TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 1

SUGGESTED TITLE: Additional Definition for Self-Avowal

*DISCIPLINE* PARAGRAPH: *Discipline ¶* 304.3, Footnote 1

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATION: None

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: Yes

**¶ 304.** Qualifications for Ordination –

. . .

1. While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all of the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals1 are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.2

. . .

1“Self-avowed practicing homosexual” is understood to mean that a person has entered into a civil union, domestic partnership, or marriage with a person of the same sex or gender, communicates in any public setting that they are a practicing homosexual, or openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual.

**Rationale:** The added language identifies other means by which an individual openly acknowledges that they are engaged in the practice of homosexuality and can be determined by access to public records or declarations made in public forums.

Date:

Signature of the Petitioner: