectations for clear and articulate answers regarding theological understanding is increased as you are a recognized representative of The Wesleyan Church.
  + Be sure to come prepared to discuss your work in the church the past year as a minister
* Maintain appointment at a Wesleyan Church or other District approved ministry location to retain license for the coming year.

**Ordination/Commissioned Candidates:**

* Complete CNY DBMD Form B (found online at [www.avonwesleyanchurch.com](http://www.avonwesleyanchurch.com) ) by the end of February
* Interview with the DBMD in March or April
  + See expectations for interview under 2nd year and beyond Ministerial Students
  + Note that with licensing the expectations for clear and articulate answers regarding theological understanding is increased as you are a recognized representative of The Wesleyan Church.
  + Be sure to come prepared to discuss your work in the church the past year as a minister
  + The interview in March or April will focus largely on your work in the church and your preparedness for future ministry as an ordained or commissioned minister.
    - This does not exclude theological topics but will mostly revolve around your practice of ministry, preparedness for ministry, gifts of ministry, understanding of ministry, confirmation of call, and expectations of the ministry you are entering into.
      * In order to be ordained you must have a licensable position within The Wesleyan Church that is part of the CNY district ministry.
        + The only exceptions are missionaries who must have positions approved by the District and World Missions.
* Interview in May with the full DBMD and District Superintendent
  + If married your spouse is required to attend this interview, if engaged your fiancé is required to attend.
  + This interview will focus almost exclusively on your theological compatibility with The Wesleyan Church
    - A full and complete understanding with the ability to articulate the statements of faith of The Wesleyan Church is required.
      * You do not have to have them memorized verbatim, but be able to explain them in terminology you typically use in conversation.
  + Your spouse will be asked concerning your present and future ministry and the implications to your family and marriage.
  + Full support of The Wesleyan Church and positions will be expected with an understanding that every candidate may struggle on some particular points but is willing to work, live, and minister within the larger community and theological confines of The Wesleyan Church.
* Attend Conference for the ordination vote unless excused by the DBMD or District Superintendent
* Attend the service of ordination as scheduled unless excused by the District Superintendent.