Penn Northeast Conference

Member-in-Discernment Plan of Formation

- This plan applies to all MIDs regardless of their path to ordination.
- For those enrolled in a Master of Divinity program, a transcript and syllabus may be submitted in fulfillment of the eight (8) essays. The committee will likely request a copy of a paper prepared for each class.
- For those enrolled who are not matriculating, but are taking specific classes, a syllabus, certificate/letter of completion should be submitted. The committee will likely request a copy of a paper prepared for the class.

Following the candidate's approval by the Authorized Working Group as a Member in Discernment, the candidate will assemble a portfolio containing the following:

1. Assessment using the Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministry
   The Candidate will complete the exercises in the Journaling the Journey booklet. They will meet several times with their advisor to discuss the different Marks and their reflections. The advisor will complete the “Criteria for Assessment of Overall Competence for Authorized Ministry” (UCC Manual on Ministry Section 2.1).
   This Assessment may be the basis for determining how the subsequent topics in the portfolio will be completed. Completing a class, addressing an additional area of growth or receiving credit for prior competency also may be addressed.

2. Spiritual Practices and Disciplines and Self-Care-- write a 3 to 5-page paper
   - Describe your spiritual disciples and practices
   - Describe your regular self-care strategies.

3. Theology -- write a 3 to 5-page paper, not including the case studies
   - Thinking Theologically
     - Describe what it means to think theologically
     - Based on your theology, what is it God calls us to do?
     - What are the theological lenses through which you view ministry?
     -- Write two supplemental papers, each 2 pages
   - Describe and comment how you needed to think theologically in two different events in your ministry.

4. Exegesis and Homiletics – Write a 3 to 5-page paper and submit a completed sermon based on the scriptural text provided
   - Scriptural Interpretation
     - Describe your process of exegesis for the text provided
     - Identify the commentaries or resources used for your exegesis
   - Sermon Preparation
     - Complete a Sermon message for your current or future context, share the written manuscript and a link to a video recording.

5. Arts of Ministry
   - Liturgy – share a 1 to 2-page paper describing how you plan liturgy
     - What does the bulletin look like? What components are essential to worship?
o Provide a bulletin for a regular Sunday worship service.

o Provide a bulletin for a special service such as World Day of Prayer or Good Friday, Thanksgiving Eve, a funeral.

6. Sacraments – write a 3 to 5-page paper, not including the supplemental examples
   - What is your theological understanding of baptism and communion?
   - How would you describe the theology of the sacraments to your congregation?
   - Describe how you do the sacraments, sharing a bulletin or service of baptism or communion.
     Write two supplemental papers, each 2 pages,
     - Describe and comment on examples of the application of your theological understanding of the sacraments
     - Share a link to a recording of a worship service including the celebration of a sacrament.

7. Equipping the congregation – Write a 3 to 5-page paper
   - In your paper share how you identify leaders.
   - Demonstrate how you develop bible study, Confirmation, prepare new members, etc. (If you have developed a study, include the curricula used.)
   - Share what you are doing to equip the congregation to work in mission with the church and the world.

8. Theories & Methods of Religion – write a 3 to 5-page paper
   - How do you deal with Ecumenical issues of differences in theological perspective?
   - You may include Interfaith, ecumenical, and/or non-believers in your reflections
   - Describe your ecumenical/mission participation.

9. Justice and Witness Ministries - Write a 3 to 5-page paper
   - Describe an outreach/justice/witness activity in which you and/or your congregation was involved.
   - Articulate a theology of mission that forms the foundation for this and other outreach/justice/witness actions.

10. Complete a minimum of a one-year Supervised Ministry experience through a congregation or specialized setting or fulfill the seminary requirement for Supervised Ministry
    - In consultation with the Authorized Working Group and your advisor, determine the appropriate Supervised Ministry setting.
    - Describe goals and outcomes established with your supervised ministry supervisor.
    - Complete a 3 to 5-page self-assessment of your supervised ministry experience.

11. Complete an approved UCC Polity course

12. Complete an approved Boundary Training program

13. Complete an approved Anti-Racism program

14. Complete an approved Cultural Competency program

15. Complete one unit of an accredited ACPE Clinical Pastoral Education program

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16. Review and discuss the UCC Minister's Code of Ethics with your mentor.

17. Assessment of Congregational Ministry
   - Complete a Self-assessment of your Congregational ministry - Write a 3 to 5-page paper
     - Discuss your strengths and areas of growth in each of the following: Pastoral Care methodology, Worship Leadership approach, Organizational/Congregational Leadership style, and any other area of growth or challenge in your ministry.
   - Facilitate the completion of the Congregational Assessment survey

18. Marks Self-Assessment – A final 3 to 5-page paper
   - Discuss your growth during the MID period and any highlights of learning related to the Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministers