

Privilege of Call

MEMO

TO: Candidates for Privilege of Call

FR: Metropolitan Boston Association, Committee on Ministry

Thank you for your interest in applying for Privilege of Call in the United Church of Christ.

The Manual on the Ministry of the United Church of Christ defines Privilege of Call in this way:

Privilege of Call is the authorization granted by an Association to an ordained minister from another denomination to seek a call to a local church of the United Church of Christ and, upon receiving a call, to apply for ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ.

The Privilege of Call process begins with a meeting initiated by you with the Associate Conference Minister to discuss your background and the needs of the churches. This can help you further clarify whether or not the United Church of Christ is an appropriate setting in which to carry out your ministry.

Once you have met with an Associate Conference Minister and taken a United Church of Christ Polity and History course, you may make an appointment to meet with the Committee on Ministry. Prior to this meeting, the following must be sent to the Association office:

1. Certification of ordination and standing in your current denomination.
2. A letter of recommendation from a Pastor in good standing in the Metropolitan Boston Association
3. A letter of recommendation from a denominational official who is the counterpart to the United Church of Christ Associate Conference Minister
4. Documentation and a graded paper showing that you have successfully completed a United Church of Christ Polity and History class.
5. Completion of the national background check by Oxford Document Management Company

In addition you will prepare and mail to each member of the Committee two items at least 14 days before your scheduled appointment.

1. A professional resume
2. A theology and polity paper – This paper should be a statement of your understanding of the church and its ministry; understanding of the theological roots of the United Church of Christ; knowledge of the history and polity of the United Church of Christ and an ordained person's responsibilities to the Association, Conference and denomination; Christian biography and pilgrimage; and personal theological position. Further information on this paper may be found in the guidelines below.

The MBA office will provide labels for you to mail your papers to the Committee on Ministry.

Should the Committee on Ministry affirm Privilege of Call, an Ecclesiastical Council will then be scheduled through the MBA office. At the Ecclesiastical Council representatives of the Association will hear you present the theology and polity paper and offer the final discernment on extending Privilege of Call to you. *Privilege of Call is granted for one year and is renewable thereafter on an annual basis or until you receive a call.*

If you have any questions regarding these matters, the MBA Administrative Assistant, Colin Loggins, will be glad to talk with you, and when necessary refer you to the Committee officers or the Associate Conference Minister.

Email: MBA-NE@macucc.org

Phone: (781) 369-1396

Thank you.

Theology and Polity Paper Guidelines

In an effort to become acquainted the COM asks that you write a paper following the guidelines below:

1. Your spiritual journey and call to authorized ministry – summarize this to introduce yourself to members of the COM (3 pages).
2. Polity: In 5-7 pages address the following:
 - Describe how UCC principles of covenant and autonomy, local church governance practices that you have experienced, and our denominational polity shape your understanding of and practice of pastoral authority.
 - Describe your understanding of lay and ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.
 - Describe how the constituent traditions of the UCC are experienced in contemporary polity.
 - What are the sources of authority recognized in the UCC? What are the sources of authority upon which ordained pastors draw?
 - How have you experienced the difference between local and denominational polity?
3. Theology: Select five topics from the list below. In no more than 3 pages per topic,
 - a) Provide a summary of your own theology in each area you choose;
 - b) Describe a situation in your ministry setting where this aspect of theology has been the basis for the ministerial actions you took or services you provided.

Topics

- Baptism and the Lord's Supper (required)

Area One - God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit (choose two topics)

- The Trinity
- Creation and Providence
- Judgment and Grace
- The Person of Christ; Incarnation; Atonement; Salvation and Resurrection
- Revelation and Holy Scriptures

Area Two - Humanity (choose one topic)

- Sin, Repentance, Forgiveness
- Prayer
- Eternal Life

Area Three - The Church and God's New Era (choose one topic)

- Doctrine of history and eschatology
- Church and the world (including evangelism, social action, mission)
- Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue