

# Guidelines for Mentors

## Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin

The Ministry Committee of the Region supports a Mentor Program designed to promote continued development of effectiveness and skills of Commissioned Ministers. At the time of initial commissioning, the Ministry Committee will assign a Mentor to the Commissioned Minister (hereinafter referred to as the CM). The Mentor will be a competent ordained minister living within reasonable distance of the CM. In the process of the Mentor/CM relationship, the Mentor will be able to assist the CM to think theologically, to integrate reading, study and continuing education events with experience in the field, and to become integrated within the Region and the General Church.

A Mentor should be an active listener for the CM, as well as one who can simply “be there” when needed. This is a high calling. The Mentor/CM relationship is expected to last for three to four years.

### Responsibilities of the Mentor

- Be familiar with *Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin*. Make sure the CM is also familiar with it.
- Meet with the CM not less than once a quarter and have at least one other contact by telephone, email or letter each quarter.
- Complete the Mentor’s Evaluation Form for Commissioned Ministers.
- Suggest appropriate readings (books and other literature) based on the evaluation of the CM’s needs in areas of biblical studies, administration, theology, counseling, church history, etc. The reading of at least one book each quarter is expected.
- Encourage the CM to earn as many continuing education units as feasible, with a minimum of at least three units per year. Discuss with the CM the nature of continuing education events, if needed, and suggest one or two that meet some obvious needs in the CM’s ministry.
- Provide the CM with a packet of materials which provide information about the units, structure and leadership of the General and Regional manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- Require the CM to have a subscription to the electronic “Disciples News” and to own or have ready access to a “Year Book and Directory” of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- **Request the CM to develop goals for him/herself for the congregation served, and evaluate goals at the end of the term. See the Congregation Leader Evaluation Form.**
- See that the CM requests renewal of Commission at least 60 days prior to its expiration and return the three report forms at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the commission.
- In case of a problem or a crisis which is too great for the Mentor to handle, he/she should contact the Regional Minister or her/his designate.
- If the Mentor must leave the position before the end of the relationship, he/she should turn in an Evaluation Form. Another Mentor may be assigned.