

Member In Discernment Checklist for those seeking authorization for licensed or ordained ministry

MID will complete all items on the following list **within an 8-year period:**

- Explore their call to ministry with their pastor and the church's governing body, who will then send a letter of recommendation to PNEC. The letter should indicate that the candidate has been a member of the congregation for at least one year and has potential for ministry.
- Complete all forms in the packet from PNEC
 - Application Form
 - Applicant's Consent to share information
 - Consent for Communication with Applicant's Covenantal Partners
 - Consent to Duplicate Applicant's Records
 - 3 Questionnaires and Letters of Reference (one from their pastor)
 - Oxford Criminal Background Check
 - Transcripts and Certifications of completion of educational programs
 - 3 essays (2-3 pages each)
 - (1) Your Christian faith pilgrimage
 - (2) Your basic understanding of the Christian faith
 - (3) Your involvement in church life
- Complete a psychological/sociological evaluation with PNEC psychologist.
 - You may ask your church and PNEC to share the cost.
 - You review the report with the psychologist before they send it to PNEC.
 - You are interviewed by the PNEC Authorization Working Group (AWG) and, if you are approved, assigned a mentor, and given the Marks of Faithful and Effective Minister (Marks) assessment guide and the Journaling the Journey workbook.

If the MID wishes to pursue ordination, these steps need to be completed.

- When you and mentor feel that your Marks assessment is adequate, you will have a second interview with the AWG to develop a plan of formation. (see Plan of Formation Document at the end of this checklist.)
 - If you attend seminary, you will have yearly interviews to assess progress.
 - If you are taking a different path toward ordination, you and your mentor will meet regularly to assess progress in following the Plan of Formation, documenting coursework, seminars, and other learning opportunities. You will meet with the AWG at least once every other year.
- After submitting all required documentation, including your ordination paper, you will meet with the AWG to determine if you are ready for an Ecclesiastical Council.
 - At the ecclesiastical council you will lead a 30-minute worship service.
 - You will summarize your ordination paper including 3 highlights describing your faith journey, your understanding of ministry, and your understanding of ordination in the United Church of Christ.
 - You will be questioned and excused before a vote is taken. Based on that vote one of the following will occur:
 - You are approved to plan your ordination and begin circulating your UCC professional profile.
 - You might be requested to add some learning or behavioral goals.
 - The council may decide that you are not suited for ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

Edited 10/17/22; Approved ??