

# General Commission on Ministry Competency Areas

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 2009 adopted a new policy document: *Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry, 2009* for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. It replaced the document, *Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry, 2003* on August 1, 2011.

One emphasis of the new document is the importance of clergy to demonstrate competency in 16 areas of ministerial practice, listed alphabetically: Biblical Knowledge, Church Administration and Planning, Communication, Cross Cultural and Anti-Racism Experience, Ecumenism, Education and Leader Development, Ethics, Evangelism, Mission of the Church in the World, Pastoral Care, Proclamation of the Word, Spiritual Development, Stewardship, Theology, Understanding of Heritage Competency, and Worship. (Please see the document: *General Commission on Ministry Competency Areas* for a complete listing and description of each area.)

<http://www.disciples.org/Portals/0/PDF/TFPCOM/Competencies-English.pdf>

The Commission on Ministry of the Christian Church Michigan Region is continuing to develop ways in which we can begin to implement these standards. We realize that the list is comprehensive and may be overwhelming; however, it is to the advantage of all that we each strive to broaden our knowledge in these areas in order to serve the Church to the best of our ability.

Knowing that each of us brings certain strengths to ministry and certain areas where growth is needed, we ask each of our clergy to take an inventory of their own strengths and areas of needed growth and develop a plan of study for the coming year, choosing one or two areas of competency on which to focus. There is an area on the Clergy Standing Renewal Form on which to record this information.

In order to assist one another as we live into these standards, we are asking that you submit suggestions for books, articles, workshops, lectures, etc... that address the various areas of competency.

Understanding that there are many styles of learning, as well as many opportunities for learning, we hope to develop an on-line list of print and recorded resources as well as offer a variety of workshops that will help us access the tools we need to broaden our knowledge.

With this in mind, we ask that you give careful consideration to completing the following page.

**Each year we ask you to list any books that you have read recently that have helped you in your ministry. We ask you to think very deliberately about any resources you have discovered that might help your colleagues in developing their competency in any of the 16 areas.**

**Resources that I have found helpful in the following areas (including books, articles, lectures, websites, recordings, dvds, etc...)**

Biblical Knowledge

Church Administration and Planning

Communication

Cross Cultural and Anti-Racism Experience

Ecumenism

Education and Leader Development

Ethics

Evangelism

Mission of the Church in the World

Pastoral Care

Proclamation of the Word

Spiritual Development

Stewardship

Theology

Understanding of Heritage (History and thought of Christianity and history, practice, polity, etc... of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ))

Worship

*(Please use additional pages if necessary.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CLERGY STANDING RENEWAL FORM FOR 2014  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) MICHIGAN REGION**

In keeping with The Design of the Christian Church, Regions are responsible for reviewing and certifying the Standing of all ordained and commissioned Disciples clergy each year. When your Standing is acknowledged by the Region, your name is listed in the official Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the ensuing year. It is important to know that the Year Book is the primary document the IRS uses to verify ministerial standing; and thus, your eligibility for housing allowance exclusions. Another key value: you cannot enter Search and Call without Standing. Standing is not the same as ordination or commissioning. Rather, Standing reflects your being "accountable to and up-to-date with" the required denominational criteria for maintaining your ecclesiastical certification.

**Section One: Contact Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Current Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers Office (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Ministry Position**

(Name of Church, Institution, or Agency) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry Site \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date Employment Began \_\_\_\_\_ Full Time  Part Time

**Other Employment**

(Name of Church, Institution, or Agency) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry Site \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date Employment Began \_\_\_\_\_ Full Time  Part Time

**Section Two: Order of Ministry**

Do you wish to continue your ministerial Standing with the CCMR? Yes  No

Please check ALL that apply:

Ordained Minister Ordination date \_\_\_\_\_

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Ordination location \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioned Minister (formerly "licensed") Commissioning date \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioning location \_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Minister  Interim Minister  Pastoral Counselor

Chaplain  Higher Education  Non-Parish Minister

Regional Staff  \* Retired

If you are retired, only Sections 1, 2, 4 and 5 need to be completed

**FAILURE TO COMPLETE, SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM WILL INDICATE THAT YOU NO LONGER  
DESIRE STANDING WITH THE CCMR. PLEASE RETURN TO: CCMR, 2820 COVINGTON COURT,  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912  
NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 3, 2013**

**Section Three: Criteria for Continuation of Annual Standing**

"Standing" continues so long as the minister does the following: Performs faithfully the duties of a minister as authorized by ordination or commissioning, either in an occupation recognized by the church as ministerial in purpose or in service recognized by the church as ministerial in purpose (a person will not be continued in Standing who is neither employed by, nor actively seeking employment in, nor accountable to a congregation, organization, related institution or Regional or General unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)).

- Currently employed by \_\_\_\_\_ which is a congregation, organization, related institution, or a general/regional unit of the CC(DOC).
- Currently employed by \_\_\_\_\_ as an ordained Ministerial Partner in the United Church of Christ.
- Currently employed by \_\_\_\_\_ in a position I would seek to have recognized as "ministerial in purpose." Please describe your basic responsibilities:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Qualifications for Standing include participation in "programs of study, research, growth, renewal." Please indicate how you have fulfilled this standard during the past year.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of competency in which I plan to focus my study in the coming year:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you attended a training event approved by the Commission on Ministry, or any other sexual ethics/boundary training for clergy?**

- Yes  No If **yes**, indicate date and training attended: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section Four: Maintenance of Relationship with the Christian Church (DOC)**

"Standing continues so long as the minister maintains relations with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), including participating membership in a recognized congregation in the community where feasible."

**I am a member of:** Church \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Participation in the Wider Church** (Check those that apply in the last year)

- General Assembly  Regional Assembly  Area Assembly
- Lectures  Camps & Conference  Ecumenical Participation
- Women's/Men's Retreats  Regional Church Boards Commissions, Committees

Other *Please Specify* \_\_\_\_\_

**Section Five Affirmations**

- I have read and affirm My Ministerial Code of Ethics.  
Copy available at:  
<http://www.homeland.org/Ministers/PDFfiles/CodeofEthics.pdf>

**If you are not able to access the above document please call 517/372-3220.**

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Providing information to the questions below will help us understand those elements that bring meaning to your pastoral life and identify ways in which we can support one another in ministry.**

***Completing this page is optional.***

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Have your ministerial activities changed in the last year?     Yes     No

If "Yes", please describe:

Please describe any ways in which the Region/Commission on Ministry could be helpful to you.

Please list any topics/issues you are willing to speak to and/or address for other congregations, districts, region, general church.

Any other information or suggestions you wish to share with the Commission on Ministry, or any questions you have for the Commission:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_