

The Psychological Evaluation at Care and Counseling, St Louis

Committee on Ministry: Preparation

St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference

United Church of Christ

At the beginning of the discernment process, as a way of assessing a candidate's initial fitness and potential for ministry, a thorough psychological evaluation is required--life history questionnaire, behavior screening and standardized tests, written references and a face-to-face interview with a licensed counselor who regularly works with clergy. The final report testifies that there are no contraindications to continuing in discernment, celebrates the strengths and emotional stability of the candidate and gives them some suggestions of areas and possible strategies for further personal and pastoral development.

1. Member In Discernment (MID) candidates should contact Care and Counseling as soon as possible to set up an appointment. (See contact information below.)
2. The MID receives paperwork via email, fills out the personal information form, and sends review forms to references to be returned to Care and Counseling. The personal information form is brought to Care and Counseling when a 2.5 hour battery of psychological tests are taken on site - Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-2), Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (16 PF) and Sentence Completion Form for Men or Women. In advance of the appointment, the candidate will complete a free online version of The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (<https://www.16personalities.com>), print out their results pages and bring them to the evaluation appointment.
3. A face-to-face interview with a counselor is scheduled to take place within 4 weeks of the testing. *The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ (The Marks)* are referenced in this dialogue.
4. The MID, in consultation with Care and Counseling and the Committee on Ministry: Preparation (COM:P), sets a date for the follow-up feedback session to take place within 4 weeks of the face-to-face interview with the counselor. At this meeting, the candidate has a private debrief with the counselor, and then two COM:P members join in the conversation.
5. Within 4 weeks after the final feedback session, Care and Counseling will send the written summation of its work with the MID to both the candidate and COM:P. The COM:P copy of the report will be kept in the MID's confidential file in a secure location in the Missouri Mid-South Conference office. (See address below.) The written summation will include a summary of the MID's personal history and interest in and experience with ministry. It will also include key indicators from the psychological instruments and written references as well as any recommendations--especially in light of *The Marks*.

6. The counseling agency will bill the St Louis Association (SLA) directly. The SLA will pay the entire bill (payable to the agency and sent c/o the counselor). The SLA Treasurer will then bill 40% of total charge to the MID candidate's home church and 20% to the MID candidate – as the Association pays the remaining 40%. Checks from the MID candidate and the home church should be made payable to the St Louis Association and sent to:

St Louis Association
Rev Tom Ressler, Treasurer
St. Paul UCC
3510 Giles Ave
St. Louis MO 63116

**Care and Counseling*

12141 Ladue Road; St. Louis, MO 63141-8120
careandcounseling.org; 314-878-4340
Rev. Dale Kuhn, LCSW: dkuhn@careandcounseling.org

**MMSUCC - SLA COM:P*

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