

Discernment Covenant for Privilege of Call in the Heartland Association, Nebraska Conference UCC

This Covenant of Discernment and Formation is entered into by the following covenanted partners:

The Heartland's Association COM: Church and Ministry Committee (C&M)

The Congregation: _____

The Privilege of Call candidate: _____

Covenant of the Church

We, the members of the Church, promise to support and nurture the candidate in their period of discernment and formation as they explore a call to authorized ministry; to openly and honestly share with them and the C&M our assessment of their fitness for authorized ministry; and to celebrate their discerned strengths and to openly, honestly and sensitively name matters which limit their effectiveness in ministry. We covenant with the candidate and the C&M as a sign of our mutual ministry.

Signature of the Representative of the Church: _____ Date: _____

Covenant of the Committee for Church and Ministry (C&M)

We, the members of the C&M, covenant with members of the Church and with the candidate to explore a call to authorized ministry in the United of Christ. We will develop an educational and formational plan with the candidate and accompany them as they engage in a path of preparation and formation. We will provide counsel and support and will meet with the candidate at appropriate intervals to discern readiness for the authorized ministry sought. When, in our judgment, we determine the time is right, we will determine whether to authorize the candidate for ministry according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ. We covenant with the candidate and the Church as a sign of our mutual ministry.

Signature of the Chair of C&M: _____ Date: _____

Covenant of the Candidate for Privilege of Call—Education and Formation

I, the candidate for Privilege of Call, promise to continue to faithfully discern with my covenantal partners my call to ministry, including exploration regarding which form of authorized ministry, if any, may be the most appropriate response to my call. I will engage in the educational and formational plan and formative practices developed with the C&M that will prepare me for this calling. During this time I will continue to participate with the Church, contributing to its life and witness as possible and appropriate. I will continue to meet with my Local Church Discernment Committee at least once every two months. I will meet with my POC Advisor monthly. I will maintain contact with the C&M and provide materials as requested that reflect my progress. I understand that entering into this Covenant is not an assurance that I will be authorized for ministry in the UCC. I covenant with the C&M and Church as a sign of our mutual ministry.

Signature of the Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Covenant of the Candidate for Privilege of Call—Required Reporting

To the Committee for Church and Ministry: I will meet with and submit reports and other documents requested by the C&M. To the Church: I will meet with and submit reports and other documents as necessary and agreed upon to my Discernment Committee or other appropriate body of the Church.

Signature of the Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Submit this form and documentation to info@ucctcm.org and fablaylock54@gmail.com, or mail to:
Nebraska Conference UCC, 5609 Douglas Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310.