

DETROIT ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2008 Deacon's Profile

This profile is to be completed by each deacon under appointment.
DUE SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

Deacon: _____ Charge: _____

Paragraph 435 of *The Book of Discipline*-2004 says: "The deacons shall be appointed by the bishop in the annual conference where they are members in full connection. Appointments of the deacons are to be made in consideration of the gifts and evidence of God's grace of the deacon, needs of the community, and the gifts of the congregation and institutions. The appointment shall reflect the nature of the ministry of the deacon as a faithful response of the mission of the church meeting the emerging needs in the world." These profiles shall be reviewed annually and updated when appropriate to include:

- a) Spiritual and personal sensibility: personal faith, call and commitment to ordained ministry, work through the institutional church.
- b) Academic and career background: nature of theological stance, experience in continuing education, professional experience, record of performance.
- c) Skills and abilities: in ministry administration, leadership development, helping elders in worship, teaching and nurturing, counseling and group work, connecting church ministry with the needs in the world, ability to work in cooperation, ability in self-evaluation, and other relational skills.
- d) Community context: the ability of the deacon to relate effectively to his or her community setting.

Please read and reflect upon the above paragraph, then answer the following questions.

1. In what ways is God's call to ordained ministry being renewed in you?

2. What excites you about being called by God in your present ministry?

3. What are your spiritual gifts, strengths, skills and special interests (specifically as they relate to your ministry setting)?

4. How would you describe your servant leadership style?

5. Describe your spiritual practices and how you have grown spiritually in the past twelve months.

6. What are your core beliefs? What do you hold most sacred to understanding vital Christian faith and practice? Where would you place yourself on the theological continuum?

7. Continuing education. *Report here your experiences of continuing education during the current year including books and periodicals read. What are your continuing education plans for next year? How is your plan a response to the needs in the congregation you serve?*

8. Community context. Describe your preparation for, and experience with, relating to the context in which your appointment is located. Do you believe you are able to relate effectively to the setting?

9. What is your expectation for how long you will be effective in your present appointment? What aspirations do you have for a future appointment?

10. Ministry beyond the local church: In what programs, ministries, activities have you been involved in through district, conference, jurisdiction, or general church arenas? Do you have interest in serving through a district or conference agency? If yes, in which areas?

Date _____

Deacon's signature _____