

Making Disciples Project
North Texas Conference
United Methodist Church

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to “make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” To further this mission, candidates for ordination in the North Texas Conference are asked to report on a significant initiative that they have led during their time as a Provisional Member of the conference. It is hard to determine the length of your report, but it should be no fewer than 10 pages long.

The report should share in a narrative report answers to the following questions and statements:

- What is your understanding of making disciples for Jesus Christ? Answer this question using Biblical instruction, personal reflection, and the mission statement of the United Methodist Church found in *The Book of Discipline, 2008*.
- Describe a major initiative you led during your residency in which you were intentional about making disciples. This initiative may have been: launching a new worship service; starting a satellite ministry for your congregation; launching a major outreach project for your congregation where a social justice issue was addressed; beginning in-home small groups where un-churched people were intentionally sought; leading a mission trip into a community where services were provided and the good news was shared; initiating a divorce recovery ministry; leading a long-term Bible study; starting a new member class where people were intentionally led to professions of faith and integration into the life of the congregation; leading a confirmation class from start to finish; directing a major musical or theatrical production in which you invited the public to participate; leading an evangelism team in shepherding new people into the life of the church; starting new musical ensembles with new Christians or reaching out to potentially new Christians, etc.
- Why did you decide to initiate this particular ministry? How did the Bible or other theological resources guide you in this effort? How do you ground your initiative theologically? How did you integrate theology with practical ministry? What was the vision for this initiative and did you determine and communicate the vision? How does it help make disciples?
- What was your role? How did you engage new leaders in the initiative? How did you train and equip them? What resources did you use to equip your leaders? How did you foster spiritual growth in your leaders? How did you partner with them? How were your leadership skills strengthened? What mistakes did you make and what did you learn from these mistakes? How did you celebrate the successes and debrief the mistakes. Describe how you evaluated yourself and provided feedback to the other leaders involved in the ministry. What conflicts occurred in the initiative, if any, and how did you resolve the conflicts? How did you and your leaders grow as disciples and in your ability to make disciples?
- What was your budget for this initiative? How did you fund this ministry?
- Describe how you reached out to the community and especially to persons not currently involved in a faith community. How did you follow up with your guests? How did you

involve the laity with the follow-up? What worked well and what did not? What would you do differently next time?

- Provide specific examples of fruitfulness for this initiative. How many new disciples were made? How many professions of faith occurred as a result of this ministry? How is this ministry being sustained today? How did those participating grow in their discipleship?
- What did you learn overall from this initiative about making disciples?
- If your initiative involved a curriculum, provide the curriculum, either one you created or one you used in leading or teaching this project. What specifically would you do differently if you were to teach or lead this again? What other resources did you use or might you add?
- How did you care for yourself in the midst of the project? How did you grow spiritually? How are you a different disciple now than you were before?
- Include letters from your supervisor, SPRC chair, the chair of your ministry team evaluating your initiative, your leadership and the impact on the church in carrying out its mission of making disciples. A letter could also come from a participant in the ministry.