

Steps in the Process for Recognition of Ordination and Transfer of Standing

January 25, 2017

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) [CC(DOC)] understands the Body of Christ to be more than any one particular denomination or expression of the Christian Faith. Each tradition has its own particular path to ministry and requirements for ordination and standing. While respecting other traditions, a minister seeking recognition of her/his ordination and to transfer one's standing to the CC(DOC) in the Christian Church in the Southwest (CCSW) will work with the Regional Committee on Ministry in the process outlined below.

First steps

Become involved with a recognized Disciples congregation and receive support of the local congregation in the process for recognition of ordination and transfer of standing.

Prior to an initial interview the following documents will be submitted for review:

1. Complete Personal Data form, Application for Candidacy, CCSW Disclosure Release Form, Criminal Background Check form (all found in the ordination section of ccsw.org)
2. Introductory Memo (completed by the appropriate Regional/Area representative)
3. Letter of endorsement from leadership of DOC congregation.
4. Documentation of ordination/licensure/standing in all previous denominations and/faith Traditions, including copies of ordination certificates, licenses, and commissions.
5. Official transcript of all graduate theological education. If you do not have any graduate education, include transcripts of other education and theological trainings post high school.
6. Statement of why you are seeking to be a Disciples of Christ clergy and why you are leaving your previous denomination. 2-3 pages double spaced.
7. Statement from Judicatory official or appropriate ordaining body certifying you are in good standing with the denomination you are leaving. (If providing such a letter is difficult to obtain due to theological circumstances or other hardship, explain the circumstances to the Regional/Area representative and in writing ask for an exception of this requirement.)

Subcommittee Review

The documents will be reviewed by a subcommittee prior to granting an initial interview. Recognizing the diversity of educational requirements for ministry, the subcommittee will make recommendations related to any additional education needed for ministry in the DOC.

Initial Interview (with subcommittee)

The subcommittee questions will center around:

1. The paper submitted on why the candidate is seeking DOC ordination.
2. Prior ordination and ministerial experience.
3. Connection with local DOC congregation.

Preparation for Intermediate Interview

1. Documentation of Disciples History and Polity Course at an ATS-accredited seminary.
2. Documentation of most recent completed Healthy Boundaries course.
3. Psychological Assessment completed and documentation in Regional Office.
4. Work with the *Sharing the Journey* committee of local congregation.
5. Paper 5-7 pages: Answering the following questions:
 - a. What strengths do you bring forward from your past tradition?
 - b. How do you understand ministry and the nature and work of the church in the Disciples of Christ?

Intermediate Interview (with subcommittee)

Questions will center around:

1. Paper.
2. Understanding of Disciples of Christ and willingness to embrace Disciples Identity.

Second Intermediate Interview – if needed, to be determined by Subcommittee

Prior to Ordination Interview

1. Taped Sermon.
2. 3-5 page paper: Reflect upon your journey to the Disciples of Christ ministry and how that has impacted your understanding of your call to ministry.
3. Mock interview that addresses the transition to Disciples of Christ and the following topics: Lord's Supper, Baptism, Ordination, Disciples History and Polity and pastoral care.
4. Letter from the sponsoring congregation indicating the work of the candidate during this process.
5. Complete Search and Call packet (may take 4 to 6 weeks)

Ordination Interview (full committee)

Questions will center around:

1. Paper.
2. Ministry in DOC.
3. Topics related to ministry (see Steps in the Ordination Process).

At each interview, the possible actions of the Committee are, "Yes, to move forward," "Not yet," or "No." All forms, documents and other instructions are found on ccsw.org/ordination-process.