

DISCERNMENT AND ORDINATION
IN THE CHICAGO METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION OF THE
ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

Ministry is a relational art and enterprise. Those who are engaged in ministry and in discernment for authorized ministry by an Association experience this relational nature as they engage complex ecclesiastical relationships. And because ministry is relational, a relational model of the discernment process has been adopted by the CMA as the Association “seeks to determine the fitness and qualifications of candidates in discernment of authorized ministry.”¹ The process is designed to undergird a person’s discernment for authorized ministry by building a support network comprised of the local church and the CMA Church and Ministry. This network is designed to “facilitate preparation for authorized ministry” including “scholastic and other-than-scholastic competencies and skills.”² By building this relational model of discernment the assessment of those competencies and skills is more likely to be authentic and accurate because of the support network’s increased relational opportunity to provide fellowship, counsel, assistance, and nurture throughout the discernment process. It is our deepest hope that you experience this discernment process as a resource and the relationships you forge over the discernment process will be a blessing. Within the United Church of Christ, first and foremost the local church serves as “the primary place where gifts for ministry are observed, called forth, nurtured, and celebrated.”³ This is why throughout the discernment process; the local church’s participation is critical in the authorization process. And while the local church is primary, also the Association and particularly the Chicago Metropolitan Association (CMA) is the body responsible for authorization.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT

1. There is a two-year minimum requirement for a person to be a Member In Discernment of this Association before a person can seek ordination.
2. It is required that a person be a member of a local congregation in CMA for at least one year before they apply to be a Member In Discernment of the Association.
3. Each Member In Discernment of the CMA is expected to remain in close relationship with their local congregation. A Discernment Support Committee must be assembled within the Local Church (with the help of the pastor), and regular meetings should be held during the entire Discernment process.
4. Each person accepted as a Member In Discernment will be assigned a Mentor who is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. This will be a person other than the candidate's own pastor.

¹ Manual on Ministry of the United Church of Christ, Section 2 p 3.

² Ibid, p 1.

³ Manual on Ministry of the United Church of Christ, Section 1 p 2.

5. Each Member In Discernment is expected to attend at least two Association Annual Meetings and one Illinois Conference Annual Meeting. Regular participation in Cluster meetings and activities is encouraged, because the Cluster is the body that will convene the Ecclesiastical Council that will grant final approval for authorization.
6. Member In Discernment status is granted for one year at a time.
7. Each Member In Discernment must submit a set of renewal forms to the CMA office each year on the anniversary of the date they entered the Discernment process.
8. Each Member in Discernment is required to take a United Church of Christ History and Polity course, a CMA sponsored or approved Boundary Workshop and one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education. Verification of each is to be shared with the Discernment Team as each is completed.
9. Each Member in Discernment is advised to review the "Seminary Academic Recommendations" followed by the CMA Church and Ministry Committee.
10. Discernment status does not automatically lead to authorization. During the Discernment process, a person with the help of the Discernment Team will decide if the pursuit of authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ is their appropriate direction.
11. Member In Discernment status is relational and does not automatically transfer to or from another Association. Please apply for and maintain your status in the Association where you have your primary relationships and church membership.
12. When a person has been in the Discernment process for five years, the MID must pursue one the following alternatives:
 - Petition and meet with the Discernment Ministry Team to continue their Discernment status.
 - Withdraw from the Discernment process.

PROCEDURE TO BECOME A MEMBER IN DISCERNMENT

1. If you are not already a member of a United Church of Christ congregation in the Chicago Metropolitan Association, establish membership in a CMA church.
2. Discuss with your local church Pastor your desire to prepare for authorized ministry. Provide him or her with a copy of the *Called From This Community* (available on the CMA website) and request a letter of reference.
3. Meet with the governing board of your Local Church to request that they recommend you to the Association as a Member In Discernment. When meeting with the church board, please provide them with the following in writing:
 - Your Christian Pilgrimage (three pages)
 - Your Biography (two pages)
 - Your Educational Plans including financial planning (one page)

4. Request your Local Church write a letter to the CMA recommending you for the Discernment process and verifying your membership in that church for at least one year.

5. Request the transcripts for any undergraduate education and any graduate theological education you have done. You will submit these transcripts with your application. Please see Appendix B for general advice about academic preparation for authorized ministry.

6. After you have met with your Local Church and received their support, complete the *Discernment Application Form* and assemble the supporting materials:

- Three letters of reference including one from your pastor, one from your faculty advisor, and one from someone who knows of your work and journey toward ministry.
- Letter from Local Church
- A complete copy of the material provided to the governing board and pastor of your local church, revised as necessary: Christian Pilgrimage, Biography, and Educational Plans.
- Transcripts

7. A vocational and psychological assessment is required. More information can be found in the document "*Vocational and Psychological Assessment In the CMA*" (Appendix A). A referral to the testing service is made *only* when the CMA has received:

- Your completed application & all supporting materials
- Your check for \$183 (to the CMA)
- Your church's check for \$183 (to the CMA)

8. Please send all your materials to the Chicago Metropolitan Association office. When all of the above materials and the report of your discussion of your psychological assessment have been received at CMA, you will be given an appointment with the Discernment Ministry Team.

PLEASE NOTE: Depending on the number of applicants at a given time, it may take up to three months from the time you request an appointment until it can be scheduled.

9. PLEASE KEEP COPIES OF EVERYTHING YOU SEND TO THE CMA OFFICE!

10. You will meet with the Discernment Team and pending the outcome of that meeting you will be recommended to the Church & Ministry Committee to be taken in as a Member in Discernment.

11. You may be asked to supply additional information depending on your individual circumstance.

12. If the C&M team accepts you, you will receive a letter with recommendations, and the name of your mentor.

EXPECTATIONS DURING DISCERNMENT PERIOD

As indicated above, your period of discernment is an opportunity to prepare for authorized ministry in the UCC, explore your call to ministry, and build relationships within the CMA and broader UCC:

1. You will meet regularly with your mentor, your pastor, your support team at your local church and with the Discernment Team of the Church and Ministry Committee of the CMA. In these meetings you will reflect on what you are learning about yourself, your call and your relationship with the UCC.
2. You will attend CMA, IL Conference and cluster meetings.
3. You and your mentor and your pastor will complete annual renewal forms.
4. You will complete the requirements for authorized ministry.

If through this period, you and the network of people supporting you discern you are called to authorized ministry, you may apply for such authorization. Please note that you must be a Member in Discernment for 18 months before you can begin the authorization process.

MATERIALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO DISCERNMENT TEAM IN SUPPORT OF CANDIDATE'S REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION

(Note: Some of these materials can be forward to the Discernment Team as they become available as noted by *.)

1. A letter affirming your readiness for authorized ministry and recommending you for licensed, commissioned or ordained ministry from the Pastor and the discernment support committee of the Local Church where you hold membership, or two separate letters from these sources.
2. Your ordination paper. The ordination paper is one of vehicles by which the Discernment Team will make judgments concerning your readiness for authorized ministry. Please understand it as a theological statement of your current thinking. For details of what to include, please see the Appendix C "*Preparing Your Ordination Paper*".
3. Four (4) letters of reference – two from seminary and two others from persons who are familiar with your professional work, perhaps field work supervisors. These letters should specifically speak to the issue of your ordination to the Christian ministry. We may call your references.
4. A letter of reference from your Mentor.
5. One video recording of a sermon you have preached. Please record it during a service of worship with a congregation present.
6. Verification of completion of one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education - copies of self and supervisor evaluation.*

7. Verification of completion of CMA Boundary Training.*
8. Verification of completion of UCC History and Polity Course.*
9. Seminary or other graduate theological school transcripts*

All documentation is sent to the Chicago Metropolitan Association office, to the attention of the Church and Ministry Discernment Team. A checklist for your use is attached in Appendix D.

PROCEDURES FOLLOWING SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS

Meeting with the Discernment Team

After all necessary materials have been received by the CMA office and reviewed by the team leader of the Discernment Team, the candidate will be scheduled to meet for an interview with the Discernment Team. The purpose of this interview (and any subsequent interviews) is to determine your readiness for authorized ministry in the UCC. Your Mentor and your Pastor must be present for these meetings.

Meeting with the Church and Ministry Committee

- Upon recommendation of the Discernment Team, an appointment will be made for you to appear before the CMA Church and Ministry Committee for examination.
- Your final ordination paper is to be sent to the full committee no later than two (2) weeks before the date of your interview. It is important to the committee to have time to read, reflect and to prepare for your interview.
- You are asked to bring support persons with you to this interview. Your Pastor and Mentor are required to be present. Members of the discernment support team at your local church are also invited to be present.

After discussion with the candidate and support persons, the committee will make its decision. Options before the committee include:

- “Yes.” The Committee believes that the candidate meets the requirements for ordination within the United Church of Christ, and in the Committee's judgment will be an effective and faithful ordained minister.
- “Yes, but...” The committee believes the candidate has the potential for ordained ministry, but it has certain reservations or concerns which must be addressed. The Committee may want to stipulate additional requirements of the candidate before making its final decision.
- “No, but...” The Committee believes that at this time significant qualifications for ordination in the United Church of Christ are lacking. It may indicate under what terms and conditions it would consider the application again.
- “No.” In some cases the committee may have to say “No” to a candidate if in its judgment the candidate has not fulfilled and cannot fulfill in the foreseeable future the requirements for ordination or will not be an effective and faithful ordained minister for the United Church of Christ. At this time, the Committee terminates the candidate's In Care relationship with the Association. (M.O.M. Ordained Ministry pp. 55-56)

Meeting with the Ecclesiastical Council of the Cluster

If the outcome of the examination is favorable, the Church and Ministry Committee will recommend you to an Ecclesiastical Council convened by your cluster of the Chicago Metropolitan Association for examination and final approval.

The Ecclesiastical Council is scheduled by the Cluster Dean, your Pastor, yourself and the Associate Conference Minister. You and your Pastor will coordinate the distribution of your ordination paper in advance to lay delegates and clergy.

Options before the Ecclesiastical Council are:

- Approval for ordination, if the candidate has received a call to recognized ministry.
- Approved for ordination, pending a call to recognized ministry.
- Not approved for ordination.

Further information regarding the procedures to be followed at the Ecclesiastical Council is available from the Cluster Dean.

Ordination Plans

If ordination is approved by your Ecclesiastical Council, and if verification of a call has been received, ordination plans may proceed in the following manner.

- You, the local church, and the Associate Conference Minister for the CMA will cooperatively plan a suitable service of ordination. It is strongly urged that the hour of service not be on Sunday morning, but on such a day and hour that would make possible the maximum participation of other lay and clergy in the Association.
- “The Order of Ordination” should be based on the UCC Book of Worship.
- The ordaining officer must be the Associate Conference Minister for the CMA or a person designated by the Association. Additional participants may include a member of the Church and Ministry Committee and the representatives of your Cluster.
- It is requested that an offering be taken at the service of ordination for the “Member in Discernment Fund” of the CMA.

It is hoped that these final steps toward ordination will continue to enrich your spiritual growth and your understanding of your call to ministry in the United Church of Christ. The members of the Discernment Team of the Church and Ministry Committee want to be of help to you during this time. Please call on us.

APPENDIX A: VOCATIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT

I. Purpose of the Assessment Program

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ has adopted the vocational and psychological assessment requirement because, 1) it believes the service will be useful to Discernment candidates in clarifying their career goals and better understanding themselves, and 2) the overall profile of the applicant's abilities, interests, motivation for ministry, personality, and intelligence will be a valuable supplement to letters of recommendation and academic records in aiding the committees who must recommend applicants for Member In Discernment, nurture their growth, and eventually determine fitness for ordained ministry.

CMA routinely has 60 or more Discernment students. The sheer number of applicants to be prepared for ordination and nurtured through two years of the Discernment process requires greater reliance on written evaluations if the Discernment and Ordination Ministry Teams are to do a responsible job. The psychological assessments can provide valuable supplemental information to the recommendations and personal testimony that is gathered. The Discernment Ministry Team desires as full and complete a picture of a candidate as possible in order to fulfill its responsibility to assist candidates in their formation for ministry.

The Discernment Ministry Team must be aware of any areas where the candidate needs to develop or which the candidate needs to remedy during this period of preparation for the rigors of ordained ministry. By making appropriate suggestions, the Discernment Ministry Team allows the candidate ample time to implement their recommendations before appearing before the Ordination Ministry Team. The Ministry Teams also believes it is a betrayal of their trust to both the denomination and the candidate to recommend persons for the professional ministry whose gifts are seriously unsuited to the successful exercise of that role.

II. The Clergy Assessment Service

The Clergy Assessment Service is organized to provide high-quality, cost-effective psychological assessment of clergy candidates for use by church judicatories and candidates in the clergy selection and nurture process. The process is intended to identify any issues of a psychological nature that could have an impact on the candidate's professional functioning as clergy and to provide recommendations to the candidate which offer guidance for addressing any problems that surface.

The program consists of a test packet to be completed by the candidate in a monitored setting of their choosing, an individual clinical interview, scoring and interpretation of the results. The profiles include self-image, vocational interests, and intellectual functioning. The test is to be completed at the individual's convenience, and the clinical session can be completed in one day.

Cost: The cost per candidate is currently \$550.00, to be divided among the applicant (\$183), the local church (\$183), and CMA (\$184). If this cost figure should change, the Discernment Ministry Team will adjust the shares. The non-refundable application fee submitted with the Discernment application will be applied to the applicant's share. CMA must receive the local church share prior to scheduling your psychological assessment.

Arranging for the Assessment: CMA will authorize the Clergy Assessment Service to conduct the assessment. A referral to the testing service will not be made until CMA has received the application form, checks and letter from your local CMA church mentioned above.

III. Confidentiality

All inventory results, counseling, and the summary report are confidential between you and the assessment service. In the event that you choose not to pursue your Discernment application, the report need not be shared with any person or body within CMA or the United Church of Christ. However, those who apply for Discernment status must have the counselor's summary report sent to CMA and may also include their own comments with their application materials.

To ensure confidentiality and appropriate use of these reports, copies sent to CMA will be kept in a separate file in the Association office. Reports will be made available only to the chairs of the Discernment and Ordination Ministry Teams, and to the CMA Discernment staff person. The reports will be shared with the respective committees when candidates are considered, but all copies will be retained after the meeting and returned to CMA, or destroyed. Following a candidate's ordination, his or her report will be destroyed.

Note: It is the policy of the Church and Ministry Team to be open to requests for the use of alternative psychological and vocational assessment agencies. Requests for alternative testing services will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Discernment Ministry Team.

The testing service we currently use is:
Clergy Assessment Service
Dr. John E Hinkle, Jr., Director
412 West Hintz Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004-2439
847-577-5132

APPENDIX B: SEMINARY ACADEMIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT

To be approved for ordination in the Chicago Metropolitan Association, the Member in Discernment must show that he or she has a broad general background in seminary studies. The following basic curriculum is recommended. Consideration concerning readiness will be taken into account along with the skills, academic and life experiences of persons entering seminary.

I. BIBLICAL STUDIES: A minimum of four semester or six quarter courses is recommended. A background in Biblical studies shall include:

- a. A working knowledge of and familiarity with the Bible and an understanding of the scope of covenantal history and Biblical theology.
- b. An understanding of the impact of the message of the Major and Minor Prophets in their times and their contributions to the social ministries of the contemporary church.
- c. An interpretive study of the gospels taking into account the full sweep of critical investigation.
- d. A study of the New Testament letters for historical context and contemporary application.
- e. A working, critical knowledge of Old Testament apocalyptic literature and the Revelation of John.

II. THEOLOGY: A minimum of four semester or six quarter courses is recommended. A background in theology shall include:

- a. An in-depth knowledge of systematic theology. This would include such doctrines as the Incarnation, nature of God, nature of humanity, authority of Scripture, sin, atonement, resurrection, Holy Spirit, the Church and Sacraments. This would also include the study of a representative theologian from the Early Church period, the Reformation era and a twentieth century theologian.
- b. The ability to discuss and debate current ethical issues in light of their theological ramifications.

III. CHURCH HISTORY: A minimum of two semester or three quarter courses is recommended. An understanding of church history shall include:

- a. Pentecost to Constantine, Constantine to the Reformation, the Reformation to the present.
- b. History and Polity of the UCC.*

IV. PASTORAL MINISTRY: A minimum of one semester or quarter length course is recommended in each of the following areas:

- a. Worship - focusing on its history and practice
- b. Homiletics
- c. Personal and social ethics
- d. Pastoral counseling

V. PRACTICAL MINISTRY: A minimum of one semester or quarter length course is recommended in each of the following areas:

- a. Christian Education
- b. Church Administration - including developing skills in conflict management, organizational planning, group dynamics, etc.

- c. Clinical Pastoral Education*
- d. Field experience: Parish ministry (on full year internship is encouraged) or public service ministry

*Indicates a requirement for Ordination in the CMA

APPENDIX C: PREPARING YOUR ORDINATION PAPER IN THE CHICAGO METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION

The ordination paper should include the following:

- a. A summary of your personal theological position, with some reflection on, but not limited to the following:
 - i. The UCC Statement of Faith
 - ii. The Sacraments, Baptism and Communion
 - iii. The Bible: its authority, relevance and application for today.
 - iv. The Church: its mission and ministry.
 - v. Your understanding of UCC identity. Why do you want to be ordained in the UCC? Briefly demonstrate how our history and polity influence your understanding of the church and its ministry and mission.
 - vi. Mention of the writers, theologians, and/or preachers that you draw on to formulate your theological position and how they have influenced you.
 - vii. Brief description of your present ministry and/or call.
 - viii. Your understanding of pastoral ethics and boundaries (refer to Section I, pages 14-15 [Ordained Minister's Code] in Manual On Ministry.)
 - ix. Read the ordination vows in the UCC Book of Worship and reflect upon the promises of these vows in your paper.
- b. Please speak about the milestones in your life and how they relate to your Christian experience and your request for ordination. Your ordination paper will be shared widely within the CMA. Please do not include personal details about someone else without that person's permission and, if possible, relate how the experience has informed your faith story and discernment of call without giving details that could identify the person.
- c. Your understanding of your personal call to ministry, sometimes known as the "inner call."
- d. The paper should be approximately 15 to 20 typewritten pages in length, double-spaced. It will be read by a representative group of the church, and your ability to communicate your beliefs to lay people as well as clergy is important.
- e. See M.O.M. Section III, step 5 (Documentation), for further suggestions as to how to go about communicating your theological presentation in your paper.
- f. Please include your full name and date on each copy of the paper. We strongly suggest that your Mentor, Pastor and other persons read and critique your paper before its submission to the Discernment Team.

APPENDIX D: CANDIDATE'S ORDINATION DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

Read the current “Discernment and Ordination in the CMA” (found on the CMA website at cma.ilucc.org). Keep a copy of all materials that you send to the CMA. Please CONFIRM RECEIPT from the CMA. This list is for your records only.

Date Sent or Requested	Documentation	Name and contact information of person sending	Receipt at CMA Confirmed?
	Recommendation for Ordination from your Local Church		
	Recommendation for Ordination from your Pastor		
	Undergraduate Transcripts		
	Graduate School Transcripts		
	Academic Reference #1		
	Academic Reference #2		
	Professional Reference #1		
	Professional Reference #2		
	Letter from your Mentor addressing readiness for ordained ministry		
	Video recording of Sermon delivered in worship context		
	Verification of completion of Clinical Pastoral Education (copies of Supervisor's and Self Evaluations)		
	Verification of completion of UCC History and Polity Course		
	Verification of completion of CMA Boundary Training		
	Verification of Call		

DISCERNMENT AND ORDINATION IN THE CMA
MEMBER IN DISCERNMENT APPLICATION as of June 2014

Please complete this application and return it and supporting documents to the Chicago Metropolitan Association. This form will be used to open your application file at CMA. You will not be scheduled for an appointment with the Discernment Team until all required materials have been received, including your non-refundable \$183.00 psychological fee and charges that may be due from your local church for that assessment. More information on required items and steps can be found on the Member In Discernment Page of the CMA Website at cma.ilucc.org

NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMPLOYED BY: _____

POSITION OR TITLE: _____

WORK ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ PREFERRED FAX: _____

PREFERRED EMAIL: _____

NAME OF SEMINARY: _____

(Expected) Graduation Date

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: _____

CHURCH ADDRESS: _____

LETTERS OF REFERENCE WILL BE COMING FROM:

FACULTY ADVISOR: _____ PHONE: _____

PASTOR: _____ PHONE: _____

OTHER PERSON: _____ PHONE: _____

ATTACHMENTS:

_____ A WRITTEN PAPER ON YOUR CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE (3 PAGES)

_____ BIOGRAPHY (2 PAGES)

_____ STATEMENT ABOUT EDUCATIONAL PLANS INCLUDING ANY FINANCIAL CONCERNS (IF APPLICABLE)

_____ OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE LAST THREE YEARS OF FORMAL EDUCATION

_____ LETTER FROM YOUR LOCAL CMA CHURCH RECOMMENDING YOU FOR THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS AND VERIFYING THE LENGTH OF YOUR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

_____ 2 CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO 'CMA' IN AMOUNT OF \$183.00

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Chicago Metropolitan Association, Illinois Conference - United Church of Christ
1407 E. 60th Street, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60637

Telephone: 773-324-7650

Fax: 773-324-7692

Email: ilconfwayne@gmail.com

**DISCERNMENT
RENEWAL FORM**

**PLEASE SUBMIT
TO CMA OFFICE**

MEMBER IN DISCERNMENT RENEWAL FORM

Date _____ Cluster Number: _____

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Home Address _____ Home email _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Seminary _____ Graduation Date _____

Place of Work: _____ Work Phone _____

Work Address _____ Work email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Member of What Church? _____ City _____

Date First Taken In Care _____ Mentor _____

Did you complete any of these requirements this past year? If yes, please include verification with this form. If no, please indicate when you are *planning* to complete.

<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Date Completed</i>	<i>Documentation Attached Y/N</i>	<i>Date Plan to Complete</i>
UCC History & Polity			
CMA Boundary Training			
CPE			
Seminary/Educational Requirements			

Steps to Renew Your In Care Status:

- A. Complete the top portion of each form and distribute each form to the appropriate persons.
- B. Complete this form.
- D. Make arrangements to meet with your discernment support team/church leadership and your mentor
- E. Share this completed form with both the discernment support team/church leadership and your mentor
- F. Then send this form and any other materials to:**

**Chicago Metropolitan Association, Illinois Conference - United Church of Christ
1407 E. 60th Street, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60637**

Telephone: 773-324-7650

Fax: 773-324-7692 Email: ilconfwayne@gmail.com

1. When you entered the Discernment Process, you were sent a letter notifying you of your acceptance by the Church and Ministry Committee. In that letter, and in subsequent annual renewal letters, recommendations were listed for your work in this past year. Please review this list and comment on your progress in each area.
2. What has been your involvement in your local church (the church where you hold membership)?
3. If you are currently doing a field education placement, what is your involvement at that place of ministry?
4. What has been your involvement in the wider church this past year, e.g., Cluster, Association, Conference?
5. What have you done to care for yourself?
6. Are you experiencing financial difficulties? If so, please share your situation.
7. How have you experienced growth in your spiritual development?
8. What has been your involvement with your Mentor?
9. Please take a few minutes to reflect on the Discernment Process. How can we be helpful to you?

**DISCERNMENT
RENEWAL FORM**

**PLEASE SUBMIT
TO CMA OFFICE**

LOCAL CHURCH FORM

Date _____ Cluster Number _____

Member In Discernment: _____ Date First Taken in Care _____

Church Name: _____ City _____

Pastor's Name _____ Phone _____

Name of Committee or group supporting the MID _____

Chairperson of this group: _____ Phone _____

1. How has your church offered support to MID over the last year? (i.e., spiritual, emotional, financial, etc.)
2. In what ways has the MID been involved in the life of your church?
3. Your church should have received a copy of the letter sent to the MID by the Church and Ministry Committee granting him or her In Discernment status. In that letter the Discernment Team listed several recommendations for the MID to address. Please review the letter and comment on progress made in the recommended areas.
4. Have you seen evidence of growth in the MID over the last year? Please share your observations.
5. Do you have any reservations or concerns about this person preparing for or exploring ordained ministry? If so, please explain.
6. Please take a few minutes and give us your comments about the Discernment process. How can we be more helpful to you?

Signature of Person Completing Form _____ Date _____

Please return this form to:

**Chicago Metropolitan Association, Illinois Conference - United Church of Christ
1407 E. 60th Street, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60637
Telephone: 773-324-7650 Fax: 773-324-7692 Email: ilconfwayne@gmail.com**

MENTOR REPORT FORM

Date: _____ MID's Cluster _____

Member in Discernment: _____ Date Taken In Care: _____

Mentor's Name: _____ Mentor's Phone: _____

Mentor's Address: _____

Mentor's Local Church or Place of Ministry: _____

Please help the Discernment Team of Church & Ministry continue to assess this person's growth and "fitness for ministry" by commenting on the following questions:

1. What has been your involvement with the MID named above?
2. What strengths does this person bring to ministry?
3. What areas of growth have you witnessed during your relationship?
4. What suggestions do you have for this person's continued preparation for effective ministry?
5. Do you have concerns or reservations about this person preparing for, or exploring ordained ministry? If so, explain.
6. Do you have any comments about the In Care process? How can we be more helpful to you?
7. Have you shared / do you plan to share, this information with the Member in Discernment?

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to:

**Chicago Metropolitan Association, Illinois Conference - United Church of Christ
1407 E. 60th Street, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60637**

Telephone: 773-324-7650

Fax: 773-324-7692 Email: ilconfwayne@gmail.com