

## Statement of Consent and Release Form for Persons Seeking Member in Discernment Status in the South Dakota Conference

The United Church of Christ Constitution recognizes that God calls the whole church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ. God also calls certain of the church's members to various forms of authorized ministry in and on behalf of the church.

I am seeking Member in Discernment status through the Committee on Ministry of the South Dakota Conference (COM). I acknowledge that the integrity of the Member in Discernment process in the Conference depends upon supportive cooperation and considerate and appropriate sharing of information among the Conference and its staff, the COM, and the other persons involved in the Member in Discernment process.

We are called to speak the truth in love. Our primary goal is, in all circumstances, to build up the body of Christ. Relationships between the COM, the candidate, and the other persons involved in the Member in Discernment process require honesty, integrity, and truthfulness for the health of the church. In that spirit:

I attest that the information I have provided and will, in the future, provide to the COM is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission may be grounds for rejection of consideration for, or termination of, Member in Discernment status.

An open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between authorizing bodies and persons seeking a ministry position. In that spirit:

I authorize the COM and its members and agents, including the staff of the Conference to make inquiries regarding all statements I have made or will make and information I have provided and will provide. I also authorize all persons, entities, former employers, committees on the ministry and their agents, courts, and law enforcement and other public agencies to respond to inquiries concerning me, and to supply verification of the information provided or to be provided by me. I understand that such persons may comment on and state their opinions regarding my background and character to those relating to the authorization process. To encourage such persons to speak openly and responsibly, I hereby release them from all liability arising from their responses and comments made in good faith and without malice.

The authorization process in the United Church of Christ further rests on the sharing of information in considerate and appropriate ways with those involved in the process. In that spirit:

I authorize the COM and its members and agents, including the staff of the Conference to circulate, distribute, and otherwise share information gathered in connection with my request. I understand that those gathering information about me concerning my request are encouraged to share such information with me if requested by me to do so.

I affirm that I have not been an in-care student or a Member in Discernment, or an authorized minister in any other Association/conference/denomination.

Candidate's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Provide this completed form to the Local Church Discernment Committee. This form should be kept in the candidate's file assembled by the Local Church Discernment Committee. At the time the Local Church makes the Request for Member in Discernment Status (Appendix A), submit this form and the rest of the candidate's file alongside the request.