

Page 1 of 1

Suggested title: Receiving Members from Other Churches

Discipline ¶ 225

Financial Implications: None

Sponsoring Agency: General Board of Discipleship

Rationale: An interpretation of ¶ 225 could suggest that persons from other Christian churches may become professing members without taking the vows of professing membership, contrary to the requirements for professing membership in ¶ 217. This proposal brings ¶ 225 in line with ¶ 217.

Amend ¶ 225 as follows:

*225. Transfer from Other Denominations*—A member in good standing in any Christian denomination who has been baptized and who desires to unite with The United Methodist Church ~~may~~ **shall** be received as either a baptized or a professing member. **Such a person may be received as a baptized member** by a proper certificate of transfer from that person's former church, ~~or by a declaration of Christian faith, or some certification of Christian baptism and as a professing member upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith through appropriate services of the baptismal covenant in our ritual~~ (see ¶¶ 214–217). In baptism water is...