

# **SOUTH DAKOTA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST APPLICATION FOR ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER STANDING**

**Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing (OMPS)** is a form of UCC ministerial standing that may be granted to Ordained ministers in good standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or in The United Church of Canada who desire to seek a call and to serve a United Church of Christ congregation. The process towards this form of standing should begin before search and call with a Local Congregation.

Association: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Applicant's Contact Information**

*Please type or print clearly:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone, if different from cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Email \_\_\_\_\_



## Ecclesiastical History

Have you ever applied for UCC status or standing with this or any other UCC Association?

Yes No

If yes, which Association? \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Association) (Conference)

When? \_\_\_\_\_ Outcome? \_\_\_\_\_  
 (date)

Do/did you hold ecclesiastical status with any other body, previously or currently? Yes No

Name of Denomination/Entity \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Authorization \_\_\_\_\_

Authorization Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ End Date \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination/Entity holding certification of current ministerial authorization:

Office Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

*Please provide any additional relevant information regarding other ecclesiastical bodies*

## Initial Requirements (Step One)

The Committee on Ministry is requesting the following items initially to begin your application for Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing. Attach all but the verification of standing to this form and submit it as one file to [info@ucctcm.org](mailto:info@ucctcm.org).

- Current criminal background check
  - Provide a copy of the background check run during the search and call process by your denomination or go to the following website <https://ucctcm.org/abuseprevention> and select Oxford Background Check
- Self-Disclosure Profile
  - Please fill out the attached Self-Disclosure Profile including signing the “Statement of Consent”
- Verification of Boundary Training
  - Please send verification of your last Boundary Training dated within the last 3 years.
- Three Letters of Reference
  - Three letters of reference that can speak to your skills and gifts for ministry should be requested and sent to [info@ucctcm.org](mailto:info@ucctcm.org) on your behalf. At least one of the reference letters should come from a UCC Minister with Ordained Ministerial Standing.
- Completion of UCC History, Polity, and Theology Course
  - Candidates are expected to obtain a working knowledge of the United Church of Christ history, polity, and theology as well be able to function in and appreciate the polity of the United Church of Christ. Find course options at [www.ucctcm.org/uccidentity](http://www.ucctcm.org/uccidentity). Please submit your certificate of completion.
- Verification of good standing from originating denomination
  - Please work with the Associate Conference Minister for COMs to complete this. Email [info@ucctcm.org](mailto:info@ucctcm.org) and they will contact your denomination's judicatory representative and complete the verification.

## Meeting with the Committee on Ministry (Step Two)

The Committee on Ministry will review the above Initial Requirements (Step 1), engage in discernment, and work with the applicant to identify any additional items that may be needed immediately. After meeting with the Committee, the Applicant will then proceed to step three.

### **Further Requirements (Step Three)**

After meeting with the Applicant, the Committee on Ministry will create a timeline for the Applicant to complete the following additional requirements:

### **Search and Call (Step Four)**

Once further requirements are met or if no further requirements are needed, the Applicant may proceed to search for a call to a UCC ministry setting. This will be noted with the status in DataHub as "Seeking OMPS". After a call is received, the Applicant will proceed to step four.

### **Completing Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing (Step Five)**

Once the applicant has been called to serve a congregation, the following should be submitted to as one file to [info@ucctcm.org](mailto:info@ucctcm.org).

- Submit the information regarding the congregation(s) you will be serving.
  - Please have a representative from the congregations you will be serving complete the request (page 10).
- Submit either a 4- or 5- way covenant outlining the relationships and accountability between the minister, congregation, association, and denominations, including expectations for support and accountability.

### **Meeting with the Committee on Ministry (Step Six)**

The Committee on Ministry will review the above requirements, engage in discernment, and determine readiness for granting Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing to the Applicant. A formal service Installation of the minister as a pastor of the UCC congregation by the Association follows the granting of Standing.

## Self-Disclosure

*(Required) Indicates that an answer is required!*

**Have you ever been the subject of a fitness review in any entity affiliated with or setting of the United Church of Christ that resulted in:**

Censure *(Required)* Yes No

Suspension *(Required)* Yes No

Termination of Ministerial Standing *(Req.)* Yes No

Are you currently engaged in a program of growth as the result of a fitness review in the United Church of Christ? *(Required)*

Yes No

Are there any fitness reviews pending against you at this time by any setting or entity of or affiliated with the United Church of Christ? *(Required)*

Yes No

Have you ever been the subject of an official disciplinary proceeding by another denomination, professional association, credentialing body, guild or employer that resulted in disciplinary action? *(Required)*

Yes No

Are there any official disciplinary proceedings pending against you at this time by another denomination, professional association, credentialing body, guild or employer? *(Required)*

Yes No

Have you ever been the subject of a civil law suit alleging that you attempted or actually engaged in sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or misconduct; physical abuse; child abuse; or financial misconduct; which has ever resulted in a judgment being entered against you, settled out of court, or dismissed because the statute of limitations had expired? *(Required)*

Yes No

Have you had your driving license suspended or revoked within the last 5 years? *(Required)*

Yes No

Have you ever been found guilty of, pled guilty to, or pled no contest to criminal charges?

(Exclude convictions that have been sealed, expunged or legally eradicated; any misdemeanor conviction for which probation was successfully completed; offenses about which inquiry is not permissible in the state in which you are seeking a position; acts of civil disobedience. With respect to driving record, only include matters of reckless driving, driving while intoxicated and/or driving under the influence of a controlled substance.) *(Required)* Yes No

**Has your employment, a volunteer position, or professional credentials, ever been terminated or revoked, or have you been asked not to return to employment or a volunteer position in the future because you attempted or actually engaged in:**

Sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation or misconduct <i>(Required)</i>	Yes	No
Physical abuse <i>(Required)</i>	Yes	No
Child abuse <i>(Required)</i>	Yes	No
Financial misconduct <i>(Required)</i>	Yes	No

**Have you ever terminated your employment, a volunteer position, or professional credentials in order to avoid facing or to avoid being terminated because of charges of actual or attempted:**

Sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation or misconduct <i>(Required)</i>	Yes	No
Physical abuse <i>(Required)</i>	Yes	No
Child abuse <i>(Required)</i>	Yes	No
Financial misconduct <i>(Required)</i>	Yes	No

Are there any facts or circumstances involving you or your background that should be disclosed and/or further reviewed before you are entrusted with the responsibilities of ministry on behalf of a calling body of the United Church of Christ? *(Required)* Yes No

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please provide detailed explanation for all such affirmative answers. In addition to providing other relevant material, be sure to include dates and information for related official decisions, actions, reviews, etc. (by you and/or other parties) that affected your employment and/or ministerial standing and/or professional credentials. (Required)

## Statement of Consent

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 ministry in and on behalf of the church.

Persons seeking Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing with a UCC conference or association bring unique gifts, skills, and experiences. The integrity of this discernment process in the United Church of Christ depends upon supportive cooperation and considerate and appropriate sharing of information among UCC national offices, UCC conference and/or association personnel, search committees, local churches (UCC and otherwise), other ministry settings, the individual seeking standing's current denomination, educational institutions and those persons seeking Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.

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 church bodies and persons seeking Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing. Standing require honesty, integrity, and truthfulness for the health of the church. In that spirit:

I attest that the information shared with the Committee on Ministry 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, the ministerial authorization process or ministerial authorization itself after that authorization is approved.

An open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position.



In that spirit:

I authorize any member of the Committee on Ministry or the appropriate staff person of the Conference to make inquiries regarding all statements contained in the information provided to the Committee. I also authorize all persons, entities, former employers, committees on the ministry and their agents, current denominational representatives, courts, and law enforcement, educational institutions and other public agencies to respond to inquiries concerning me, and to supply verification of the information provided to any member of the Conference staff and the Committee on Ministry or the appropriate staff person of the conference. I understand that such persons may comment on and state their opinions regarding my background and character to any member of the Committee or the appropriate staff person of the Conference.

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.

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*Signature*

*Date*

**Local Church Calling the Applicant Seeking OMPS**

The \_\_\_\_\_,  
are ready to call \_\_\_\_\_.

Please review this alongside the 4- or 5-way covenant as you consider the request for OMPS.

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Church Representative / Date / Title

#1 Church Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#2 Church Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Email: \_\_\_\_\_