

A COVENANT OF DISCERNMENT AND FORMATION

4 LOCAL CHURCH

5 We, the members of the _____, promise to

6 support *(Church)*

7 and nurture _____ in her/his

8 *(Member in Discernment)*

9 period of discernment and formation as s/he explores a call to authorized ministry.

10 We covenant with him/her and the _____ Association of the United

11 Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

12 _____

13 Moderator Date

14

15

16 ASSOCIATION

17 We the members of _____ Association of the United Church of

18 Christ, covenant with the people of

19

20 _____,

21 *(Church)*

22 and _____

23 *(Member in Discernment)*

24 to explore a call to authorized ministry in the United of

25

26 Christ. We will develop an educational plan with _____ (member) and

27 accompany her/him as s/he engages in a path of preparation and formation. We

28 will provide counsel and support and will meet with the member at appropriate

29 intervals to discern readiness for the authorized ministry sought. When the

30 _____ (member) is ready, we will authorize her/him for ministry according

31 to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

32 We covenant with him/her and the _____

33 *(Church)*

34 as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

35 _____

36 Association Moderator Date

MEMBER IN DISCERNMENT

2 I, _____, promise to continue to faithfully

3 discern with my covenant partners my call to ministry, including exploration regarding

4 which form of authorized ministry may be the most appropriate response to my call. I will

5 engage in the educational plan and formative practices developed with the Association

6 that will prepare me for this calling. During this time I will continue to participate with my

7 Local Church, contributing to its life and witness as possible and appropriate. I will

8 maintain contact with the Association Committee on the Ministry and provide materials

9 as requested that reflect my progress.

10 I covenant with _____ and the _____

11 *(Church) (Association)*

12 as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

13 _____

14 Member in Discernment Date

15

16

17 **REPORTS REQUIRED:**

18 **TO ASSOCIATION**

19 I, _____, will meet with

20 *(Member in Discernment)*

21 and submit reports as necessary and agreed upon to the _____

22 Association Committee on the Ministry.

23

24 **TO LOCAL CHURCH**

25 I, _____, will meet with and

26 *(Member in Discernment)*

27 submit reports as necessary and agreed upon to the Ministry Discernment

28 Committee of my local church.

29 _____

30 Member in Discernment Date