

Steps in the Ordination Process

The journey to ordination is a partnership among you, your sponsoring congregation, the Region, your education and God.

The practice of the Southwest Region is to see candidates on a regular basis with at least one Regional Committee on Ministry (RCOM) meeting in between interviews. Listed below are the basic steps in the interview process with RCOM. We hope this will help you in your preparation 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.

Preparation	Interview
<p>Preparation for Initial Interview</p> <p>a) An interview with your Community Regional Minister or Regional 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>For Apprentice Track: As part of the initial interview process, the candidate and the Apprentice Track Committee will collaborate to craft the educational plan for the successful completion of the apprentice track.</p>
<p>Expectation for Intermediate Interview</p> <p>a) Paper –Your understanding of the Gospel. Incorporate a description of your faith journey and demonstration of your theological understanding of the church and of ministry.</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 <i>Sharing the Journey</i> process with you.</p> <p>e) While RCOM may approve a first intermediate interview sooner, a candidate in the apprentice track should not accept an appointment for the first intermediate interview until at least a third of the educational plan has been completed.</p>	<p>First Intermediate Interview</p> <p>Reflect upon education thus far and current worksetting.</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></p> <p>Mini-Mock Interview: this 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>While RCOM may approve a second intermediate interview sooner, a candidate in the apprentice track should not accept an appointment for the second intermediate interview until at least two-thirds of the educational plan has been completed.</p>	<p>Second Intermediate Interview</p> <p>Reflect upon <i>Sharing the Journey</i> experience. Discuss work setting.</p> <p>Update on education. Topics for questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning of ordination • Self-care • Pastoral care • Theology of stewardship • Disciples History and Polity <p>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></p> <p>a) Paper on “Theology of Ministry and The Church” (5-7 pages).*</p> <p>b) Mock interview: following the traditional guidelines. Letter from the committee holding the mock interview due with paperwork.</p> <p>c) Letter from sponsoring congregation (preferably Congregational Care Committee) indicating the work of the candidate during this process.</p> <p>d) Taped sermon (utilizing current lectionary texts).*</p> <p>e) Complete Search and Call packet (may take 4 to 6 weeks or longer),*</p> <p>f) While RCOM may approve a final interview sooner, a candidate in the apprentice track should not accept an appointment for the ordination interview with the entire Regional Committee on Ministry until the educational plan has been completed.</p>	<p>Ordination Interview with Full Committee</p> <p>Be ready to respond to any questions.</p> <p>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
<p>Transcript</p> <p>Disciples History and Polity (3 semester hours)[^]</p> <p>Healthy Boundaries for Clergy Training</p> <p>Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism for Clergy Training</p>	<p>See Apprentice Track Guidelines April 2015</p> <p>Disciples History and Polity (3 semester hours)[^]</p> <p>Healthy Boundaries for Clergy Training</p> <p>Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism for Clergy Training</p>

[^]from an ATS-accredited seminary