



CONCERNING THE PASTORAL MINISTRY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

In its ordering of ministry, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) recognizes a Commissioned ministry and an Ordained ministry. The church expects the women and men it Commissions and Ordains to demonstrate educational qualifications and competencies in several areas of personal integrity and pastoral practice, as well as a clear call to and passion for ministry. The church is called to provide significant Congregational and Regional support for those seeking to serve in ministry, whether Ordained or Commissioned.

I. Theological Foundations for the Ordering of Ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 9/30/2009, lines 332-338, pg. 10.

Mindful of the need to support the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with an informed, educated and competent clergy, and to allow choice among options, the Regional Commission on the Order of Ministry establishes the *Mid-America Certificate in Pastoral Ministry*.

Commissioned Ministers are required to pursue and complete the certificate program at Phillips Theological Seminary (PTS). Alternately, with prior approval they may complete another certificate program presented by an accredited seminary or institution of higher education. Any alternate program must be based on the sixteen practices of ministry (see below) and be in keeping with the educational requirements outlined in the *Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Amendment 2.0, 5/8/2014*. Individuals must contact their Regional Minister to begin the process for approval of an alternate program.

The General Church has established sixteen areas of ministerial practice, in which those it ordains and commissions need to demonstrate competency. Mid-America clergy should be knowledgeable about and show some competency in those same sixteen areas of ministerial practice.

An acceptable program for Commissioned Ministers will be built on the sixteen areas of practical ministry. *Theological Foundations II.C.2 Education Requirements* lists the 16 ministerial practices:

1. Biblical Knowledge	2. Church Administration and Planning
3. Communication	4. Cross Cultural and Anti-Racism Experience
5. Ecumenism	6. Education and Leader Development
7. Ethics	8. Evangelism
9. Mission of the Church in the World	10. Pastoral Care
11. Proclamation of the Word	12. Spiritual Development
13. Stewardship	14. Theology
15. Understanding Heritage	16. Worship

Courses must be completed in each of the 16 Practices. The candidate must complete a minimum of 800 total hours in immersed study, 630 of which must be direct contact hours. Each course must be a minimum of fifty (50) hours of immersed study, of which thirty (30) must be direct contact hours at an approved educational institution. If a certificate program does not meet the minimum requirement, additional work will need to be completed.



37 Work taken at other institutions may be accepted if a request is made prior to the event. Information
38 concerning the event including number of hours, must be sent to the Regional Minister well in advance of
39 the event itself so the Regional Minister and Education consultant for RCOM have time to review the event
40 in question. It is the responsibility of the candidate to make sure timely notice is received.

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42 Each institution has its own requirements for registration and completion of the classwork. Notice of
43 completion from the institution must be filed with the Ministry Associate in the Springfield Office,
44 sgf@ccmadisciples.org or mailed to CCMA, Springfield Office, 500 South Ave., Springfield, MO 65806.