FORM #3

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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY
CHARGE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION
(or equivalent body)

I hereby declare my candidacy for licensed or ordained (circle one) ministry in The United Methodist Church and request the support and recommendation of the Charge Conference or equivalent body as specified by the district committee on ordained ministry for certification as a candidate for:

License as Local Pastor

Signed _____ Date _____
Signature of the Declared Candidate

I. CHARGE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION (or equivalent body)

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 (Discipline ¶310).

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 licensed or ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church, (the recommending body) _____ recommends him/her for certification as a candidate to the District Committee on Ordained Ministry. In making this recommendation, we attest to the fact that the declared candidate has been a professing member in good standing of The United Methodist Church or a baptized participant of a recognized United Methodist campus ministry or other United Methodist ministry setting for a minimum of one (1) year, has graduated from an accredited high school or received a certificate of equivalency, and has received by written ballot a two-thirds vote of this body.

Signed _____ Date _____
Signature of authorized elder, district superintendent, or bishop

Conference _____ District _____

Further instructions on reverse side of page

II. Preparation for Meeting with District Committee on Ordained Ministry

1. This Declaration of Candidacy for Ordained Ministry should be sent to the district committee on ordained Ministry along with the following:

a. Your written statement of call

b. Your written response providing evidence of understanding and expectation concerning the following: (Æ310.2a)

(i) the most formative experience of your Christian life;

(ii) Godôs call to licensed or ordained ministry and the role of the church in your call;

(iii) your beliefs as a Christian;

(iv) your gifts for ministry;

(v) your present understanding of your call to ministry as elder, deacon, or licensed ministry; and

(vi) your support system

c. The required psychological reports, criminal background and credit checks.

d. Other information as the district committee may require.

2. Appear before the district committee on ordained ministry for an interview and recommendation.

3. 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 your influence as clergy to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life as set forth in Æ101-103, and Æ160-166.

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