

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY
CHARGE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION**

I hereby declare my candidacy for ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church and request the support and recommendation of the Charge Conference for certification as a candidate for:

Order of Deacons _____ Order of Elders _____ License as Local Pastor _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Signature of the Declared Candidate

II. CHARGE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION

Let those who consider recommending persons for candidacy as ordained ministers in The United Methodist Church ask themselves the following questions which were first asked by John Wesley at the third conference of Methodist preachers in 1746.

1. Do they know God as a pardoning God? Have they the love of God abiding in them? Do they desire nothing but God? Are they holy in all manner of conversation?
2. Have they gifts, as well as grace, for the work? Have they a clear, sound understanding; a right judgment in the things of God; a just conception of salvation by faith? Do they speak justly, readily, clearly?
3. Have they fruit? (Elder and Local Pastor) Have any been truly convinced of sin and converted to God, and are believers edified by their preaching? (Deacon) Are others edified by their service?

Believing that _____ is called of God and is a suitable candidate for ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church, the Charge Conference of _____ recommends him/her for certification as a candidate by the district Committee on Ordained Ministry. In making this recommendation, we attest to the fact that the declared candidate has been a member or affiliate member of the charge for at least two years, has graduated from an accredited high school or received a certificate of equivalency, and has received by written ballot a two-thirds vote of the charge conference.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signature of authorized elder, district superintendent, or bishop

Conference _____ District _____

Further instructions on reverse side of page.

This Declaration of Candidacy for Ordained Ministry should be sent to the district Committee on Ordained Ministry along with:

1. A written response to the following:
 - a. appear before the district committee on ordained ministry for examination;
 - b. complete the psychological tests required;
 - c. submit a written response providing evidence of understanding and expectation concerning the following:
 - i. the most formative experiences of your Christian life;
 - ii. God's call to ordained ministry and the role of the church in your call;
 - iii. reflect on your year's experience in leadership in the congregation;
 - iv. your future usefulness as a minister in The United Methodist Church;
 - v. your personal beliefs as a Christian;
 - vi. your personal gifts for ministry;
 - vii. how your personal relationships may affect your future ministry.
 - d. submit a written response providing evidence of understanding the ministry of deacon and the ministry of the elder within The United Methodist Church;
 - e. provide other information as may be required for determining gifts, evidence of God's grace, fruit, and demonstration of the call for the ministry of deacon or elder; and
 - f. agree for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness of the gospel, and in consideration of their influence as ministers, to make a complete dedication of themselves to the highest ideals of the Christian life as set forth in ¶¶ 101-103, ¶¶ 160-166 . To this end agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God.
2. A psychological assessment report and any other information required by the Board of Ordained Ministry.

