Member in Discernment Application FORM

*This form and accompanying documents should be submitted to the Committee on Ministry after a local congregation has recommended that an individual be accepted as a Member in Discernment by the appropriate UCC Association. An Association’s Committee on Ministry may have additional requirements.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Full legal name | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |
| Preferred name | Click or tap here to enter text. | Date of birth | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Pronouns | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |
| Full mailing address | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |
| Email address(es) | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |

Phone number(s)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Home | Click or tap here to enter text. | Mobile | Click or tap here to enter text. | Other | Click or tap here to enter text. |

## Church of membership

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |
| Address | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |
| Association | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |
| How long have you been a member? | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |
| Date of Baptism: | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |
| List of activities in which you are engaged (you may attach a separate sheet). | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |  |
| Name of current pastor | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |
| Pastor’s phone number(s) | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |
| Pastor’s email address | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | |
| Name of Church Council/Consistory President | | | Click or tap here to enter text. | |
| How long have you been a member of the UCC? | | | | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Other faith traditions you have been part of? | | | | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|  | | | |

Have you sought or held ministerial authorization in another tradition?

Yes  No

If yes, which tradition? Click or tap here to enter text.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Current standing or status | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Judicatory contact person | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Contact phone number(s) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Contact email address | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Reason for applying to the UCC | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**United Church of Christ engagement**

Please describe your engagement in the wider church (Association, Conference, General Synod, Global Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, etc.).

Have you ever applied for Member in Discernment status with this or any other UCC Association?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | |  | No |
| If yes, which Association? | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |  |
| When? | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |
| Outcome? | | Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |

Education and Training

Include names and addresses of all institutions attended, years attended, date of graduation or anticipated date of graduation. (You may attach a separate sheet or resume with this information.) *Note: If you are accepted as a MID with this Association, you will be asked to submit official transcripts from each of the schools or programs attended.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Name and Location | Dates and attended | Major/Minor or Areas of Study | Graduation or Completion | Degree/Certificate Achieved |
| Highschool | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| College | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Vocational or Technical School | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Graduate School (other than seminary) | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Seminary or Theological School | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Regional Theological Education Program | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Continuing Education | Click or tap here to enter text. |  |  |  |  |

Please write three brief essays (one page each) to share with the Committee on Ministry, referring to the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers of the UCC (see below):

* Describe your current sense of being called to ordained ministry by God and the Church and your understanding of continuing discernment of God’s call in community.
* Describe your most significant experiences of formation for ministry thus far.
* Describe your areas of growth at this point in your process of preparation and formation for ordained ministry in the UCC. What kinds of learning experiences will most help you engage in this growth?

You are invited to include a personal statement with additional information about your life, history, or current circumstances that the Committee on Ministry should be aware of.

Please provide three (3) letters of reference: one from your pastor, the leadership board

of your church, and a mentor, professor, or friend who can attest to your character and leadership.

Within 6 months of being granted MID status, you will be expected to provide the following:

* Criminal Background Check
* Signed Disclosure Statement (see below)
* Completion of Psychological Evaluation (COM will provide location information)

**Self – Disclosure Statement and Information Release**

**Member in Discernment Application**

*Individuals applying for standing in the United Church of Christ must make a conscientious assertion about their ethical performance and are given space for relevant commentary.*

1. Have you omitted any employment history from the documentation?

Yes No

1. Have you ever been the subject of a fitness review in any entity affiliated with or setting of the United Church of Christ that resulted in:

Censure Yes  No

Suspension Yes  No

Termination of Ministerial Standing Yes  No

1. Have you ever been the subject of an official disciplinary proceeding by another denomination, professional association, credentialing body, guild or employer that resulted in disciplinary action?

Yes  No

1. Are there any official disciplinary proceedings pending against you at this time by another denomination, professional association, credentialing body, guild or employer?

Yes  No

1. Have you ever been the subject of a civil law suit alleging that you attempted or actually engaged in sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or misconduct; physical abuse; child abuse; or financial misconduct; which has ever resulted in a judgment being entered against you, settled out of court, or dismissed because the statute of limitations had expired?

Yes  No

1. Have you had your driving license suspended or revoked within the last 5 years?

Yes  No

1. Have you ever been found guilty of, pled guilty to, or pled no contest to criminal charges? (Exclude convictions that have been sealed, expunged or legally eradicated; any misdemeanor conviction for which probation was successfully completed; offenses about which inquiry is not permissible in the state in which you are seeking a position; acts of civil disobedience. With respect to driving record, only include matters of reckless driving, driving while intoxicated and/or driving under the influence of a controlled substance.)

Yes  No

1. Has your employment, a volunteer position, or professional credentials, ever been terminated or revoked, or have you been asked not to return to employment or a volunteer position in the future because you attempted or actually engaged in:

Sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation or misconduct Yes  No

Physical abuse Yes  No

Child abuse Yes  No

Financial misconduct Yes  No

1. Have you ever terminated your employment, a volunteer position, or professional credentials in order to avoid facing or to avoid being terminated because of charges of actual or attempted:

Sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation or misconduct Yes  No

Physical abuse Yes  No

Child abuse Yes  No

Financial misconduct Yes  No

1. Are there any facts or circumstances involving you or your background that should be disclosed and/or further reviewed before you are entrusted with the responsibilities of ministry on behalf of a calling body of the United Church of Christ?

Yes  No

***If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please provide detailed explanation for all such affirmative answers. In addition to providing other relevant material, be sure to include dates and information for related official decisions, actions, reviews, etc. (by you and/or other parties) that affected your employment and/or ministerial standing and/or professional c***

“The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls certain of its members to various forms of ministry in and on behalf of the church for which ecclesiastical authorization is required." United Church of Christ Constitution, Article VI, paragraph 21.  
  
It is essential that information contained within the documentation prepared for Committees on Ministry be sensitively and responsibly reviewed and interpreted. All those seeing the documents have the responsibility to maintain the contents confidentially.  
  
Relationships between Committees on Ministry, those seeking and holding authorization and the churches and settings where these ministers serve rely upon practices of discernment and dialogue. Because such relationships require integrity and an honest exchange of relevant information, for the health and mission of the church, this candidate pledges the following:

1. I attest that the information contained in my discernment materials is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission may be grounds for dismissal from the discernment relationship. I acknowledge that it is my duty in a timely manner to amend the responses and information I have provided if I come to know that a response or information was incorrect when given or if the response or information, though accurate when given is no longer accurate.  
  
2. I authorize all persons, entities, former employers, committees on ministry and their agents, courts, law enforcement and other public agencies to respond to inquiries concerning me and to supply verification of the information provided in my discernment materials. I understand that such persons may comment on and state their opinions regarding my background and character to the Committee on Ministry or judicatory staff persons. To encourage such persons to speak openly and responsibly, I hereby release them from all liability arising from their responses and comments made in good faith and without malice.

**By signing this application, I affirm that the information provided is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.**

Click or tap here to enter text. Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature Date

Click or tap here to enter text.

Printed Name

**MARKS OF FAITHFUL AND EFFECTIVE AUTHORIZED MINISTERS**

**IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**EXHIBITING A SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION AND ONGOING SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**

* Loving God, following Jesus Christ, and being guided by the Holy Spirit; living a life of discipleship.
* Praying actively and nurturing spiritual practices.
* Being called to ordained ministry by God and the Church.
* Continuing discernment of one’s call in community.
* Understanding the power of the Holy Spirit at work through the elements of Christian worship to nurture faith.
* Exhibiting a commitment to lifelong spiritual development and faithful personal stewardship.

**NURTURING UCC IDENTITY**

* Acknowledging Jesus Christ as the sole Head of the Church.
* Communicating passion for the oneness of the Body of Christ (John 17:21).
* Holding active membership in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ.
* Participating in the various settings of the United Church of Christ, including Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, General Synod, and global ministries.
* Knowing and appreciating UCC history, polity, and theology.
* Exhibiting a commitment to the core values of the United Church of Christ: continuing testament, extravagant welcome, and changing lives.

**BUILDING TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS**

* Empowering the Church to be faithful to God’s call, reflective of Christ’s mission, and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.
* Strategically creating the future of God’s Church.
* Witnessing in the public square to God’s redeeming power.
* Performing necessary and appropriate administrative tasks.
* Working collaboratively with intercultural awareness and sensitivity.
* Encouraging leadership development of self and others through continuing education and lifelong learning.

**ENGAGING SACRED STORIES AND TRADITIONS**

* Exhibiting knowledge, understanding, and continuing study of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament.
* Maturing in effective proclamation and preaching.
* Understanding the history of the Christian Church, from biblical times forward.
* Bringing life to sacred stories and traditions in worship, proclamation, and witness.
* Leading faith formation effectively across generations.
* Holding the Holy with integrity especially as represented in the Sacraments.

**CARING FOR ALL CREATION**

* Nurturing care and compassion for God’s creation.
* Maintaining a basic understanding of mental health and wellness.
* Practicing self-care and life balance.
* Providing hope and healing to a hurting world.
* Attending to one’s own spiritual and pastoral care, including engagement in supervision as appropriate.
* Stewarding the resources of the Church.

**PARTICIPATING IN THEOLOGICAL PRAXIS**

* Practicing theological reflection and engagement as part of one’s sense of ministerial identity.
* Integrating theological reflection in teaching, preaching, and ecclesial and community leadership.
* Articulating a theology and practice of ministry consistent with the UCC Manual on Ministry.
* Demonstrating an appreciation for and participation in the ecumenical and interfaith partnerships of the UCC.
* Experiencing and appreciating a variety of theological perspectives.
* Embodying the UCC Ministerial Code.

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE AND MERCY**

* Drawing on the ministry of Jesus Christ to confront injustice and oppression.
* Practicing the radical hospitality of God.
* Identifying and working to overcome explicit and implicit bias in the life of the Church.
* Understanding community context and navigating change with a community.
* Engaging in mission and outreach.
* Building relationships of mutual trust and interdependence.

**STRENGTHENING INTER- AND INTRA- PERSONAL ASSETS**

* Developing and maintaining a healthy sense of self as shaped by God, community, and life experiences.
* Living in relationships of covenantal accountability with God and the Church.
* Exhibiting strong moral character and personal integrity.
* Respecting the dignity of all God’s people.
* Understanding and ministering to stages of human development across the life span.
* Demonstrating excellent communication skills.