



The Board of Ordained Ministry

MICHIGAN AREA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Inquiring Friend,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

So, you are wrestling with a sense that God is calling you to something? Wonderful!

By virtue of being incorporated into the church through baptism all Christians are called to ministry, and God has uniquely designed each of us to participate in the body of Christ. We sometimes fulfill the ministry to which God calls us as laypersons: in our homes, communities, workplace, schools, or around the world. Other times the call God places on our lives is fulfilled through the credentialed ministry of ordination or licensure. All are holy and valued callings.

The Candidacy Summit process is intended as a discernment journey to assist you in exploring God's call in your life. It is an intensive time of being present to the movement of the Holy Spirit through preparation, participation and prayer.

The materials included in this packet are an invitation to participate in this process which lifts up faithfulness at whatever place in your journey you happen to be. To help you better understand the journey you are contemplating, a Step-by-Step Guide has been included.

In reviewing these materials notice that the discernment process is framed around a Candidacy Summit. **The Michigan Annual Conference offers the Candidacy Summit bi-annually. It is the first step on your discernment journey.** An invitation to the Summit is extended to you by your District Superintendent by virtue of signing your Summit application. At this event candidates join with others who are exploring God's call on their lives in worship, fellowship, times of learning, and introduction to their mentoring groups. Your participation in the Candidacy Summit is a first step in the process that may lead to certification for ministry, though that is not guaranteed.

Review the materials enclosed, and if you are ready to take the next step, register to attend the next Candidacy Summit. If you have questions don't hesitate to talk with your District Superintendent or the Candidacy Summit Registrars, Sharon Appling at sea0704@comcast.net.

Blessing for the journey!

The Michigan Conference Board of Ordained Ministry