

Commissioned Ministry

What is Commissioned Ministry?

Commissioned ministers are persons upon whom the church confers authority to minister in specific situations for a specific time, usually one year. These persons shall be called by God and the church shall confirm that these persons have the faith, abilities, qualities, and preparation needed for their specific ministry. Commissioned ministry is of three types: student ministry, congregational ministry, and specialized ministry.

Commissioned Student Minister.

Commissioned student ministers are persons who are enrolled in a seminary degree program and who have a covenantal relationship with a congregation or church agency. Ordinarily these persons are preparing for ordination.

Commissioned Congregational Minister.

Commissioned congregational ministers are persons who have a covenantal relationship with a congregation to provide general ministerial functions. These persons are not ordinarily seeking ordination.

Commissioned Specialized Minister.

Commissioned specialized ministers are persons who are not seeking ordination but are certified to perform a specialized function of ministry such as music ministry, counseling, and administration. These persons shall demonstrate that they have the proper training and skills to provide for the specialized ministry. These persons shall have a covenantal relationship with a congregation or agency.

Application for Commissioned Ministry.

Persons may apply for commissioned ministry status through their Commission on Ministry [or Committee on Ministry]. Applicants shall meet the following criteria:

- Hold a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry.
- Demonstrate a definite and informed decision, in response to God, to serve in the order of ministry.
- Be a participating member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or the United Church of Christ.
- Provide a written endorsement of his or her candidacy for commissioned ministry.
- Have at least a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Demonstrate maturity and leadership potential.
- Adhere to requirements specified by the Commission on Ministry.

General Qualifications.

The following qualifications are expected of persons who seek to serve as commissioned ministries:

- Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Commitment to a life of Christian discipleship, and show potential for leadership in the Christian community.
- Personal fitness sufficient to the demands of the office, including mental and physical capacities emotional stability and maturity, and sound ethical and moral character.

Educational Requirements.

Persons entering commissioned ministry are expected to engage in educational preparation and participate in continuing education programs to facilitate the integration of the theological awareness and the functions of ministry. Persons seeking a Commission may satisfy the educational requirements, in part, by obtaining the Certificate in Pastoral Ministry offered by the School for Ministry. Educational preparation will normally include the following sixteen Areas of Ministry Practice (AMP) in which a

minister needs to have some level of competence.

Areas of Ministerial Practice

1. Biblical Knowledge
2. Church Administration and Planning
3. Communication
4. Cross Cultural and Anti-Racism Experience
5. Ecumenism
6. Education and Leader Development
7. Ethics
8. Evangelism
9. Mission of the Church in the World
10. Pastoral Care
11. Proclamation of the Word
12. Spiritual Development
13. Stewardship
14. Theology
15. Understanding of Heritage
16. Worship

Source: **Christian Church in Indiana (Disciples of Christ), Excerpts from the Commission on Ministry Manual.**

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