

Penn Northeast Conference

Member-in-Discernment Plan of Formation

- The first four sections of this plan apply to all MIDs seeking Authorization
- An assessment will be completed at the conclusion of the first 4 sections.
- Those approved for moving toward ordination, will return to the first four sections, and deepen their writing and theological exploration of these topics.

Following the candidate's approval by the Authorized Working Group as a Member in Discernment, the candidate will assemble a portfolio containing the following:

1. Assessment using the Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministry

The Candidate will complete the exercises in the Journaling the Journey booklet. They will meet several times with their mentor to discuss the different Marks and their reflections. The Mentor will complete the "Criteria for Assessment of Overall Competence for Authorized Ministry" (UCC Manual on Ministry Section 2.1).

This Assessment may be the basis for determining how the subsequent topics in the portfolio will be completed. Completing a class, addressing an additional area of growth or receiving credit for prior competency also may be addressed.

The AWG will review and affirm this paper.

2. Arts of Ministry – Read Laurence Hull Stokey's *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church* Chapter 4 – Lent: Forty Days of Devotion and Discipline

Submitted to the Mentor for acceptance and to the AWG for affirmation

- Liturgy – write a 3 to 5-page paper reflecting the topics below
 - *Based on your reading, write your paper focused on the origin and purpose of Lent*
 - *Describe the importance of each of the sections of the Lenten Season*

MiD toward ordination – Read *UCC Book of Worship* "Introduction" (pp 1-27)

- Based on your reading, write a 3 to 5-page in which you summarize and comment on the topics of any two sections of the reading, not including the section on "The Church Year"

3. Theology – Read Daniel Migliore's - *Faith Seeking Understanding* - Chapter 1

Submitted to the Mentor for acceptance and the AWG for affirmation.

- Thinking Theologically write a 3 to 5-page paper, which responds to the questions noted below
 - *Describe what it means to think theologically*
 - *What are the theological lenses through which you view ministry?*

MiD toward ordination – Read Chapter 4 -The Triune God, Chapter 7 – Humanity as Creature, Sinner and New Being in Christ, and Chapter 8 – The Person and Work of Jesus Christ of the Migliore's book

- Write a 3 to 5-page paper, which reflects
 - How might you explore being a person of God as you reflect on these three chapters?
 - What might you choose to share with the congregation and why?

4. Exegesis and Homiletics – Read Fred Craddock’s *Preaching* – Part 1

Submitted to the Mentor for acceptance and to the AWG for affirmation

- Scriptural Interpretation
 - *Describe your process of exegesis for the text provided using the historical, pastoral, liturgical, and theological contexts*
 - *Demonstrating your process of exegesis, write a 3 – 5-page long exegetic paper based on John 20:1-10*
- Complete a written Sermon Message based on John 20:1-10 and a link to a video recording of the sermon message

MiD toward Ordination - Read Migliore’s Chapter 2 – The Meaning of Revelation and Chapter 3 – The Authority of Scripture

- Write a 3 to 5-page paper, which reflects:
 - How you will use these chapters in the interpretation and exegesis of an upcoming lectionary passage
- Complete a written Sermon Message on the same passage you identified.

Assessment and Decision-Making (for licensing/ordination decisions only)

5. Spiritual Practices and Disciplines and Self-Care – Read Chapters 1 & 3 of *Soul Feast* by Marjorie Thompson

Submitted to the Mentor for acceptance and to the AWG for affirmation

- Write a 3 to 5-page paper comparing and contrasting your own spiritual practices as well as describing what you learned -
- *The papers should describe:*
 - *Your spiritual disciples and practices*
 - *Describe your regular self-care strategies.*

MiD toward Ordination – Read Migliore’s Chapter 10 – The Holy Spirit and the Christian Life

- Schedule a session with a Spiritual Director and write a short reflection on the experience (funding will be provided to cover this cost if the individual or congregation is unable to do so)

6. Sacraments – Read the United of Church pamphlets on the Practices of Faith – purchase and read these pamphlets. Review the Book of Worship Services for Baptism and Communion

Submitted to the Mentor for acceptance and to the AWG for affirmation

- Write a 3 to 5-page paper, not including the supplemental resources -
 - *What is your theological understanding of baptism and communion?*
 - *How would you describe the theology of the sacraments to your congregation?*
 - *Describe how you do the sacraments, sharing a bulletin or service of baptism or communion.*

MiD toward Ordination – Read Migliore’s Chapter 12 – Proclamation, Sacraments, and Ministry

- Write a liturgy for baptism or communion, incorporating what you learn from your reading and the congregation’s practice of these sacraments

7. Equipping the congregation – Read Chapters 4, 5 & 6 of *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger

Submitted to the Mentor for acceptance and to the AWG for affirmation

- Write a 3 to 5-page paper, not including supplemental resources -
- *In your paper:*
 - *explain your understanding of adaptive leadership*
 - *describe how this reading helps you in identifying and preparing congregational leaders*

MiD toward Ordination – Read Part One of Peter Steinke, *Healthy Congregations*

- Write a 3–5-page reflection paper describing your leadership style and how you interact as a leader with your current, or a proposed congregation

8. Theories & Methods of Religion – Read Chapter 1 of *The World’s Religions* by Huston Smith

Submitted to the Mentor for acceptance and to the AWG for affirmation

- write a 3 to 5-page paper -
- *In your paper:*
 - *describe the struggle to engage respectfully with other faith perspectives*
 - *describe how you manage issues of differences in theological perspective*
 - *You may include Interfaith, Ecumenical, and/or non-believers in your reflections*

MiD toward Ordination – Read Migliore’s – Chapter 13 – The Finality of Jesus Christ and Religious Pluralism

- Visit a worship or interfaith prayer service and write a reflection on the experience including discussion of worship components, music, prayer and offering

9. Justice and Witness Ministries – Refer to the UCC.org website and review the topics of justice and witness shared there. Identify an issue of justice and witness that is particularly meaningful to you and research the UCC’s engagement with this issue, including actions by the General Synod

Submitted to the Mentor for acceptance and to the AWG for affirmation

- Write a 3 to 5-page paper -
 - *describe the issue you explored and what you learned about it*
 - *describe how you would engage the congregation in learning about this topic*

MiD toward Ordination – Read Robert Jones’ *The End of White Christian America*, Chapters 2, 3, & 4

- Outline or journal key learnings from the reading

October 1, 2022

10. Complete an approved UCC History and Polity course and submit the final paper from the course
11. Complete an approved Boundary Training program and submit your certificate of completion
12. Complete an approved Anti-Racism program and submit your certificate of completion
13. Complete an approved Cultural Competency program and submit your certificate of completion.
14. Review and discuss the UCC Minister's Code of Ethics with your mentor.
15. Assessment of Congregational Ministry
Submitted to the AWG for review and acceptance
 - Complete a Self-assessment of your Congregational ministry - Write a 3 to 5 page paper
 - *Discuss your strengths and areas of growth in each of the following: Pastoral Care methodology, Worship Leadership approach, Organizational/Congregational Leadership style, and any other area of growth or challenge in your ministry.*
 - Facilitate the completion of the Congregational Assessment survey
16. Marks Self-Assessment – A final 3 to 5-page paper
Submitted to the AWG for review and acceptance
 - *Discuss your growth during the MID period and any highlights of learning related to the Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministers*
17. **MiD toward Ordination** – Following the guidelines provided,
 - Write a first draft of your ordination paper for review by your MID Advisor.
 - Complete the final version of your ordination paper for submission to the AWG.