

Days of Discernment Written Work Prompts

Written work should be 10-15 pages in length using 12 point Times New Roman font with one inch margins, double-spaced. Your name, along with page number, should be at the bottom of each page.

1. Consider the statement, "God comes to you disguised as your life." Reflect on YOUR life and share some life transforming "sweep" of your history, some happening, or perhaps an "aha" moment after which your eyes may have been opened to see differently and your life course may have been bent toward ministry.
2. Call stories: Consider all call stories from the Bible (i.e., Abraham, Moses, Samuel, Deborah, Esther, Jonah, Isaiah, Mary, Matthew, Paul, Lydia, etc.). Which call story best mirrors your call? Why? Compare how you discerned your call to ordained ministry and the biblical character discerned his/her call. How did the biblical character respond to God's call with faithfulness and obedience and what were the obstacles? Share challenges you face - in yourself, and from others - in being obedient to God's call. How is your call being affirmed in yourself and by others?
3. Discuss the difference between call to discipleship and the call to ordained ministry. (i.e., what is the difference between the call to ordained ministry and the call to the general ministry of the church?)
4. Jesus said, "The one who would be first must become last and servant of all..." Share with us your understanding of a servant's heart. How has this been evident thus far as you explore your call to ordained ministry?
5. Read Ephesians 4:11-12...How do you envision yourself as a set-apart leader who calls, equips, and empowers others for ministry?
6. (Elder Track) The Book of Discipline 2016, in paragraph 335 c.1 asks, "Do you offer yourself without reserve to be appointed and to serve as the appointive authority may determine?" What are the opportunities and challenges of a United Methodist pastor who

itinerates? What does it mean to offer yourself “without reserve”? How does this relate to the location of appointment and pastoral compensation?

7. Write about an individual you know personally who has shaped your understanding and practice of ministry. What qualities do they practice and embrace that you wish to emulate? Why?