

**Preparing for the Ordination Interview,  
Receiving *Ordainable Pending Call* Status  
and Criteria of an Ordainable Call**

*Committee on Ministry: Preparation*

St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference  
United Church of Christ

**Ordination Interview**

Your Ordination Interview with the Committee on Ministry: Preparation (COM:P) will be set after your Documents Checklist for Ordination Interview is complete. Please work with your advisor on this.

Once the date for the interview is set, please arrange to bring your home church pastor and a layperson from your home church (perhaps from your Home Church Support Committee or Church Council) with you. This interview is based on what is set forth in the *Manual on Ministry* – including a dialogue about your ordination paper. After COM:P members share in discussion with you, they will turn to your companions and ask for their input.

Please do not schedule your Ordination Service prior to the Ordination Interview. Final approval of an ordination date will come in consultation with Conference staff and the COM:P chairperson. It is strongly recommended that Ordinations take place on Sundays at 3pm in order to make it possible for more laypeople and clergy to attend this action and celebration of the St Louis Association.

The COM:P will provide you with a template for your ordination service based on the *UCC Book of Worship*. There will be space for you to be creative and true to your spirit and to the host church's worship style.

**Ordainable Pending A Call**

Once you are "Approved for Ordination Pending a Call" in accordance with the *Manual on Ministry*, this status is reviewed by the COM:P each year. During this entire time, you have access to the support and counsel of the COM:P. Every year, near the anniversary of your initial approval for ordination, this committee will request that you send a letter documenting your pastoral work during that year, any search committee or other employment interviews, or other progress toward ordination. The COM:P will read through your letter in preparation for a face-to-face conversation.

**Criteria of an Ordainable Call**

Once you receive an official call or offer of employment, the COM:P and/or Conference Staff will discern if it meets the criteria of being an ordainable call, using the *Manual on Ministry* for guidance. Some of the things considered are:

1. AUTHENTICITY. All parties in the proposed covenant discern that the candidate is called by God to the ministry in question.
2. DISTINCTIVENESS. The ministry requires the sacramental and pastoral responsibilities of an ordained minister.
3. CALLING BODY. The calling body requests that the candidate be ordained to the position. In the case of a 4-way covenant, the calling body agrees to be a full and active partner in the covenant.
4. DURATION. The duration of the ministry should be sufficient to develop a deep pastoral relationship.
5. COMPENSATION. The Call Agreement reflects compensation at or exceeding the conference guidelines for the conference in which the calling body is situated. (If a congregation is not able to meet the guidelines, the Call Agreement should include a plan and commitment to achieve them within a certain timeframe.)

If the calling body is not a local church, COM:P will do its best to understand the compensation details and align them with conference guidelines to ensure that your compensation is fair and just.

*\* Be sure to check on the timeline for enrolling in the UCC health benefits program. In the past, you had to do it within 90 days of ordination to avoid some additional requirements for acceptance into the program.*