



Exempt Standing Covenant

Exempt Standing is a bridge between active authorized ministry and full retirement. This is a standing offered to an Ordained Minister who has discerned their desire to become fully inactive in a forum of public ministry. It in no way affects the authorized minister's ordination status. As a service to assist authorized ministers in the decision making, we have outlined the roles and responsibilities of Exempt Standing. Exempt Standing may transfer across Associations and/or may be held in an Association separate from the Association or Conference where the minister holds Local Church membership.

Name: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Home Telephone: (____) _____ Mobile Telephone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

My last ministerial setting was: _____

Ministry Setting Address: _____

Position Title: _____ Date Service Began: _____ Date service ended: _____

Local Church Membership: _____

I hold ministerial standing in: _____ (Association and Conference)

I understand that I am required to continue the following:

- maintain membership in a UCC congregation;
- abide by the ethics of the UCC Ministerial Code;
- provide current annual Information Reviews; and
- be responsive to communication from the Conference as I am able.

In conversation with the Oversight Working Group, I recognize that to maintain Exempt Standing I will refrain from:

- seeking ministerial positions;
- entering into call agreements;
- providing pulpit Supply;
- officiating at weddings and baptisms of non-family members;
- serving on committees of the Conference, National or global settings of the church.

As a UCC Minister with Exempt Standing I may continue to:

- participate in the life of my Local Church, including serving on teams or committees within the church;
- attend meetings of the Conference, with voting privileges as with any authorized minister;
- co-officiate at the sacraments at the invitation of an active Authorized Minister, participate in worship at the local church at the invitation of the active Authorized Minister or other opportunities determined by the Oversight Working Group.

By holding Exempt Standing, I understand that I am no longer required to:

- participate in Boundary Training, Cultural Sensitivity Awareness, or Anti-Racism Training;
- complete any continuing education requirements;

- attend periodic vocational support meetings or triennial conversations.

I am requesting Exempt Standing and covenant to refrain from engaging in public ministry, save for the activities indicated above, and will refrain from serving in a professional ministerial capacity (even if temporary) while maintaining Exempt Standing.

If I discern a call to serve in ministry again, I covenant to meet with the Oversight Working Group to request an end to Exempt Standing and will complete any requirements expected of Authorized Ministers to reenter active ministry.

I have carefully considered and agree that I no longer wish to pursue a call to authorized ministry opportunities for public ministry.

I understand that if I relocate while maintaining Exempt Standing and join a Local Church in my new location, I may request a transfer of standing to the new Association but am not required to do so.

By signing this application, I covenant with Penn Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ acting as an Association to honor the commitments made for Exempt Standing.

Signature of Authorized Minister

Date

Signature of Representative from Oversight Working Group

Date

Always contact your Association and/or Conference when:

- ✓ Your call, address, or other contact information changes.
- ✓ You have personal or professional concerns and need support.

Please sign and return to:

Oversight Working Group, Penn Northeast Conference, 431 Delaware Avenue, Palmerton, PA 18071