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Suggested Title: The Ministry of the Laity

Discipline: New paragraph, following ¶ 125

Financial implications: None

Sponsoring Agency: General Board of Discipleship

Rationale: There is not presently a statement in the *Discipline* concerning the role of the laity in carrying out the ministry of The United Methodist Church. This paragraph would model our highest hopes for the role laity can and should play in carrying out the Great Commission.

Add a new ¶ 126 as follows:

¶ 126. *The Ministry of the Laity*—The lay members of The United Methodist Church are, by history and calling, active advocates of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, accepting the responsibility to carry out the Great Commission. Every lay person is called to be evangelistic; every lay person is a missionary. The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living as well as their sharing of the Gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which the lost will find Jesus Christ and The United Methodist Church will grow.