Introduction

As of the 2012 General Conference, those seeking ordination in the UMC are required to complete a project "that demonstrates fruitfulness in carrying out the churches mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

This provides the Provisional Elder and Provisional Deacon an opportunity to describe ways in which God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, has led them into a specific fruitful ministry. The project created and led by you should demonstrate fruitfulness in carrying out the Church's mission. Be as creative as necessary to demonstrate your ministry and the equipping of others to fulfill the church's mission. You may use resources from another source, but not another complete curriculum.

You are expected to present a reflection paper that should address components/questions contained in this instruction packet. It will be an opportunity to describe life-giving ministry through the lens of fruitful practices in the area of theological reflection, leadership competencies and spiritual transformation.

Your paper should not exceed 10 pages.

Examples of Ministry Projects
(*These projects are meant to spur on your creativity, but you are not limited to those listed below*)

List of suggestions for the first year of implementation:

- *Implement a Worship Design Team to lead the congregation into passionate worship.*
- *Begin home groups to reach un-churched persons.*
- *Leading a long-term Bible study, targeting a new population.*
- *Designing new 'Inviting' ministries.*
- *Starting a new member class where persons were intentionally led to a profession of their faith and were integrated into the life and work of the congregation.*
- *Starting a new music ensemble for potential new Christians.*
- *Start a community outreach project that seeks to address a social justice issue.*

List of suggestions for subsequent years:

- *Launching a new worship service.*
- *Starting a new church or satellite ministry.*
- *Launching a major outreach project to address a social justice issue.*
- *Beginning 'home' groups to reach un-churched persons.*
- *Leading a mission trip.*
- *Initiating a divorce recovery, grief, or a chemical dependency ministry.*
- *Leading a long-term Bible study, targeting a new population.*
- *Designing new 'Inviting' ministries.*
- *Starting a new member class where persons were intentionally led to a profession of their faith and were integrated into the life and work of the congregation.*
- *Leading a confirmation class from start to finish.*
- *Directing a major musical or theatrical production in which the public was invited to participate.*
- *Starting a new music ensemble for potential new Christians.*

AN OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT

I. Define your project
    A. What is your understanding of making disciples of Jesus Christ?
    B. What do you plan to do?
    C. Why have you chosen this project?
    D. What is your goal / desired outcome?

II. Prepare for your project
    A. Identify stakeholders
    B. Identify participants
    C. Identify resources needed
    D. Identify tasks
    E. Identify a timeline

III. Do your project (This should be the major section of your paper)
    A. Describe how the project was implemented
    B. Provide a description of how leadership was shared
    C. Unforeseen challenges (how did you adapt)
    D. What happened as your project unfolded?
    E. What went as you expected?
    F. What surprised you?

IV. Evaluate your project
    A. How did the actual outcome compare to your goal / desired outcome
    B. The project's fruitfulness
    C. What went well?
    D. What would you do differently if you did this again?

For Questions Contact:

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A MORE IN-DEPTH DESCRIPTION

I.   Define your project

    A.   What is your understanding of making disciples for Jesus Christ?

    B.   What do you plan to do?

    C.   Why have you chosen this project for this setting?
        You may consider specific needs in the congregation or community, such as the need for a support group, study group, a type of community outreach, etc.

    D.   What is your goal / desired outcome?
        Be concise and specific in identifying your goals. Note that you DO NOT necessarily need to meet all of your goals or outcomes for your project to be "fruitful."

I.   Prepare for your project

    A.   Identify stakeholders
        Who has a stake in the outcome, and why?

    B.   Identify participants?
        Who needs to participate in this project for it to succeed, and how? There are often more participants than immediately come to mind. (Leadership team, support team, target audience) These are all the people who need to be on board for the project to be fruitful. These will be different depending on your project.

    C.   Identify resources needed
        What resources will you need for your project to be fruitful? These will be project specific. (People, facilities, finances, supplies, and equipment, etc.)

    D.   Identify tasks
        Compile a comprehensive list of tasks that you must accomplish for your project to be fruitful, and who will be responsible for each.

    E.   Identify a timeline.
        A timeline should be clearly identified. This can easily be done on blank pages of a calendar.

II. Do your project (This should be the major section of your paper)

    A.   Describe how the project was implemented (what did you actually do?)

    B.   Provide a description of how leadership was shared in this ministry (clergy and laity)

    C.   Unforeseen challenges (how did you adapt)

    D.   What happened as your project unfolded?

    E.   What went as you expected?

    F.   What surprised you?

III. Evaluate your project
    A.   Evaluate your project after you have completed it. Include the following:

    B.   How do the actual outcomes compare to your original goals /desired outcomes? Note that a project may be "fruitful" even if the actual outcome isn't exactly what you expected.

    C.   The project's fruitfulness: In your view, give specific evidence as to why you feel the project was fruitful as it relates to the requirements of ¶330.4(5) for Deacon or ¶335(7) for Elder.

    D.   What went well?

    E.   What you would do differently if you did this same project again?