

Code of Ethics for Members in Discernment
Committee on Ministry: Preparation
St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference
United Church of Christ
(taken from the *UCC Manual on Ministry*)

THE MEMBER IN DISCERNMENT MINISTRY

- I believe that God calls the whole Church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ; that the privilege of witnessing to the gospel in church and society belongs to every baptized Christian; that God empowers the ministry of the Church and its members by the Holy Spirit; that the Church nurtures faith, evokes gifts, and equips its members for service; and that God calls certain of the Church's members to various forms of ministry in and on behalf of the Church.
- I believe that I may be called by God to a particular ministry in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ and will use this time in care to discern the nature and direction of that call.
- I will seek to witness to the ministry of Jesus Christ.
- When given the responsibility to preach and teach the gospel, I will do so without fear. I will speak the truth in love.
- I will diligently perform the work of ministry as authorized and with integrity.

PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY

- I will nurture and offer my gifts for ministry to the Church. I will seek to call forth and nurture the gifts of others in the Church and join their gifts with mine for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ and the health of the Church.
- I will seek to understand, support, and interpret the diverse ministries of the Church and its members as carried out throughout the world. I will stand with those who risk personal well being because of actions taken in response to their Christian convictions.
- I will remain active in the local church of the United Church of Christ in which my membership resides.
- I will be a responsible participant in the life and work of my Association, the Conference, and the United Church of Christ, keeping informed about issues and concerns facing the Church.
- I will be a responsible representative of the Church Universal and participate in those activities that strengthen its unity, witness, and mission.
- I will work cooperatively and collegially with those whom I serve and those with whom I learn.
- I will maintain an active relationship with my Member in Discernment advisor and with the Committee On Ministry: Preparation.
- I will seek the counsel of my in Member In Discernment advisor, Conference Staff, or the Committee On Ministry: Preparation should divisive tensions threaten my relationship with those with whom I am ministering.

THE ETHICS OF MINISTRY

- I will regard all persons with equal respect and concern and undertake to minister impartially.
- I will honor all confidences shared with me.
- I will not use my position, power, or authority to exploit any person.
- I will not use my position for personal financial gain, nor will I misuse the finances of the institutions that I serve.

- I will not perform pastoral services within a parish or for a member of a parish without the consent of the pastor of that parish.
- I will deal honorably with the record of those with whom I serve, those who preceded me in ministry positions, and those who succeed me in ministry positions.

GROWTH IN MINISTRY

- I will seek to grow in faith, knowledge, and the practice of ministry through an intentional education program, study, and devotional life.
- I will cooperate with the Committee On Ministry: Preparation in its annual review of my Member In Discernment standing.

COMMITMENTS TO SELF AND FAMILY

- I will live a life that honors my commitments to my family and the commitments of others to their families.
- I will honor my need for time for physical and spiritual renewal, recreation, and vacation.
- I will honor my family's need for privacy and time together.
- I will be a responsible steward of my personal and family finances. I will honor and accept responsibility of the debts that I incur.
- I will attend to my physical well-being and avoid abusive behaviors and abusive use of substances.
- Relying on the grace of God, I will lead a life worthy of the calling to which I have been called.

**I have read and agree to abide by the
“CODE OF ETHICS FOR MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT”**

MID Signed

Date

MID Name Printed

Advisor Signature

Date

Advisor Name Printed