

## APPLICATION FOR EXEMPT MINISTERIAL STANDING

Exempt Standing is a ministerial standing for an Ordained Minister who continue to affirm their ordination and commitment to the United Church of Christ, but who choose to no longer (or are no longer able to engage in public ministry. This application outlines the roles and responsibilities of Exempt Standing as part of the mutual discernment between an Ordained Minister and Committee on Ministry (ex. COM, C&M) before Exempt Standing is granted. After receiving this application, the Committee will review it, have conversation with the minister, and determine whether to grant Exempt Standing. A Exempt Standing Covenant must be signed by the Minister and Committee before the process is complete.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer not to have my home contact information listed in the Yearbook and Access UCC: \_\_\_\_\_

*(check which information should **not** be listed):* Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

My most recent ministry setting was:

Name of Ministry Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry Setting Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Service Began: \_\_\_\_\_ Date service ended: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Church of membership: \_\_\_\_\_

I hold ministerial standing in: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Association and Conference)*

**I am requesting Exempt Standing because I am not currently engaged in public ministry, and I have discerned that I will no longer seek a call or opportunities for public ministry.** Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I am still subject to the support and oversight of a Committee on Ministry through Exempt Standing, and am required to do the following:

- maintain membership in a UCC congregation;
- continue to embody the ethics of the UCC Ministerial Code;
- participate in the ongoing oversight of the Committee on Ministry, including annual Information Reviews, Situational Support Consultations, and Fitness Reviews; and
- be responsive to communication from the Association and Conference as I am able.

In conversation with the Committee on Ministry, I recognize that by maintaining Exempt Standing I will refrain from:

- seeking ministerial positions;
- entering into call agreements;
- providing pulpit Supply;
- officiating at weddings and funerals;
- serving on committees of the Association, Conference, National or global settings of the church.

**By maintaining Exempt Standing, I understand that that I am exempt from certain ongoing requirements of Ordained Ministerial Standing including periodic vocational support meetings, boundary training, diversity training, and continuing education.** Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

As a UCC Minister with Exempt Standing I may continue to:

- participate in the life of my Local Church
  - attend the annual meeting of the Association and Conference when possible;
  - co-officiate at the sacraments at the invitation of an active Ordained Minister
  - other (as determined by the Committee on Ministry with the minister)
- ▼ \_\_\_\_\_
- ▼ \_\_\_\_\_
- ▼ \_\_\_\_\_

I covenant to refrain from engaging in pastoral activities save for the activities indicated above and from serving in a professional ministry capacity (even if temporary) while maintaining Exempt Standing. If I discern a call to serve in a professional ministry capacity again, I covenant to meet with the Committee on Ministry to request an end to Exempt Standing and will complete any required boundary trainings as a prerequisite for reentering into active ministry.

If I relocate while maintaining Exempt Standing and am able to join a Local Church in my new location, I will request a transfer of standing to the new Association.

The Association covenants to continue to communicate with me regarding all required oversight processes, Association and Conference annual meetings, and other business of the Association.

*Please sign and date following to begin a discernment conversation with the appropriate Committee on Ministry. This form will be added to your Ministerial File and reported to the Conference and/or Association where you hold ministerial standing. The Exempt Standing covenant will be reviewed and updated as appropriate.*

---

*Signature of Authorized Minister*

*Date*

---

*Signature of Committee on Ministry Representative*

*Date*

**Please submit a copy of this form to the  
UCC Conference Office, 5609 Douglas Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310  
or via email to [ministerialstanding@ucctcm.org](mailto:ministerialstanding@ucctcm.org).**

**Always contact your Association and/or Conference when:**

- ✓ **Your call, address, or other contact information changes.**
- ✓ **You have personal or professional concerns and need support.**