

Statement of Consent For Applicants for Authorized Ministry

We are called to speak the truth in love. Our primary goal is, in all circumstances, to build up the Body of Christ. Relationships between the Ordaining MID Committee and/or the Licensed & Commissioned MID Committee and persons with MID and/or licensed & commissioned MID ministry status require honesty, integrity, and truthfulness for the health of the church. In that spirit:

I attest that the information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission may be grounds for rejection of consideration for, or termination of MID or licensed & commissioned MID status.

An open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between the Ordaining MID Committee and/or the Licensed & Commissioned MID Committee and persons seeking MID or licensed & commissioned MID status. In that spirit:

I authorize the persons and entities to whom I have authorized my application materials to be sent and/or their agents to make inquiries regarding all statements contained in my application materials. I also authorize all persons, entities, former employers, committees on the ministry and their agents, courts, and law enforcement and other public agencies to respond to inquiries concerning me, and to supply verification of the information provided in my application materials. I understand that such persons may comment on and state their opinions regarding my background and character to those relating to the Ordaining MID and/or licensed & commissioned MID committee process, such as, members of above-named committees or the appropriate staff persons. To encourage such persons to speak openly and responsibly, I hereby release them from all liability arising from their responses and comments made in good faith and without malice.

The Ordaining MID and/or licensed & commissioned MID committee process in the United Church of Christ further rests on the sharing of application materials and related information in considerate and appropriate ways with those involved in the process. In that spirit:

I authorize conference staff and the persons and entities to whom I allow my application materials to be sent and/or their agents to circulate, distribute, and otherwise share information gathered in connection with my application materials. I understand that those gathering information about me concerning my application materials are encouraged to share such information with me if requested by me to do so.

Date Signed: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

**Background Disclosure
For Applicants for Authorized Ministry**

Use of this Background Disclosure Form is an integral part of the covenantal character of the relationship between the church and its called leadership. Ministerial candidates are provided an opportunity to make a conscientious assertion about their ethical performance of ministry in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ and are given space for relevant commentary. It is essential that the following information be reviewed and interpreted with appropriate sensitivity and responsibility. Any practice of routinely rejecting application materials on a perfunctory basis without a complete and thoughtful review of commentary offered by the candidate is strongly discouraged. Such rejection is unfair both to the candidate and to the calling body.

“The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls the whole Church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the Gospel in church and society.” Through ordaining, commissioning and licensing “authorization is given to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives” of ministry in the United Church of Christ. United Church of Christ Constitution, Article V, paragraphs 17 and 19.

1. I affirm that the position, power, and authority associated with a ministry authorized by the United Church of Christ extends and participates in the ministry of Jesus Christ and is intended to be of benefit to all served by this ministry. _____ True _____ Not True

Commentary:

2A. I have never been the subject of official disciplinary review by a Conference or Association of the United Church of Christ that resulted in the following:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. growth program and/or counseling | _____ True | _____ Not True |
| 2. censure | _____ True | _____ Not True |
| 3. suspension of standing | _____ True | _____ Not True |
| 4. termination of standing | _____ True | _____ Not True |

2B. No official disciplinary review by a Conference or Association of the United Church of Christ is pending regarding me at the present time. _____ True _____ Not True

Commentary:

(Questions 3 and 4 include only matters subject to official disciplinary review within the United Church of Christ.)

3A. I have never been the subject of official disciplinary proceedings by another denomination that resulted in disciplinary action. _____ True _____ Not True

3B. No official disciplinary proceedings by another denomination are pending regarding me at the present time. _____ True _____ Not True

Commentary:

4A. I have never been the subject of official disciplinary proceedings by a professional association, credentialing body, or guild that resulted in disciplinary action. _____ True _____ Not True

4B. No official disciplinary proceedings by a professional association, credentialing body, or guild are pending regarding me at the present time. _____ True _____ Not True

Commentary:

Date Signed _____ Signature _____

Name: _____

5. No civil law suit alleging that I attempted or actually engaged in sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or misconduct, physical abuse; child abuse; or financial misconduct has ever resulted in a judgment being entered against me, settled out of court, or dismissed because the statute of limitations had expired.

_____ True _____ Not True

Commentary:

6A. With respect to my driving record, I have not had my license suspended or revoked within the last five years due to reckless driving or driving while intoxicated and/or under the influence of a controlled substance.

_____ True _____ Not True

6B. With respect to matters not addressed in item 6A above, I have never been found guilty or pled guilty or no contest to criminal charges. **(Do NOT include acts of civil disobedience.)**

_____ True _____ Not True

Commentary:

7A. My employment has never been terminated because I attempted or actually engaged in:

- | | | |
|---|------------|----------------|
| 1. sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or misconduct | _____ True | _____ Not True |
| 2. physical abuse | _____ True | _____ Not True |
| 3. child abuse | _____ True | _____ Not True |
| 4. financial misconduct | _____ True | _____ Not True |

Commentary:

7B. I have never terminated my employment or professional credentials in order to avoid facing or to avoid being terminated because of charges of actual or attempted:

- | | | |
|---|------------|----------------|
| 1. sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or misconduct | _____ True | _____ Not True |
| 2. physical abuse | _____ True | _____ Not True |
| 3. child abuse | _____ True | _____ Not True |
| 4. financial misconduct | _____ True | _____ Not True |

Commentary:

8. In my judgment, there are no facts or circumstances involving me or my background that would warrant further review before my being entrusted with the responsibilities of ministry on behalf of a calling body of the United Church of Christ.

_____ True _____ Not True

Commentary:

I recognize my responsibility to update this background disclosure in a timely manner should there be a change of status in any of the issues named above.

Date Signed _____

Signature _____

CONSENT FOR COMMUNICATION WITH COVENANTAL PARTNERS

Authorization Working Group members find it necessary to communicate on a variety of occasions with the covenantal partners in the MID process, such as: the home church governing body, pastor, the seminary and field education and Clinical Pastoral Education supervisors. We request that you sign this release statement giving us permission to communicate freely as needed. All information is kept strictly confidential by the members of the Authorization Working Group.

Permission is hereby granted for the Authorization Working Group to communicate freely with the pastor and consistory of my home church and appropriate officials of the seminary. This communication includes, but is not limited to, information regarding the application process and the general progress of the undersigned individual. This communication would never include information from the psychological evaluation.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

CONSENT TO DUPLICATE RECORDS

Authorization Working Group members find it necessary to have access to a variety of information concerning each MID. It is therefore necessary for the Working Group to make copies of MID records for each of its members. We request that you sign this release statement giving us permission to make copies as needed. All information is kept strictly confidential by the members of the Authorization Working Group and the Working Group members' files are destroyed upon ordination or termination of MID status.

Permission is hereby granted for the Authorization Working Group to make copies of all MID documents pertaining to MID status, including but not limited to, transcripts, financial aid forms, career testing data, field education, and clinical pastoral education evaluations of the undersigned individual.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE
United Church of Christ

LOCAL CHURCH PASTOR'S LETTER OF REFERENCE

Date _____

Letter of Reference for _____ by _____.
(Name of Applicant)

Phone () _____

The above named individual is applying to be a candidate for the ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. An ordained minister will preach and teach the gospel, administer the sacraments and rites of the Church, and exercise pastoral care and leadership.

An individual applying for candidacy should therefore be a person of faith, called by God and committed to the mission of the Church. Candidates should have a capacity for personal and professional growth, as well as the personal qualities of integrity, empathy, responsibility, adaptability, and openness.

You will be most helpful to the candidate and the Committee, which will oversee the candidate's preparation if you answer the following questions. If necessary, you may use additional paper (of the same size).

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

2. What academic skills, emotional characteristics, leadership qualities, and personal strengths commend this candidate for the ordained ministry?

3. What personal traits or skills do you think the candidate needs to develop further in the process of preparation for the ordained ministry?

4. What reservations, if any, do you have in recommending this applicant for the ordained ministry?

PLEASE SEND YOUR REPLY TO:

Authorization Working Group
Penn Northeast Conference of the UCC
431 Delaware Ave
Palmerton PA 18071

PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE
United Church of Christ

Letter of Reference by Person NOT Related to Candidate (1)

Date _____

Letter of Reference for _____ by _____.
(Name of Applicant)

Phone () _____

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431 Delaware Ave
Palmerton PA 18071

PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE
United Church of Christ

Letter of Reference by Person NOT Related to Candidate (2)

Date _____

Letter of Reference for _____ by _____.
(Name of Applicant)

Phone () _____

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Authorization Working Group
Penn Northeast Conference of the UCC
431 Delaware Ave
Palmerton PA 18071

**PLEASE SEND YOUR REPLY TO:
ORDAINING MID COMMITTEE
PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE OF THE UCC
431 DELAWARE AVE
PALMERTON PA 18071**

LOCAL CHURCH COVENANT RECOMMENDATION FORM

The _____ of _____
(Church Governing Body) (Name of Church)

_____ has reviewed the request of
_____ to be considered as a candidate for the ordained
ministry and we hereby recommend that the Penn Northeast Conference receive him/her as a
Ordaining Member In Discernment (MID).

We commit ourselves to a supportive relationship with _____
and we covenant to:

President/Moderator _____

Secretary _____

Local Church Contact Person _____

Local Church Committee _____

Date _____