

The Member in Discernment Advisor's Role and Responsibilities Heartland Association, Nebraska Conference UCC

The Member in Discernment (MID) Advisor, assigned by the Heartland Association Church and Ministry (C&M) Committee, is a UCC member (lay or ordained) whose familiarity with the polity of and commitment to the ministry of the United Church of Christ position them to offer spiritual and practical accompaniment to the MID along their journey.

The MID Advisor meets with the Member in Discernment between the person's annual reviews with the Committee as a checkpoint on the Member in Discernment's process, adherence to formation and preparation plans, and as a partner for growth and discernment around the Marks for Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers.

Responsibilities of the MID Advisor include:

- Prayer for the MID
- Conversations with the MID monthly, with an intentional focus on how the MID is experiencing God in the midst of their formation; the MID's understanding of call; the joys and challenges of the MID's spiritual life and practice; and reflection upon the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministry. Face to face conversations is recommended but video conferencing is also acceptable.
- Availability for the MID to raise and explore questions about faith, the church, and Christian ministry
- Contributing to the MID Annual Review process by filing out Advisor's Annual Review Sheet one month prior to their reviews
- Advising the MID on the drafting of the Marks Portfolio before submission to C&M.
- Accompanying the MID to annual reviews and authorization interview(s) with C&M and actively engaging in the conversation, as invited.
- Providing written references on behalf of the MID when requested, as appropriate.

In addition, the Discernment Advisor will have the following structural responsibilities:

- Familiarity with the steps and covenantal partners involved with the MID's experience and process.
- Communicating with C&M if concerns arise regarding the MID.
- Encouraging the MID to take an active part in the various settings of the UCC.
- Providing the MID with recommendations for further development, including reading, formal and informal opportunities for learning or growth, and mentors.
- As invited, providing preparation support and attending the MID's recognition of authorized ministry, including, as appropriate, the ecclesiastical council and authorization service.

As a covenantal partner in this process, C&M will, upon receipt of suitable documentation and receipts, reimburse MID Advisors for reasonable expenses incurred in the fulfillment of their role.

Resources for MID Advisors are available on the Conference website. The resources include an overview of the MID process, conversation prompts for various areas of the Marks, discernment tools, and detailed information about helping MIDs create their Marks Portfolio.

Having read the role and responsibilities for MID Advisor's, I commit to serving as the MID Advisor.

Advisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor's Name: _____

MID's Name: _____

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