

Guidelines for Spiritual Directors

Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW)

The Ministry Committee of the Region provides a Spiritual Director for each person who comes under the Committee's care as s/he seeks ordination. At the initial meeting of the Ministry Committee with the individual as a candidate for ordination (hereinafter referred to as the Candidate), the Candidate will be informed that the Coordinator of the Spiritual Directors (hereinafter referred to as the Coordinator) will assign a Spiritual Director (hereinafter referred to as the Assigned Partner) to the Candidate.

The Assigned Partner should be an active listener for the Candidate, as well as one who can simply "be there" when needed for clarifying conversation and/or prayer. The relationship is expected to last until at least one year after ordination.

Responsibilities of the Assigned Partner

- Maintain confidentiality at all times except for situations that require mandatory reporting.
- Review of the Assigned Partner/Candidate relationship annually.
- Be familiar with Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry of Christian Church (DOC) in IL/WI.
- Make the initial Candidate contact with intent to meet quarterly by telephone, email, or in person.
- Offer the Candidate a safe, non-judgmental space in which to continue exploring his/her spiritual journey.
- Regularly pray with and for the Candidate contact.
- Encourage the Candidate to develop his/her own unique and ongoing relationship with God.
- If the Candidate does not maintain agreed-upon regular contact with the Assigned Partner, the partner must notify the Coordinator, who will notify the Chair of the Ministry Committee.
- In case of a problem or a crisis beyond the scope of the Assigned Partner/Candidate relationship s/he should contact the Regional Minister or her/his designate and notify the Coordinator.
- If the Assigned Partner must leave the position before the end of the relationship, s/he must notify the Coordinator, who will notify the Chair of the Ministry Committee. Another Spiritual Director will be assigned.

Responsibilities of the Candidate

- Maintain confidentiality at all times except for situations that require mandatory reporting.
- Review the Candidate/Assigned Partner relationship annually.
- Be familiar with Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry of Christian Church (DOC) in IL/WI.
- Initiate (after first contact) agreed-upon quarterly contact with the assigned partner by telephone, email, video conference, or in person.
- Be open to discovering paths of prayer which nourish his/her spiritual life, and welcome to bring any prayer requests to the Assigned Partner.

Understandings and Practices

Assignment of a Spiritual Director/Assigned Partner is offered as a gift to each Candidate.

- If a Candidate is already working with a Spiritual Director, that Director will be invited to join CCIW's team of Spiritual Directors, provided with a copy of these guidelines, and provided the appropriate honorarium.
- The Coordinator or his/her designate will be a member of the CCIW Committee on Ministry.
- The Coordinator will report at least quarterly to the CCIW office all requests for honoraria.

[rev. 10/07/2021 – lab]