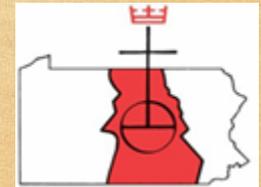


I have heard God
calling...

And Here I am...
Now what?



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¹³ Have the Levites stand in front of Aaron and his sons and then present them as a wave offering to the LORD.¹⁴ In this way you are to set the Levites apart from the other Israelites, and the Levites will be mine. (Num 8)

You feel called into ministry, do you need UCC authorization?

- In the UCC, all members are called to ministry by nature of their baptism into the priesthood of all believers.
- Some are set aside for authorized ministry.
- Read Numbers 8 (*The Message*). Scripturally, those set aside for authorized ministry have rituals, processes and formation by which they fulfill their calling.
- The UCC is no different. Answering your call in the UCC, includes processes, formations and rituals that must be followed.

Beginning the Authorization Journey

- Your journey will start with your **local church pastor**. Go to them.
 - Articulate your call to them. They will begin to help determine if you need ecclesiastical authorization. Your call may be to serve in a variety of roles at the local church that do not require authorization beyond that of your pastor and local church.
- If necessary, they will assist you in forming a **discernment committee** of fellow church members that will also help in continuing to discern both your call and your gifts and graces for ministry.
 - This committee will walk with you through your authorization journey if you, your pastor and they discern that authorization is needed for the ministry to which you are called.

⁵ The LORD said to Moses: ⁶ “Take the Levites from among all the Israelites and make them ceremonially clean. (Num 8)

I'm Ready for Formal Discernment

- You and your pastor will contact your Association Committee on Ministry (COM) Chair to request a meeting time with your local Committee on Ministry.
- There will be a number of application items that are required from you prior to that meeting:
 1. A paper outlining your spiritual journey to this place in your life as well as an articulation of your call, your current understanding of the United Church of Christ and the education and training plan that you anticipate completing.
 2. Documentation of Adult Education (official transcripts).
 3. Letters of Recommendation: one from your pastor, one from your discernment committee, and two-three others.
 4. Each Association has a few additional requirements so it will be important for you to contact your association office early in your preparation.

Meeting with the Committee

- The Committee members will have reviewed all of your materials prior to your meeting. You will need to be prepared to discuss your call and your education plan with them. Your pastor and a member of your discernment committee should plan to attend this meeting with you.
- The Committee will discuss your education path and approve it or challenge you to reach for more. The Committee will help you determine, if this has not occurred already, whether the ministry to which you are called will need ordained authorization, and if so will ask you to begin a ministry portfolio.
- The Committee will assign you an Advisor as you continue your journey toward authorization.
- The Committee may determine that the ministry to which you are called does not need authorization beyond the local church and talk with your pastor, you and your discernment committee member to define ways that the local church might affirm your call to minister among them and beyond.

Continuing the Journey

- Use Journaling the Journey (from UCC Resources) with your LCDC (Local Church Discernment Committee) and your Advisor.
- Complete your Psychological Evaluation (Samaritan Counseling Center) and Criminal Background Check (UCC profile system).
- Follow your education plan as developed by you and your COM.
- Meet yearly with COM. Provide portfolio updates and letters from Advisor and LCDC along with any field ed, internships or CPE you may have completed.
- Prepare Ordination Paper for Ecclesiastical Council.

Notes

Notes



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