

Page 1 of 1

Suggested title: The Ritual Actions in the Ordination of Elders

Discipline: ¶ 333.3

Financial Implications: None

Sponsoring Agency: General Board of Discipleship

Rationale: Bishops ordain elders by invoking the Holy Spirit while laying hands on the candidate's head. The *Discipline* requires that other elders assist in the laying on of hands and also allows bishops to invite lay representatives to assist. Assisting elders and laity do not ordain elders but embody spiritual support.

Amend ¶ 333.3 as follows:

3. An elder...by a **United Methodist** bishop...of Elders (see ¶415.6). The bishops shall be assisted by...the Church community ~~and representatives of other Christian communions in the laying on of hands.~~ **Bishops in other communions may join the ordaining bishop in laying hands on the head of the candidate, while participating elders and laity may lay hands on the back or shoulders of the candidate.**