

## The Board of Ordained Ministry The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church

In honor of the ministry we share and in lament regarding the decisions of the 2019 Special Session of General Conference of The United Methodist Church, we, the Michigan Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, are compelled to reaffirm how we fulfill our discernment responsibilities since our inception as a Conference board. It is the central call of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry to credential to licensed and ordained ministry within the denomination. As that gathered body within The Michigan Conference, we take seriously our call to listen for the movement of the Holy Spirit in calling and equipping people for ministry. We affirm that the Spirit moves in the lives of all people calling some to professional ministry, including LGBTQIA+ individuals. As such, we reaffirm our Spirit-led intention to hear the call, readiness, and effectiveness of candidates for ministry without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. We will continue to recommend candidates for commissioning and ordination who demonstrate gifts and graces for vital ministry, trusting that the clergy session will recognize the integrity of the Board's work and approve them for ministry. Likewise, we affirm the Bishop's authority to consecrate, commission, and ordain all qualified candidates for ministry, celebrating with the Conference the gifts they bring and the ways in which God has called them to be in ministry with us.

We honor that God calls all to healthy human relationships. Such vital relationships are critical to effective ministry. It is the Board's work to assess the wholeness and the holiness of those relationships. Because we are called to love God and each other fully, we will not engage in or tolerate the harassment of others by asking questions not directly related to the practice of effective ministry.

As the Michigan Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, our compass has been, and will continue to be, the indicators given by the Holy Spirit of authentic call, of evidenced readiness, and well-demonstrated effectiveness in the work of ministry. We offer this public statement in the certain hope that our siblings in professional ministry will celebrate with us the task we share.

March 13, 2019