

## **Discernment Covenant for a Member in Discernment in the South Dakota Conference UCC**

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

Acting on behalf of the Association COM: South Dakota's Committee on Ministry (COM)

The Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

The Member in Discernment: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Covenant of the Church**

We, the members of the Church, promise to support and nurture the Member in Discernment in the MID's period of discernment and formation as the MID explores a call to authorized ministry; to openly and honestly share with the MID and the COM our assessment of the MID's fitness for authorized ministry; and to celebrate the MID's discerned strengths and to openly, honestly and sensitively name matters which limit the MID's effectiveness in ministry. We covenant with the MID and COM as a sign of our mutual ministry.

Signature of the Representative of the Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Covenant of COM**

We the members of the COM, covenant with the members of the Church and with the Member in Discernment to explore a call to authorized ministry in the United of Christ. We will develop an educational and formational plan with the MID and accompany them as they engage in a path of preparation and formation. We will provide counsel and support and will meet with the MID 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 MID for ministry according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ. We covenant with the MID and the Church as a sign of our mutual ministry.

Signature of the Chair of COM: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Covenant of the Member in Discernment—Education and Formation**

I, the Member in Discernment, 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 COM 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 MID Advisor monthly. I will maintain contact with the COM 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 COM and the Church as a sign of our mutual ministry.

Signature of the Member in Discernment: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Covenant of the Member in Discernment—Required Reporting**

To the Conference Committee for Authorized Ministry: I will meet with and submit reports and other documents requested by COM. 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 Member in Discernment: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit this form to [info@ucctcm.org](mailto: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.