

Inclusivity Statement

Board of Ordained Ministry
New England Conference of the UMC

Adopted 6-15-2016

As the Board of Ordained Ministry of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, we embrace the direction given by our conference to discern the call to ministry of candidates who come before us without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, marital status or age. Our policy is to be guided by the Holy Spirit as we seek to judge the readiness of those called to lay ministry, the ministry of local pastors, associate membership or ordained ministry. We are committed to following the leading of the Spirit with each candidate and member with justice, fairness and consistent standards. We further stand with those in other annual conferences who have pledged themselves to evaluate, support, equip and deploy candidates for ministry based solely upon an understanding of their gifts for ministry and their readiness to serve Jesus Christ.

The Inclusivity Statement above was preceded in time by the New England Annual Conference Resolution #217, adopted in 2014:

“The New England Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church strives to be an inclusive conference that celebrates, develops, and affirms God-given gifts for lay and ordained ministry. We commend our District Committees on Ordained Ministry and Board of Ordained Ministry in their work of discerning wisely, fairly, and prayerfully the readiness and effectiveness of those seeking to be accepted as candidates, commissioned as provisional members, and ordained as deacon or elder. We oppose all forms of personal bias and discrimination, including institutionalized discrimination written into our Book of Discipline, as criteria in evaluating potential clergy members...”