

# COMMISSIONED MINISTRY

## OVERVIEW

Commissioned Ministry acknowledges the calling of the Holy Spirit and a commitment to professional education for ministry. Commissioned ministers may include pastors, evangelists, Christian educators, ministers of music, youth ministers, parish nurses, chaplains, and bi-vocational ministers.

There are currently two categories of Commissioned Ministry:

- Those not seeking Ordination, whose call is context specific and affirmed by the Region, in consultation with the calling congregation, Region or General church; and
- Those seeking Ordination, serving in a Congregationally or Regionally authorized call, who are under care of a Region in preparation for Ordination.

### Criteria for Commissioned Ministry (TFPCOM, pg. 18-23):

- Be baptized members of a Disciples congregation in the Nebraska and serving in a Congregationally, Regionally or Generally recognized call;
- Be recommended for Commissioning by a recognized congregation or congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska. This is understood to include congregations in formation and affiliating congregations, including the one in which their membership is held;
- Meet with the Center on Church Leadership regarding the process & requirements for becoming commissioned;
- Successfully complete a background check approved the Center on Church Leadership (CCL);
- Comply with other reasonable expectations established by the Region including continuing education, ministerial supervisor evaluations, and yearly standing requirements (knowledge, growth, and competency in the 16 general areas of ministerial practices and the specialty area of ministry for which the candidate is being commissioned is expected); and
- Agree to adhere to the Ministerial Code of Ethics of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

### Additional Information:

- Commissioned Ministers are normally commissioned by the Region for a period of one year, renewable upon review.
- The Commissioned Minister status is not automatically transferable to another Region. The Commissioned Minister must: request a transfer, request the Regional Minister send a recommendation letter to the Region in which the Commissioned Minister wishes to serve
- All Commissioned Ministers are assigned an Ordained Minister as a Mentor, with whom they meet regularly.
- Referenced and Related documents are available at [www.disciples-ne.org](http://www.disciples-ne.org).

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## CANDIDATE CHECKLIST

This checklist is to aid the potential candidate for Commissioned Ministry. As a potential candidate, please read all the documentation in the “Commissioned Ministry Packet” and “Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry of the Christian Church” as part of completing this checklist. The items listed below will usually be completed in this order however there are times when the Center on Church Leadership (CCL) may adjust or add tasks as appropriate. Keep the Regional Office apprised of your progress. If you have any questions about or during this process, please contact the Regional Office at any time.

| <u>Task</u>                                                                               | <u>Date Completed</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review Center for Church Leadership Page on disciples-ne.org     | _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Download Commissioned Ministry Packet from disciples-ne.org      | _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule a meeting with the Regional Minister                    | _____                 |
| <br><input type="checkbox"/> Candidate Form                                               | <br>_____             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOC Discovery Part 1: Independent Exploration (800-1200 words)   | _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Visits                                                    | _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learn about the General church—disciples.org                     | _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> and Region—disciples-ne.org                                      | _____                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visits with ministers                                            | _____                 |
| <br><input type="checkbox"/> DOC Discovery Part 2: Personal Reflections (1200-1500 words) | <br>_____             |
| ▪ Communion                                                                               |                       |
| ▪ Baptism                                                                                 |                       |
| ▪ Christian Unity                                                                         |                       |
| ▪ Why DoC?                                                                                |                       |

| <u>Task</u>                                                                       | <u>Date</u> | <u>Completed</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Letters of Recommendation:                                                        |             |                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minister of Congregation/Context where you (will) serve  |             | _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moderator of Congregation/Context where you (will) serve |             | _____            |
| <br><input type="checkbox"/> Request Initial Interview with the CCL               |             | <br>_____        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Interview                                        |             | _____            |

*Additional interviews may be requested by either the candidate or the CCL.*

- ☐ CCL approved educational program \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Receive guidance through ongoing relationship with the CCL,  
including yearly check-ins to discuss progress \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Meet regularly with Ministry Advisor at least 6 times per year \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Congregation/Ministry's Formal Request for Commissioning  
(signed by Senior Minister and Moderator (or equivalent)) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Complete Ministerial Profile \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Complete CCL approved Background Check \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Approved by CCL for Commissioned Ministry \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Plan Commissioning Service with Congregation and Regional Minister \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Sign the Ministerial Code of Ethics \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Commissioning Service—Official Commissioned Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Continuing Education is a critical component of commissioned ministry. After commissioning it is expected that the following be completed within one year.**

- ☐ Disciples History, Polity, and Theology course (seminary or CCL approved) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ CCL approved Clergy Healthy Boundary training  
(Clergy Healthy Boundary Training is required every three years after your first training) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ CCL approved Anti-Racism / Pro-Reconciliation training  
(AR/PR Training is required every three years after your first training) \_\_\_\_\_

**Yearly, commissioned clergy are required to complete the following to maintain standing.**

- ☐ 10 Hours of Continuing Education  
*Ideally continuing education for the commissioned minister will help the minister grow in the 16 competencies.*
- ☐ Evaluation Letter from Supervising Minister (or Board)  
*This letter should be sent directly to the Regional Office before the November 30<sup>th</sup> Standing Form deadline. A letter from the Board is only appropriate where a supervising minister does not exist.*
- ☐ Submit a completed annual Ministerial Standing Form (due November 30<sup>th</sup> each year)
- ☐ Meet with the CCL yearly for a minimum of 5 years.

*Commissioned Ministers may request to be considered for Ordination after five years of service in ministry. CCL will consider each candidate on a case-by-case basis. Candidates will be required to complete materials in "Step Four" of the Ordination Policies.*