

- 1 Total Number of Pages: 2
- 2 Suggested Title: Disabilities and the Ordination Process
- 3 General Church Budget Implications: None
- 4 Global Implications: Applies Globally

5

6 Persons with disabilities often deal with false assumptions by others concerning their vocational
7 abilities. When this happens, qualified candidates for ministry who have much to offer the
8 church are denied the opportunity to contribute, and churches are denied the blessings of their
9 ministry.

10 Therefore, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church urges all engaged in the
11 process of evaluation of candidates for ministry, including but not limited to the sponsoring
12 church, the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the Conference Board of Ordained
13 Ministry, to ensure that individuals with disabilities receive reasonable accommodations as
14 outlined in the United Nations' Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons
15 with Disabilities, incorporating the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and/or
16 the Americans with Disabilities Act, or other relevant national laws. After such reasonable
17 accommodations are offered, decisions regarding candidacy should be based solely on whether
18 the candidate is capable of meeting the outlined professional standards required of all candidates
19 for their ministry and is able to render effective service in pastoral ministry.

20 Date: August 1, 2019