

### **Process for Encouraging those Discerning a Call to Ministry**

1. The proposed candidate will meet with the Pastor to discuss his/her sense of Call. During these conversations, the candidate, along with the Pastor will seek to discern whether this is a call to ordained ministry, to licensed lay ministry, to commissioned ministry, or the desire to attend seminary (or lay ministry school) for increased knowledge.
2. After a Call has been discerned, the Candidate should schedule a meeting with the Consistory (the Church Elders) to seek the spiritual support of the church. The Elders will ask the Candidate questions related to his/her desire for ministry, the type of ministry sought (at this time), and other questions as it relates to the Candidate's fitness for ministry. The Candidate may be asked to write a paper describing his/her faith journey and sense of Call and to present that paper to the Elders. The Candidate will also be asked to complete the application process of the Central Southeast Association of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ.
3. Following the meeting with the Consistory and a favorable vote of support, the Candidate and the Pastor will take the necessary steps to arrange for the granting of In-Care Status for the Candidate. This will follow the process established by the Department of Church and Ministry of the Central Southeast Association of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ.
4. The Candidate must be accepted for admission to an accredited seminary or Lay Ministry program meeting the standards of the Department of Church and Ministry of the Central Southeast Association of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ.
5. The Pastor will assist the Candidate in securing financial assistance, if needed, from the Wolff Fund for Theological Education (if attending a UCC-related seminary), the Daley-Green Fund (if eligible), and/or the Dorothy Lyle Scholarship (if eligible), and other funds to which the Candidate may apply.
6. The Candidate will meet regularly with the Pastor and will meet at least annually with the Consistory. Transcripts (or copies of grade reports) will be provided to the Consistory (and/or the Scholarship Committee) at the end of each grading period. It is expected that the Candidate will participate regularly in worship and in small groups, as he/she is able. It is expected that the Candidate contribute regularly of their time, talent and treasure to the mission and ministry of Trinity United Church of Christ. The Candidate is encouraged to participate in the life of the wider church, to the extent he/she is able.
7. Students In-Care of the Central Southeast Association are assigned a Mentor and an Advisor and meet with the Department of Church and Ministry at least twice per year for a period of at least two years. During this time, they are required to write several papers, go through psychological testing and evaluation, and meet other requirements prior to licensure or ordination.

Approved by unanimous vote of the Consistory, September 2005.