

Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: Ecclesiastical Support

Discipline Paragraph: New Following Existing Paragraph 1317

General Church Budget Implications: None

### Ecclesiastical Support – NEW

Ecclesiastical support is an affirmation provided by The United Methodist Church to employers and professional certification organizations that a deaconess/home missionary is in good standing and has the appropriate professional training and equipping for ministry in specialized settings. Ecclesiastical support acknowledges a covenant of mutual commitment, accountability and support between The United Methodist Church, through United Methodist Women, and the deaconess/home missionary. Deaconesses and home missionaries who are called to and professionally trained for chaplain or counselling ministry are eligible for ecclesiastical support for service in ministries not requiring them to administer the sacraments. The ecclesiastical support approval policies, guidelines, and process for those commissioned/consecrated deaconesses and home missionaries are administered by the administrative office for the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner with United Methodist Women.

Date: October 5, 2015

Signature of Petitioner:

Identification of Petitioner: Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary/CEO, United Methodist Women

Phone: 212-870-3752

Fax: 212-682-5354

Email: holson@unitedmethodistwomen.org