

**Process for Seeking to be a Member In Discernment**  
*Committee on Ministry: Preparation*  
St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference  
United Church of Christ

1. The candidate explores their desire to seek ordination and to become a Member In Discernment (MID) with the pastor and lay leaders of their local church.
2. The person seeking MID status must be a member of the local church within the St. Louis Association for at least 1 year.
3. The pastor or lay leader of the local church writes a letter to the Committee on Ministry: Preparation (COM:P) that a church member will be applying to be an MID with the Association and requesting guidance in the process.
4. The candidate prepares and provides specific written materials to their home church:
  - a. an explanation of the person's Christian pilgrimage (including the experiences and people who have contributed to the candidate's sense of call)
  - b. the call as it is understood at this time
  - c. an autobiography
  - d. documentation of formal education and/or educational plans
5. A committee within the local church interviews the candidate and decides whether or not to recommend them to the Association. If the decision is to recommend the person, the church sends a letter of recommendation to the COM:P, which includes:
  - a. verification of the candidate's length of church membership
  - b. the person's participation in the local and/or wider church
  - c. a description of the interview process with the candidate
  - d. a recommendation of the candidate for an initial MID interview with the COM:P
6. The MID candidate prepares and submits to the COM:P:
  - a. a letter of application explaining why they desire to become an MID
  - b. three (3) letters of reference, including one from the pastor of the candidate's home church
  - c. the background material (autobiography/faith statement) provided to the local church committee, revised if necessary (See #4 above.)
  - d. seminary transcript or educational plan, including proposed seminary graduation date
7. The COM:P reviews the material provided by the candidate and the local church.
8. The COM:P decides whether or not to proceed with the candidate. If so, it establishes a time to interview the person, accompanied by their pastor and a lay leader of the local church.
9. The initial MID interview is held.