

THE JOURNEY TO THE VOCATION OF MINISTRY

The Commission on Ministry is vitally involved in the Journey toward the Vocation of Ministry. This group has the responsibility to help and assist in partnership with the sponsoring congregation, those in our North Carolina churches discerning and preparing for ministry in response to God's call. The regional church in this way provides a place to talk about one's call and receive guidance and support. The Commission works with both those seeking to be and acting as licensed ministers as well as those preparing for ordination. Applicants are usually taken "under care" for at least one year. A decision is made to license or to follow through with their journey toward ordination. The Commission follows the policies for licensing or ordaining each candidate to the office of ministry.

Ministry is truly a calling from God. Many such calls are narrated within the Bible such as Jesus' calls to his disciples and Paul's call to preach the Gospel. This call is both personal and affirmed by the Commission on Ministry and one's local congregation. Support from the local congregation is important in granting a licensed minister a particular ministry usually within the congregation. Those preparing for ordination are also asked to have the support of their home congregation who then most often serves as the setting for the ordination service.

Another link on this website contains the newly approved Policy and Criteria for the Order of Ministry. The new criteria for licensed (newly termed commissioned) ministers and different tracks toward ordination are spelled out in that document. These policies and criteria are planned to become effective August 2011. The term "commissioned" rather than licensed was chosen because it figures within the Bible where the apostles were commissioned to go out and preach the Good News of Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 1:21-RSV).

If you have questions about the Journey toward the Vocation of Ministry or are discerning a call to ministry please call the regional office. The Commission on Ministry stands ready to assist you and help you clarify and eventually fulfill your call.

The Journey toward the Vocation of Ministry begins with three initial steps. They are:

For Licensed Ministry:

1. Visit with the Regional Minister
2. Complete an application and fulfill all expectations for Licensed Ministry
3. Interview with the Commission on Ministry

For Ordained Ministry:

1. Visit with the Regional Minister
2. Complete an application and fulfill all expectations for Ordained Ministry
3. Interview with the Commission on Ministry

Note:

- For an appointment with the Regional Minister call 252.291.4047
- For an application for licensed or ordained ministry email: john@ncdisciples.org
- Notification will be given prior to the Commission on Ministry meeting.