Guidelines for Commissioned Ministry

Mentors Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin

School for Ministry

In order to support the effectiveness and skills of Commissioned Ministers enrolled in the School for Ministry of the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin, a Mentor Program has been developed whereby competent ordained ministers living within reasonable distance of commissioned ministers become Mentors for them. In the process of their relationship with the Commissioned Ministers (hereafter referred to as the CM), the Mentors will be able to assist the CMs to think theologically, to integrate reading, study with the School for Ministry and continuing education events with experience in the field, and to become integrated within the Region and the General Church. Mentors are people who should be active listeners for the CMs, as well as those who can simply "be there" when needed. This is a high calling.

Responsibilities of the Mentor

- Be familiar and supportive of CCIW School for Ministry
- Be familiar with *Commission Procedures for the Order of Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin*. Make sure the CM is familiar with it also.
- Meet with the CM at least once a quarter, this can be done in person, telephone or by Zoom.
- Complete the Assessment Form for Commissioned Ministers for their annual review.
- Suggest appropriate readings (books and other literature) based on the Commissioned Minister's needs in areas of biblical studies, administration, theology, counseling, church history, etc. The reading of one book each quarter should be minimum.
- Encourage the CM to participate fully in the School for Ministry. Discuss with the CM the nature of courses.
- Provide the CM with a packet of materials which provide information about the units, structure and leadership of the General and Regional manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- Require the CM to have a subscription to the electronic "Disciples News" and be familiar with the "Year Book and Directory" of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- Request the CM to develop goals for him/herself, for the congregation served, and evaluate goals at the end of the term. See evaluation form to be completed annually by the CM and the Board Chair.
- See that the CM requests renewal of Commission at least 60 days prior to its expiration and return the three report forms at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the commission.
- In case of a problem or a crisis which is too great for the Mentor to handle, he/she should contact the Regional Minister or the Chair of the Ministry Committee.
- If the Mentor must leave the position before the end of the term's relationship, he/she should turn in an Assessment Form so another Mentor may be assigned.