

LAY MINISTERIAL STANDING APPLICATION

In circumstances when an Authorized Minister is not available to represent and serve the Church, lay persons may be called to bring their gifts and graces to particular roles in which they represent the United Church of Christ and for which the United Church of Christ, through an Association, provides support and accountability in a formal ecclesial relationship of ministerial standing. Lay Ministerial Standing is a temporary, accountable covenantal relationship among the Association, the lay member, and a Local Church of the United Church of Christ.

Lay Ministerial Standing is limited to a single setting and for a recommended maximum of seven years, during which time the Association is responsible to engage in discernment with the lay person and with the ministry setting or congregation as to whether this is a temporary avocation or a life-long vocational call. Persons who hold Lay Ministerial Standing may also have Member-in-Discernment status in the same Association in which their Lay Ministerial Standing is held; if one is applying for both Lay Ministerial Standing and Member-in-Discernment status, a separate application is available.

Persons who hold Lay Ministerial Standing participate in ecclesial systems of oversight and adhere to the UCC Ministerial Code. Lay Ministerial Standing does not inherently include privileges of voice and vote in Association, Conference or General Synod business. Lay persons who hold Lay Ministerial Standing are not eligible for Leave of Absence or Exempt Standing and may not transfer standing across Associations.

Lay Ministerial Standing should not be granted before the lay person has signed a self-disclosure form, the Committee on Ministry has reviewed the criminal background check and psychological assessment, and an interview with the Committee on Ministry has been held.

Association: _____ *Conference:* _____

Applicant's Contact Information

Please type or print clearly:

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Second Email: _____

Church Affiliation

Are you currently a member of the United Church of Christ? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, how long have you been a member of the UCC? _____

Name of Church: _____

Location of Church: _____

Church E-mail: _____

If you are a member, list the ways you are involved: _____

Ecclesiastical History

Have you ever applied for UCC status (including Member-in-Discernment status) or standing with this or any other UCC Association? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, which... *Association:* _____ *Conference:* _____

When? (date) _____ Outcome: _____

Do/did you hold ecclesiastical status with any other body, previously or currently? _____ Yes _____ No

Name of Denomination/Entity: _____

Type of Authorization: _____

Authorization: _____ Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Comments:

Please provide any additional relevant information regarding other ecclesiastical bodies

Education and Training

	Name, Location	Dates Attended	Major/Minor or Areas of Study	Graduation or Completion
High School				
College				
Vocational or Technical School				
Graduate School (other than seminary)				
Seminary or Theological School				
Regional Theological Education Program				
Continuing Education				
UCC History, Theology Polity				

Supplemental Materials:

The Committee on Ministry may request any of these supplemental items be included in this application packet:

- Faith Journey;
- Statement of understanding of call into the United Church of Christ;
- Ministry Essays including engagement with the Marks on Faithful and Effective Ministers;
- A Resume;
- Transcripts;
- Letters of Reference;
- Copies of Ordination or Ecclesiastical Certificates from other denominations.

For Committee on Ministry Use:

Self-disclosure form, signed: (date received) _____

Current criminal background check: (date received) _____

Psychological Assessment:

Interview date: _____ Outcome _____

Lay Ministerial Standing Covenant on file: (date signed) _____

Lay Ministerial Standing Supervisor: _____

Dates of Annual Review (maximum of six): _____

Self-Disclosure

Ministers 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.

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 *(Required)* _____ Yes _____ No

Suspension *(Required)* _____ Yes _____ No

Termination of Ministerial Standing *(Required)* _____ Yes _____ No

Are you currently engaged in a program of growth as the result of a fitness review in the United Church of Christ? *(Required)* _____ Yes _____ No

Are there any fitness reviews pending against you at this time by any setting or entity of or affiliated with the United Church of Christ? *(Required)* _____ Yes _____ No

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? *(Required)* _____ Yes _____ No

Are there any official disciplinary proceedings pending against you at this time by another denomination, professional association, credentialing body, guild or employer? *(Required)* _____ Yes _____ No

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? *(Required)* _____ Yes _____ No

Have you had your driving license suspended or revoked within the last 5 years? *(Required)* _____ Yes _____ No

(continued)

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.) *(Required)*

_____ Yes _____ No

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
(Required)

_____ Yes _____ No

Physical abuse *(Required)*

_____ Yes _____ No

Child abuse *(Required)*

_____ Yes _____ No

Financial misconduct *(Required)*

_____ Yes _____ No

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
(Required)

_____ Yes _____ No

Physical abuse *(Required)*

_____ Yes _____ No

Child abuse *(Required)*

_____ Yes _____ No

Financial misconduct *(Required)*

_____ Yes _____ No

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?
(Required)

_____ 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

Statement of Consent

The United Church of Christ Constitution recognizes that God calls the whole church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ [paragraph 17]. God also calls certain of the church's members to various forms of ministry in and on behalf of the church [paragraph 18].

Persons seeking Lay Ministerial Partner Standing with a UCC Conference or Association bring unique gifts, skills, and experiences. The integrity of this discernment process in the United Church of Christ depends upon supportive cooperation and considerate and appropriate sharing of information among UCC national offices, UCC conference and/or association personnel, search committees, local churches (UCC and otherwise), other ministry settings, educational institutions and those persons seeking Lay Ministerial Standing.

We are called to speak the truth in love. Our primary goal is, in all circumstances, to build up the body of Christ. Relationships between church bodies and persons seeking Lay Ministerial Standing require honesty, integrity, and truthfulness for the health of the church. In that spirit:

I attest that the information shared with the Committee on Ministry is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission may be grounds for rejection of consideration for, or termination of, the ministerial authorization process or ministerial authorization itself after that authorization is approved.

An open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position. In that spirit:

I authorize any member of the Committee on Ministry or the appropriate staff person of the conference to make inquiries regarding all statements contained in the information provided to the Committee on Ministry. I also authorize all persons, entities, former employers, committees on the ministry and their agents, current denominational representatives, courts, and law enforcement, educational institutions and other public agencies to respond to inquiries concerning me, and to supply verification of the information provided to any member of the Conference Committee on Ministry or the appropriate staff person of the conference. I understand that such persons may comment on and state their opinions regarding my background and character to any member of the Committee on Ministry or the appropriate staff person of the conference. 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.

Signature

Date