

Quadrennial Episcopal Evaluation Committee on the Episcopacy, NEJ 2011

Bishop: _____ Conference: _____

First Year Assigned: _____ Area: _____

References to the 2008 Book of Discipline of the UMC

Section I. The Nature of Superintendency

¶ 401. *Task* - The task of superintending in the United Methodist Church resides in the office of bishop and extends to the district superintendent, ... The purpose of superintending is to equip the Church in its disciple-making ministry. Those who superintend carry primary responsibility for ordering the life of the Church. It is their task to enable the gathered Church to worship and evangelize faithfully.

It is also their task to facilitate the initiation of structures and strategies for the equipping of Christian people for service in the Church and in the world in the name of Jesus Christ and to help extend the service in mission. It is their task, as well, to see that all matters, temporal and spiritual, are administered in a manner that acknowledges the ways and insights of the world critically and with understanding while remaining cognizant of and faithful to the mandate of the Church. The formal leadership in the United Methodist Church, located in these superintending offices, is an integral part of the system of an itinerant ministry.

¶ 403 *The Role of Bishops...*

Bishops are elected from the elders and set apart for a ministry of servant leadership, general oversight and supervision (Para. 401). As followers of Jesus Christ, bishops are authorized to guard the faith, order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline of the Church. The role and calling forth of the Bishop is to exercise oversight and support of the Church in its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The basis of such discipleship of leadership (*episcopate*); lies in disciple and a disciplined life. The Bishop leads therefore through the following disciplines:

- a) A vital and renewing spirit.
- b) An enquiring mind and a commitment to the teaching office
- c) A vision for the Church
- d) A prophetic commitment for the transformation of the Church and the world
- e) A passion for the unity of the Church
- f) The ministry of administration

Persons working with this instrument are advised to review the entire chapter of the 2008 *Book of Discipline* on *The Superintendency*, and particularly the following paragraphs: 402, 414, 415, 416 and 428 in addition to those quoted above.

Purposes of this Document:

- a. To foster conversation between each area Episcopacy Committee and its resident bishop concerning the following matters pertinent to the particular area: the needs, opportunities and challenges; the effectiveness of the witness and ministry of the United Methodist people; and the role of the bishop.
- b. To evaluate the bishop in certain responsibilities as they relate to his/her area and/or the connection at large.
- c. To help the NEJCOE better understand the characteristics of the area so as to inform deliberations concerning the assignment of bishops to areas.

Questions for Discussion and Evaluation

- 1. “To lead and oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of the United Methodist Church which confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and particularly to lead the Church in its mission of witness and service [and justice ¶ 403.1d] in the world.” (¶ 414.1)

Examples of strengths:

Other Comments:

- 2. “To strengthen the local church, giving spiritual leadership to both laity and clergy; to build relationships with people of local congregations of the area.” (¶414.2)

Indication of strengths:

Other comments:

3. “To guard, transmit, teach, and proclaim, corporately and individually, the apostolic faith as it is expressed in Scripture and tradition, and, as they are led and empowered by the Spirit, to interpret that faith evangelically and prophetically.” (§ 414.3)

Evidence of strengths:

Other comments:

4. “To travel throughout the connection at large as the Council of Bishops (§ 427) to implement strategy for the concerns of the church.” (§414.4)

How does your bishop serve the connection at large? Is service to the conference/area and service to the wider connection appropriately balanced, given the needs of the connection, the needs of the area and the bishop’s priorities?

Evidence of strengths:

Other comments:

5. “To teach and uphold the theological traditions of the United Methodist Church.” (§ 414.5)

Indication of strengths:

Other comments:

6 “To provide liaison and leadership in the quest for Christian unity in ministry, mission, and structure and in the search for strengthened relationships with other living faith communities.” (§ 414.6)

Indication of strengths:

Other comments:

7. “To organize such missions as such has been authorized by General Conference.” (§414.7)

Indication of strengths:

Other comments:

8. To promote and support the evangelical witness of the whole Church. (§ 414.8)

Indication of strengths:

Other comments:

9. “To promote, support, and model generous Christian giving, with special attention to teaching the Biblical principles of giving.” (§ 414.11)

Indication of strengths:

Other comments:

10. How has the Bishop’s leadership been effective in your area? How has it impacted the work of cabinet(s) and conference staff, the boards and agencies, the local congregations and the conference as a whole?

Indication of strengths:

Other Comments:

11. List the distinctive episcopal leadership needs of your area.

12. What unique situations exist in your area that must be addressed by episcopal leadership?

On behalf of the conference or area Episcopacy Committee:

Committee chair Date

Committee secretary Date

The signature of the bishop indicates that he or she has read the evaluations and other comments in this document. It does not necessarily mean agreement with the document.

Bishop

Date