

Request for Member in Discernment Status in the South Dakota Conference UCC

Candidate's Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Congregation's Information

Congregation's Name: _____

Congregation's Telephone: _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Pastor's Email: _____

Local Church Discernment Committee Chair's Name: _____

Chairperson's Email: _____

The candidate named above has stated their desire to prepare for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ. They have met faithfully for the work of discernment their pastor and their Local Church Discernment Committee. The Local Church Discernment Committee and the leadership of the local church affirm that this candidate has a discernible call to ministry, has skills in multiple areas of Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers, and is ready to enter into the Member in Discernment process.

This congregation hereby requests that the Committee on Ministry accept the candidate as a Member in Discernment. We affirm that they are a member in good standing of this church and that the statements made in this Request are true and complete to the best of our knowledge.

The following documents are enclosed with this Request:

- Letter of recommendation from the Local Church governing body requesting the person be received as a Member in Discernment. The letter should include a description of the person's process with the Local Church Discernment Committee, reflection on specific skills and gifts for ministry that exemplify Marks for Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers, and clarity about which Marks the Discernment Committee had identified as areas for development and growth.
- Candidate's file from their work with their Local Church Discernment Committee including their
 - Spiritual Autobiography and Statement of Faith
 - Reflections on the questions:
 - Describe your theological understanding of ordination and the role of the Church in discerning call.
 - Describe in particular your call to the vocation of ministry and the setting to which you currently feel most called.
 - Expanding on the understanding of ordination, why are you interested in ordination and ministry specifically in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ?
 - Documentation of formal education, including theological education
 - Statement of Consent and Release Form (Appendix B)
 - Background Disclosure (Appendix C)
 - Report from the Completed Background Check (generated from Appendix G)

Signature of the Candidate: _____ Date _____

Signature of the Discernment Committee Chair: _____ Date _____

Signature of the Local Church Pastor: _____ Date _____

Submit this form and documentation to info@ucctcm.org or mail to: Registrar of COM, c/o South Dakota Conference United Church of Christ, 5609 Douglas Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310.