

Steps in the Ordination Process

The journey to ordination is a partnership among you, your sponsoring congregation, the Region, your education and God. We work together for the good of the Gospel and the Church.

The practice of the Southwest Region is to see candidates on a regular basis with at least one meeting of the Regional Committee on Ministry (RCOM) in between interviews. Listed below are the basic steps in the interview process with the RCOM. We hope this will help you in your preparations for interview questions along the way. Please know that to best prepare you for ministry, more interviews and learning opportunities may be recommended and/or required by the committee.

We pray that the candidacy process is challenging and hopeful; rigorous and supportive. We want creative, faithful, well-prepared ministers leading us in response to God’s call.

<i>Preparation</i>	Interview
<p><i>Preparation for Initial Interview</i></p> <p>a) An interview with your Area Minister.</p> <p>b) Completion of Personal Data Form, Application for Candidacy for Ordination, CCSW Personal Disclosure Form, Criminal Background Check Form.*</p> <p>c) Review <i>Theological Foundations and Policies & Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</i> and <i>My Ministerial Code of Ethics</i>.*</p> <p>d) Potential apprentice track candidates: Apprentice Track Additional Data Form. These documents will be reviewed prior to scheduling an initial interview.</p>	<p>Initial Interview</p> <p>Getting to know the candidate - personal story, background etc.</p> <p>Topics for questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call • Education • Work • Current church setting (membership/work) <p>Start <i>Sharing the Journey</i> - bring congregational representative next time</p> <p>At each interview, the possible actions of the Committee are “Yes, to move forward,” “Not yet,” or “No.”</p>
<p><i>Expectation for Intermediate Interview</i></p> <p>a) Paper –Your understanding of the Gospel.</p> <p>b) Be prepared for theological questions designated in the Intermediate Interviews. (see block to right)</p> <p>c) Psychological Assessment completed and documentation in Regional Office.*</p> <p>d) Provide a letter or email from your sponsoring congregation documenting that a functioning Congregational Care Committee is engaging the “Sharing the Journey” process with you.</p>	<p>First Intermediate Interview</p> <p>Reflect upon education thus far and current work setting</p> <p>Topics for questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church • Jesus and God • Lord’s Supper and Baptism • Salvation • Ordination • Scripture: authority and interpretation <p>At each interview, the possible actions of the Committee are “Yes, to move forward,” “Not yet,” or “No.”</p>

<p><i>In between Intermediate Interviews</i> Mini-Mock Interview - would consist of 3-5 classmates/mentors/clergy working with the candidate to clarify articulation and depth of responses to interview questions. It is an informal opportunity to strengthen your preparation for ministry and needs to address multiple topics.</p>	<p>Second Intermediate Interview Reflect upon <i>Sharing the Journey</i> Experience Work setting Update on education Topics for questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning of ordination • Self-care • Pastoral care • Theology of stewardship • Disciples History and Polity At each interview, the possible actions of the Committee are “Yes, to move forward,” “Not yet,” or “No.”</p>
<p><i>In preparation for ordination interview</i> a) Paper on “Theology of Ministry and The Church” (5-7 pages).* b) Mock interview – following the traditional guidelines. Letter from the Area Committee holding the mock interview due with paperwork. c) Letter from sponsoring congregation (preferably Congregational Care Committee) indicating the work of the candidate during this process. d) Taped sermon (utilizing current lectionary texts –assigned by RCOM).* e) Complete Search and Call packet (may take 4 to 6 weeks)*</p>	<p>Ordination Interview with Full Committee Be ready to respond to any questions. At each interview, the possible actions of the Committee are “Yes, to move forward,” “Not yet,” or “No.”</p>
<p>*See forms, documents and further instructions on website at ccsw.org/ordination-process</p>	

Educational Requirements

Masters of Divinity	Apprentice Track
Transcript Disciples History and Polity Healthy Boundaries for Clergy Training	See Apprentice Track Guidelines April 2015 Disciples History and Polity Healthy Boundaries for Clergy Training