

Throughout your candidacy process you will be asked to articulate your understanding of God's calling in your life. At the beginning of the candidacy process to you will share this story with your district superintendent and your community of faith. This statement is like a picture that captures a single moment in time. It reflects your present understanding of your call. As you journey through our candidacy process you will further discern and grow, bringing greater depth and understanding to how God is calling to serve in the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference of The United Methodist Church.

God's call for our lives is an invitation to live faithfully in the world and use our all our gifts to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. The Book of Discipline, ¶ 220 reminds that *"All members of Christ's universal church are called to share in the ministry which is committed to the whole church of Jesus Christ. Therefore, each member of The United Methodist Church is to be a servant of Christ on mission in the local and worldwide community. This servanthood is performed in family life, daily work, recreation and social activities, responsible citizenship, the stewardship of property and accumulated resources, the issues of corporate life, and all attitudes toward other persons."*

God's call presents itself in our lives in different ways. Some experience a sudden call, others grow in their understanding over time. Some are very young, while others have lived full careers. But no matter how or when one experience's God's invitation to service, we each respond based on our present understanding.

As you write your Statement of Call, include the elements below,

1. The most formative experience of your Christian life;
2. God's call to licensed or ordained ministry and role of the church in your call;
3. your beliefs as a Christian;
4. your gifts for ministry;
5. the present understanding of your call to ministry as elder, deacon, or licensed ministry;
6. your support system.

Review your Statement of Call with your or ministry leader and share it with your P/SPRC.

Send your Statement of Call to your District Superintended along with your Biographical Form.