

The School For Ministry Student Expectations and Covenant

Revised 1/27/19

The School for Ministry provides a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry following completion of a hybrid (online and on-ground) course of study consisting of an academic curriculum, a field experience, and a discernment process for ministry formation. Progress toward certificate completion will take place as a community experience with a mentor and peers working in collaboration through a cohort.

Student Expectations

1. Training: The student is expected to complete the prescribed program of study (copy attached), earning a passing grade in each of the classes offered by the School for Ministry and its partner institutions. Additionally, attendance and full participation is required at the annual January retreat, as well as at a week-long summer residency and retreat designed and led by The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin, and The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

2. Field Education: During the final nine months of the program, students will be expected to assist an ordained minister in a local congregation in all aspects of ministry (i.e., preaching and teaching, hospital and home visitation, attending meetings and participating in visioning). A positive recommendation from the supervising pastor is necessary to complete the certification.

3. Support: Students will be part of a cohort that takes classes together and meets to support each other and reflect on their growth and development. Students are expected to participate fully in all structured experiences. A Cohort Leader will facilitate activities of the cohort. As needed, students will receive support from a mentor, spiritual director and life coach. Further support is expected to be available through regular participation in a local church.

4. Accountability: Students will be evaluated on their participation in each of the areas outlined above. Students are expected to be active participants in a local DOC or UCC congregation, and be in relationship with their denominational oversight committee (Committee on Ministry in the DOC and the Association Church and Ministry Committee/Committee on Ministry in the UCC). Students must complete all requirements of the oversight committee, which may include ethical and boundary training, anti-racism workshops, and regular meetings with a COM mentor. Students may also be required to undergo a psychological evaluation and criminal background check.