

Application Process to Become a Commissioned Minister

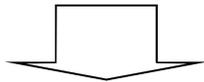
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest

This Flow Chart is intended to clarify the process for one to enter the candidacy for commissioned ministry. It is to be read from the top to the bottom.

Step One:

Talk with your Congregational Leader(s).

Schedule a conversation with your Pastor and/or Board/Elder Chair to share with them your sense of call to share in ministry in an intentional way.



Step Two:

Schedule an interview with your Area Minister.

Engage in a conversation with your Area Minister (or chair of the Area Committee on Ministry, if there is not an Area Minister) to talk about your interest/call to share in ministry in an intentional way.

You will receive a copy of:

Theological Foundations and Policies & Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry

This is the document that describes how ministry happens in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

You will also receive these forms to complete:

Commissioned Minister Request Form

Congregational Support for Commissioned Ministers Form

Personal Data Form

Disclosure Form



Step Three:

Submission of Forms & Written Paper

Submit **all of the forms above** PLUS a paper (double-spaced) describing:

Your Faith Journey

Your Understanding of Ministry

Your Understanding of Commissioned Ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Submit these to: **Your Area Office**

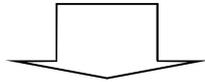


Step Four: Receipt & Interview

Upon receipt, an interview will be scheduled with your Area Committee on Ministry.

Please note: Some Areas require one year of education in the Area's Commissioned Minister Education Program before a Commission is granted.

The interview opportunities are limited each year and all paperwork (completed forms and required written paper) must be submitted prior to scheduling of the interviews.



Step Five: Decision

Following the interview with the Area Committee on Ministry, three possible decisions may be made:

- 1. Admission into the Candidacy for Commissioned Ministry with specified follow-up requirements.**
- 2. A Commission may be granted.**
- 3. A Commission may be denied.**

The decision will be forwarded to the Regional Committee on Ministry. If a commission is approved, the Region is the institution who will issue a certificate and arrange for it to be mailed or delivered to the applicant.

If a Commissioned Minister is active in Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship or the Southwest Hispanic Convention, the information about the commission will be communicated to TCMF or the Convention by the Area.



What's Next?

If a commission is granted, **in order to maintain standing and commission, the newly commissioned minister must:**

- 1. Obtain a mentor**, preferably an ordained clergy. When this option is not available, he/she will work with the Area Committee on Ministry to obtain a mentor in the Area.
- Participate in the **Commissioned Minister Education Program** provided by the Area. (If a student is enrolled in seminary, the Commissioned Minister Education Program is NOT required.)
- Complete the **Boundaries Training** class (also known as "Clergy Sexual Misconduct Prevention" Training)
- Provide a copy of **your job description** to the Area office to be placed in your ministry file.
- Maintain a relationship with your local congregation, Area, and the Area Committee on Ministry.