

1 ***Amend ¶324.6d by addition as follows:***

2 ¶ 324.6 Local pastors may fulfill the requirements for provisional membership and

3 commissioning when they have:

4 a) ... b) ...

5 c) completed the five-year Course of Study for ordained ministry; . . . and

6 d) **begun** an Advanced Course of Study consisting of thirty-two semester hours of graduate

7 theological study or its equivalent as determined by the General Board of Higher Education

8 ***Rationale:***

9 This change recognizes the service local pastors have already given to the church and allows

10 them to begin their provisional time as they begin the next phase of the Advance Course of

11 Study. It would shorten the current 13 year process to a more equitable timeframe.

12 ***Submitted by:*** United Methodist Rural Advocates