Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ

Section 3 Resource, Manual on Ministry: Ref. Section 2:3, February 2019

Ordained Clergy

* Local Church membership
* Accountable to UCC Ministerial Code
* Participation in oversight with COM (Information Review, Vocational Support, Situational Support Consultation, Fitness Review)
* Continuing Education, Boundary Training, Diversity/Anti-Racism Training
* Attend Association and Conference meetings

With a Call Agreement

Three Way Covenant (serving a Local Church)

Four-Way Covenant (serving a setting other than a Local Church)

Government Endorsement (if applicable)

Professional Endorsement (if applicable)

Without A Call Agreement

Leave of Absence

* Conditions of LOA are customized with the Committee on Ministry
* Check in with COM annually to review LOA and renew covenant
* May not seek a call

Exempt Standing

* Exempt from Vocational Support
* Exempt from continuing education, boundary training, and diversity/anti-racism training

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* Participate in local church as possible
* Does not serve on boards or committees
* Does not publicly represent the UCC
* Does not seek a call

Seeking a Call

* Check in with COM annually to review duration of search and what defines "active search"

Available for Occasional Service

* Encouraged to be in dialogue with local church
* Emeritus/Emerita if applicable
* May seek a call

* May volunteer on boards or committees
* May provide occasional pulpit supply or preside at sacraments
* Supports ministry of local church and pastor

Leave of Absence and Exempt Standing are formal categories of Ordained Ministerial Standing granted by the Committee on Ministry that recognize service in Christian ministry and allow for reductions in accountability due to life circumstances. They may be changed in consultation with a COM.