

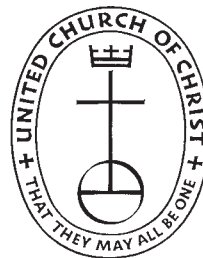
Ordained Ministerial Partner

Section 5 of 10

United Church of Christ

MANUAL ON MINISTRY

Perspectives and Procedures for
Ecclesiastical Authorization of Ministry



Parish Life and Leadership Ministry
Local Church Ministries
A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ

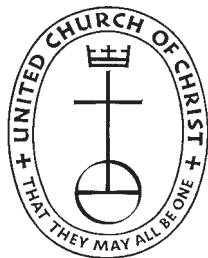
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ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER

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Manual on Ministry

Perspectives and Procedures for Ecclesiastical Authorization of Ministry

Manual on Ministry is published in ten separate sections or booklets. Each section is available separately or as part of the complete *Manual* that includes all ten sections in a single binder. The ten sections are:

1. Partners in Authorizing Ministry

An overview of the covenantal relationships and underlying assumptions about authorized ministry, including the ministerial codes.

2. Student in Care of Association

Commentary, processes, and procedures for those preparing to enter the Ordained Ministry of the United Church of Christ.

3. Ordained Ministry

Commentary, processes, and procedures for Ordained Ministry, including Ordained Ministerial Standing.

4. Dual Standing and Privilege of Call

Commentary, processes, and procedures for those ordained ministers of denominations other than the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who seek to serve in the United Church of Christ or who seek to enter the Ordained Ministry of the United Church of Christ. Ordained ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) should see section 5, "Ordained Ministerial Partner."

5. Ordained Ministerial Partner

Commentary, processes, and procedures related to the reconciliation of ministries with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

6. Commissioned Ministry

Commentary, processes, and procedures for Commissioned Ministry, including Commissioned Ministerial Standing.

7. Licensed Ministry

Commentary, processes, and procedures for Licensed Ministry.

8. The Oversight of Ministries Authorized by the United Church of Christ

Commentary, processes, and procedures for the nurture and accountability of the ministries of the Church.

9. Ecclesiastical Endorsement

Commentary, processes, and procedures for those seeking to serve as chaplains in professional organizations and military or other U.S. government agencies.

10. Supplemental Materials

Commentary, appendices, and a glossary related to multiple sections of *Manual on Ministry*.

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CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE VI

Recognition and Reconciliation of the Ordained Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

28. The United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) recognize the ordained ministries of the other church to be efficacious ministries of grace within that church and these ministries to be valid and full ministries of the one Church of Jesus Christ.
29. The ordained ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are reconciled. An Ordained Minister with ordained ministerial standing in one church may function, whenever invited, and as established procedures permit, as an Ordained Minister to the other.
30. The designations "Ordained Ministerial Partner" and "ordained ministerial partner standing" manifest the corporate and individual nature of the recognition and reconciliation of the ordained ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
31. Each member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who holds ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the United Church of Christ.
32. Each member of the United Church of Christ who holds ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ is an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
33. Ordained ministerial partner standing is authorization granted to an Ordained Minister with ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who has a call to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. This authorization assumes knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. Ordained ministerial partner standing provides ongoing ecclesiastical authorization to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

BYLAW PROVISIONS

126. A person has ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ only when serving a United Church of Christ calling body.
127. Upon demonstrating knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ to the Association in which the person resides, an Ordained Ministerial Partner may seek a call in the United Church of Christ.
128. An Ordained Ministerial Partner who accepts a call in the United Church of Christ applies for ordained ministerial partner standing to the Association in which Local Church Membership is held.

**ORDAINED
MINISTERIAL
PARTNER**

129. When an Ordained Ministerial Partner accepts a call to a Local Church, the Partner and the Local Church join in requesting the Association to arrange for a service of installation.
130. A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in an Association shall hold membership in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ.
131. A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in an Association shall maintain ordained ministerial standing within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Region in which the United Church of Christ calling body is located.
132. A person who has ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ, and who accepts a call in another Association, shall apply for a transfer of ordained ministerial partner standing to the new Association.
133. When a disciplinary review is instituted in relation to a person holding ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ, the Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in which the person's ordained ministerial standing is maintained shall be informed and invited to participate in the procedures.
134. A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall maintain ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ. Ordained ministerial standing shall be held in the Association in which Local Church membership is held.
135. A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall hold local church membership in a local church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
136. A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall relate to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for his or her primary support and accountability in ordained ministry.
137. A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is subject to periodic review by the Association in which ordained ministerial standing is maintained.
138. When a disciplinary procedure is instituted by a Region in relation to a person holding ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the United Church of Christ Association in which standing is held shall be informed and invited to participate. The Association may accept the procedures and outcome of the Region or utilize its own procedures to determine the person's ongoing standing in the United Church of Christ.
139. When a person no longer has ordained ministerial standing in either the United Church of Christ or Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), that person is no longer an Ordained Ministerial Partner and ordained ministerial partner standing is nullified.

Ordained ministerial partner standing is the authorization conferred by an Association on an ordained ministerial partner to exercise all the prerogatives of the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ.

To be an ordained ministerial partner and to have standing are not the same. All ordained ministers with standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are at the same time ordained ministerial partners in the United Church of Christ; all ordained ministers with standing in the United Church of Christ are ordained ministerial partners in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These affirmations are unique to the ecumenical partnership between the two denominations and are an expression and celebration of the oneness of the church in Christ. The validity and efficacy of the partner church's ministry is affirmed. Ordained ministerial partners may be invited to fulfill occasional acts of ministry in the partner denomination from time to time without further authorization.

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ordained ministerial partners are granted ordained ministerial partner standing, and are thus authorized to exercise all the prerogatives of the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ, only when they have an approved call to a ministry of the United Church of Christ; transfer their membership to a local church of the United Church of Christ; and demonstrate the knowledge of, and appreciation for, United Church of Christ history, polity, and practices necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. At the same time they retain full standing as ordained ministers in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Two decisions are required of the Association Committee on the Ministry in this authorization process:

- a. to determine that the ordained ministerial partner is qualified to seek a call in the United Church of Christ because he or she has demonstrated the prerequisite knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ; and
- b. to grant ordained ministerial partner standing using the normal and customary procedures for granting ordained ministerial standing to United Church of Christ ordained ministers. Ordained ministerial partner standing is customarily granted upon confirmation that the call the ordained ministerial partner has received is to a ministry that the Association recognizes as a valid ministry of the United Church of Christ, that the terms of that call are acceptable, and that church membership is or will be transferred to a local church of the United Church of Christ. Standing is normally ritually symbolized by the installation of the ordained ministerial partner by the Association.

Because the ordained ministries of the two churches are reconciled, the Association is normally predisposed to accept the partner's ordained ministerial standing within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as evidence that the partner is fit for ministry. The examination of the partner, beyond knowledge of, and appreciation for, the United Church of Christ [(a.) above], is therefore limited to questions about the call and its terms and about local church membership.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER AUTHORI- ZATIONS

The granting of ordained ministerial partner standing is different from, but bears similarities to, three other processes in the *Manual on Ministry*: privilege of call, transfer of ordained ministerial standing, and dual standing.

PRIVILEGE OF CALL AND ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER STANDING

Two important differences distinguish granting an ordained ministerial partner permission to seek a call from granting privilege of call to an ordained minister from another denomination:

1. Because the ordination of the ordained ministerial partner is already constitutionally recognized, the examination focuses only on the demonstration of appropriate knowledge of, and appreciation for, the United Church of Christ.
2. Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is not relinquished in order to have standing in the United Church of Christ.

TRANSFER OF ORDAINED MINISTERIAL STANDING AND ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER STANDING

The granting of ordained ministerial partner standing recognizes that Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Associations of the United Church of Christ make ordination decisions on behalf of the whole church, using very similar criteria. Although an Association has the right to deny ordained ministerial standing (with cause), it is normally predisposed with favor toward the prior decisions of other Associations. The partnership covenant calls for similar respect for the prior decisions of the Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The important differences from transfer of ordained ministerial standing are that knowledge of, and appreciation for, the United Church of Christ must be confirmed before the partner seeks a call, and prior standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is continued along with ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ.

DUAL STANDING AND ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER STANDING

Unlike ordained ministers of other denominations with dual standing, ordained ministerial partners with standing have parity with ordained ministers of the United Church of Christ. That is, they enjoy the same rights, shoulder the same responsibilities, exercise the same prerogatives and are to be treated with the same processes. An exception is that the ordained ministerial partner who is already a participant in the pension and health care programs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) normally continues in those programs rather than enrolling in the corresponding programs of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ.

COMMENTARY STEP 1

INQUIRY AND EXPLORATION

Ordained ministerial partners who desire to seek a call in the United Church of Christ usually make initial contact with a Conference or

Association staff person in the area in which they reside in order to explore policies and procedures for seeking a call and obtaining ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ. The staff person normally shares “The Church’s Expectations of Its Candidates for Ordination” and “The Ordained Minister’s Code” from the *Manual on Ministry*, facilitates referral to the appropriate Committee on the Ministry, and provides a United Church of Christ Ministerial Profile packet. The staff person works with the ordained ministerial partner to identify means to demonstrate knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ or the Association Committee on the Ministry may invite the ordained ministerial partner to an initial conversation to become acquainted and to discuss these matters.

PREPARATION AND DOCUMENTATION

STEP 2

The ordained ministerial partner may need to prepare to demonstrate requisite knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. Possibilities include a seminary course of study, tutorial, or independent study; attending local church, Association, Conference, and General Synod meetings; and written papers and/or oral presentations. The Association Committee on the Ministry may appoint an advisor to assist in this preparation.

Documentation to be presented to the Association Committee on the Ministry includes:

- A formal letter requesting permission to seek a call in the United Church of Christ.
- A letter of verification of ordained ministerial standing and current status, including disciplinary history, from the Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) where the partner holds ordained ministerial standing.
- Documents that demonstrate or attest to knowledge of, and appreciation for, the United Church of Christ (e.g., transcript, certificate of study, written paper, advisor’s report).

Consistent with its customary practice of granting ordained ministerial standing, the Committee on the Ministry requests that the ordained ministerial partner provide information regarding the individual’s background and history in ministry as well as written permission for the Committee to consult with references and make further inquiry. A pre-circulation draft of the United Church of Christ Ministerial Profile containing the Statement of Consent and Background Disclosure may be requested in order to make this information available to the Committee.

QUALIFYING INTERVIEW

STEP 3

The primary purposes of the interview with the Association Committee on the Ministry are to develop relationships; celebrate partnership; insure adequate knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ; and, unless there are reservations, recommend to the Association that the ordained ministerial partner be deemed qualified to seek a call in the United Church of Christ.

Options before the Association Committee on the Ministry include:

- “Yes.” The Committee believes that the partner is qualified to seek a call. The Committee is disposed to support the granting of ordained ministerial partner standing when the partner applies after securing an approved call.
- “Yes, but....” The Committee believes that additional preparation or appreciation is needed. The Committee and the partner determine together the steps to be taken to satisfy the Committee’s concerns. When the Committee is satisfied that these steps have been taken, the partner may begin to seek a call in the United Church of Christ.
- “No, but....” The Committee has serious reservations, but believes that adequate preparation may be possible. A consultation normally is scheduled with the ordained ministerial partner and the partner’s Regional Minister to discuss these reservations and how to proceed.
- “No.” The Committee does not believe that the partner is qualified to seek a call in the United Church of Christ because the partner has failed to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of, or appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ and there is no clear plan for their acquisition. After taking steps to gain adequate knowledge and appreciation, the partner may reapply.

The Committee informs the ordained ministerial partner of its decision. If the person is qualified to seek a call, the Committee on the Ministry notifies Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries that the partner is qualified to seek a call in the United Church of Christ.

STEP 4

SECURING A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MINISTERIAL PROFILE

Once qualified to seek a call, the ordained ministerial partner is entitled to have a United Church of Christ Ministerial Profile on file with, and distributed by, the Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team.

STEP 5

SEEKING AND ACCEPTING A CALL

Procedures for an ordained ministerial partner in seeking a call are the same as those used by ordained ministers of the United Church of Christ. Once a call is secured, the terms of the call are sent to the Association Committee on the Ministry in the area where the call is located.

If the call is to a local church of the United Church of Christ, the partner transfers membership to that local church. If the call is to some other ministry of, or embraced by, the United Church of Christ (e.g., Association, Conference, or denominational staff; chaplaincy, faculty or institutional ministry; ecumenical or community ministry), the partner transfers membership to a local church of the United Church of Christ in which she or he will be active.

STEP 6

ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER STANDING

Once an ordained ministerial partner receives a call and the terms of the call have been agreed to, the partner applies for ordained ministerial partner standing in the Association in which local church membership is held. The Association Committee on the Ministry reviews the terms of call, verifies the partner’s membership in a local church of the United Church of

Christ, and considers the application utilizing its standard procedures for granting ordained ministerial standing. If it is the same Association as the one which determined the partner was qualified to seek a call, then standing is normally granted with verification of the call and local church membership. If it is a different Association, the Association Committee that qualified the partner to seek a call may be consulted as part of the review and consideration of the partner's application for ordained ministerial partner standing. Change in geographic location may call for the transfer of the partner's ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to a new Region as well.

The Association presents to the ordained ministerial partner a certificate stating that he or she was granted ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ. The Association needs to insure ample time—three weeks—when using a certificate from the Office for Church Life and Leadership.

INSTALLATION

Installation is the liturgical celebration of the covenantal relationship among the ordained minister, the local church, the Association, and the calling body if different from the local church. Upon request from the local church and the ordained ministerial partner, the Association participates in planning the installation service in cooperation with the other partners in the covenantal relationship. The Regional Minister may be invited to share in the liturgy and local members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may be invited and encouraged to attend and participate.

STEP 7

MAINTAINING, TRANSFERRING, AND ENDING STANDING

Ordained ministerial partner standing has parity with ordained ministerial standing and is subject to the same conditions for review and discipline, with the addition that the Region in which the partner has ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is kept informed and invited to participate.

If a person who has ordained ministerial partner standing accepts a call in another Association, the person applies for transfer of standing to the new Association. If a person with ordained ministerial partner standing resigns from a call in the United Church of Christ and does not have another valid call in the United Church of Christ, ordained ministerial partner standing ends, but the partner remains qualified to seek a call in the United Church of Christ.

If an Association, following established processes and in consultation with the partner's Region, determines that the partner no longer demonstrates knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ, the partner's qualification to seek a call in the United Church of Christ may be withdrawn.

When a person no longer has ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), that person is no longer an ordained ministerial partner and ordained ministerial partner standing is nullified.

STEP 8

ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER STEPS 1-2

Procedures for the ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER	Procedures for the CALLING BODY
<p>1 An ordained ministerial partner from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who seeks a call in the United Church of Christ talks with a Conference or Association staff person in the area where he or she resides to explore policies and procedures for seeking a call and obtaining ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ.</p>	
<p>2 The ordained ministerial partner prepares to demonstrate knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ.</p> <p>The ordained ministerial partner submits the following materials to the Association Committee on the Ministry:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A formal letter requesting permission to seek a call in the United Church of Christ. b. A letter of verification of ordained ministerial standing and current status, including disciplinary history, from the Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) where the partner holds ordained ministerial standing. <p style="text-align: right;">(cont.)</p>	

	<p align="center">Procedures for the DISCIPLES REGION</p>	<p align="center">Procedures for the UCC ASSOCIATION</p>
		<p>A Conference or Association staff person talks with the person and shares the policies and procedures for seeking a call and obtaining ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ; describes particular expectations of ordained ministers in that Association; and provides copies of "The Church's Expectations of its Candidates for Ordination," "The Ordained Minister's Code," and a United Church of Christ Ministerial Profile packet. Means for demonstrating knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ are discussed.</p> <p>The Conference or Association staff person notifies the Association Committee on the Ministry that the ordained ministerial partner is requesting permission to seek a call in the United Church of Christ.</p> <p>The Association Committee on the Ministry may arrange an initial interview with the ordained ministerial partner to clarify means for demonstrating knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ.</p>
	<p>Upon request of the ordained ministerial partner, the Region provides verification of current ordained ministerial standing, including disciplinary history.</p>	<p>An advisor may be appointed by the Association to work with the ordained ministerial partner in preparation to demonstrate knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ.</p> <p>The Association Committee on the Ministry may request a pre-circulation draft of a United Church of Christ Ministerial Profile containing a Statement of Consent and Background Disclosure.</p>

ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER STEPS 2-3

Procedures for the ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER	Procedures for the CALLING BODY
<p>c. Documents that demonstrate or attest to knowledge of, and appreciation for, the United Church of Christ (e.g. transcript, certificate of study, written paper, advisor's report).</p>	
<p>At the request of the Association Committee on the Ministry, the partner prepares and provides a pre-circulation draft of the United Church of Christ Ministerial Profile containing a Statement of Consent and Background Disclosure.</p> <p>The ordained ministerial partner meets with the Association Committee on the Ministry to establish relationships; celebrate partnership; and demonstrate knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ.</p> <p>If additional preparation is needed, the ordained ministerial partner works on this with the support and guidance of an appointed advisor. The partner provides evidence of the requisite knowledge and appreciation of the United Church of Christ to the Association Committee on the Ministry. Upon request, the ordained ministerial partner meets again with the Committee.</p> <p>In the event of serious reservations, the ordained ministerial partner participates in a consultation with the Committee and her or his Regional Minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).</p>	

Procedures for the DISCIPLES REGION	Procedures for the UCC ASSOCIATION
<p>If requested by the United Church of Christ Association Committee on the Ministry, the Regional Minister confers with the Committee and the ordained ministerial partner about the Committee's reservations.</p>	<p>3 Upon receipt of the letter of request and documentation, the Association Committee on the Ministry schedules a qualifying interview with the ordained ministerial partner.</p> <p>The Association Committee on the Ministry interviews the ordained ministerial partner to establish relationships; celebrate partnership; and assess the partner's knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ.</p> <p>The Association Committee on the Ministry decides whether the partner is qualified to seek a call in the United Church of Christ.</p> <p>If the Association Committee on the Ministry and partner agree on additional preparation, an advisor is appointed to assist. The Association Committee on the Ministry subsequently reviews additional documentation presented by the ordained ministerial partner and may request a further interview.</p> <p>If the Association Committee on the Ministry has serious reservations, a consultation is arranged with the ordained ministerial partner and his or her Regional Minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).</p> <p>When the Association Committee on the Ministry certifies that the ordained ministerial partner is qualified to seek a call in the United Church of Christ, both the Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team and Region are informed and the partner is entitled to seek a call in the United Church of Christ.</p>

ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER STEPS 4-5

Procedures for the ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER	Procedures for the CALLING BODY
<p>4 The ordained ministerial partner submits a United Church of Christ Ministerial Profile to the Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team and seeks a call in the United Church of Christ.</p>	
<p>Upon receipt and acceptance of a call, the ordained ministerial partner initiates transfer of membership to the appropriate local church of the United Church of Christ and applies for ordained ministerial partner standing in the Association where that local church is.</p>	<p>5 The local church or other calling body extends a call to the ordained ministerial partner and sends a copy of the letter of call to the Association Committee on the Ministry. The letter of call should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A description of the ministry. b. A description of the time requirements. c. A description of provision for participation in the life of the wider United Church of Christ. d. A description of why an ordained minister is valued in the position. e. Provision for the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. salary and housing. 2. pension program. 3. health insurance. 4. life insurance. 5. disability insurance. 6. travel allowance. 7. moving expenses. 8. Social Security allowance. 9. reimbursement for professional expenses. 10. vacation. 11. continuing education time and funds. 12. sabbatical leave. 13. evaluation procedures and timeline. 14. conflict resolution procedures to be used if needed. 15. termination procedures. <p>If the calling body is other than a local church, the local church of the United Church of Christ in which the ordained ministerial partner establishes membership submits to the Association Committee on the Ministry a statement verifying the partner's local church membership.</p>

	Procedures for the DISCIPLES REGION	Procedures for the UCC ASSOCIATION

ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER STEPS 6-8

Procedures for the ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER	Procedures for the CALLING BODY
<p>The ordained ministerial partner cooperates with the local church in requesting installation.</p> <p>The ordained ministerial partner cooperates with the Association in planning and holding an installation service.</p> <p>The ordained ministerial partner is installed.</p>	<p>7 The local church and ordained ministerial partner request the Association to install the ordained ministerial partner in the ministry to which she or he has been called.</p> <p>Representatives of the local church participate in planning and holding an installation service.</p>
<p>The partner relates to the Association for his or her primary support and accountability in ordained ministry.</p>	

Procedures for the DISCIPLES REGION	Procedures for the UCC ASSOCIATION
	<p>6 Using its normal and customary practice, the Association considers the application for ordained ministerial partner standing. The Association Committee on the Ministry may review the terms of the call, approve the call as a valid United Church of Christ ministry, and verify local church membership in the United Church of Christ. If necessary, the Association acts upon the recommendation of the Committee on the Ministry to grant standing.</p> <p>When standing is granted, the Association Committee on the Ministry informs the Secretary of the United Church of Christ, the Parish Life and Leadership Ministry, the Association that certified the partner as qualified to seek a call (if different from the Association granting ordained ministerial partner standing), and the Region where the ordained ministerial partner holds ordained ministerial standing.</p> <p>The Association presents a certificate of ordained ministerial partner standing attesting to the actions taken. Requests for this certificate must be received by the Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team at least three weeks prior to the date needed.</p>
<p>The Regional Minister is invited to share in the liturgy of the service of installation, and other members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are invited to attend and participate.</p>	<p>The Association Committee on the Ministry in cooperation with the local church, the ordained ministerial partner, the Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the calling body if other than a local church, plans and holds a service of installation to recognize and celebrate the ministry and the covenantal relationship among the partners.</p>
<p>The Region maintains ordained ministerial standing of the partner.</p>	<p>8 The Association Committee on the Ministry relates to the person with ordained ministerial partner standing as it relates to persons with United Church of Christ ordained ministerial standing, providing nurture, support, and opportunities for review and discipline.</p>