

ARTICLE II: IN CARE

By-laws and instructions below are being rewritten using inclusive language.

"A student in Care of Association is a member of the United Church of Christ who has been called of God and who, under the care of his Association, is preparing himself for the Christian ministry."

Constitution, Article V, paragraph 25

"An individual desiring to prepare for the ministry applies to be received as a Student in Care of Association. Application is made to the Association through his pastor and the local church of which he is a member."

By-Laws, Article I, paragraph 101

"The committees on the Ministry of his Conference and Association cooperate in examining the applicant as to his fitness, aptitudes, Christian experience and commitment. If he is found to be qualified, he is received into the care of his Association."

By-Laws, Article I, paragraph 102

"The Association extends fellowship, counsel and assistance to the student during the time of his academic preparation for the ministry. The student is responsible to the Association."

By-Laws, Article I, paragraph 103

"A student is expected to pursue a course of study leading to a bachelor's degree or its equivalent and to graduate from a theological seminary approved by the Council for Church and Ministry."

By-Laws, Article I, paragraph 104

The applicant shall be at least a high school graduate. He/she shall first counsel with the pastor of his/her local church. Either the Diaconate or other official board of the church after examining the applicant shall then petition the Committee to receive the student in care of the Conference. 1.

The following documents will be furnished by the candidate and delivered to the Conference office for the Committee on the Ministry at least two weeks before his appearance before the Commission:

The candidate will request three individuals to write to the Chairman of the Committee on the Ministry letters of recommendation which will evaluate his/her character and general fitness for the ministry. It is suggested that one letter be from the student's pastor, one from a school official or employer and one from an officer of the local church. These letters shall be sent directly to the Chairman of the Committee in care of the Conference office by the references. They should arrive at least two weeks before the candidate's scheduled appointment with the Committee. 2.

The following documents will be furnished by the candidate at the time of the interview:

Evidence of membership in a local church of the United Church of Christ, or in a Congregational Christian Church in fellowship with an Association but not a member of the United Church of Christ. 3.

Records of all completed educational work and available testing results, such as psychological and vocational.

A written statement, approximately 1500 words in length, to be read to the Committee, covering his/her personal Christian experience, his/her understanding of his/her call to the ministry, and his/her personal theological beliefs.

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The Committee shall then meet with the applicant to examine his/her fitness, aptitudes, Christian experience and commitment; and to share concerns and questions of the applicant. If he/she is found qualified, the following steps are to be taken:

The student shall be assigned to an advisor who shall report to the Committee in writing near the end of each academic year.

An official certificate of the student's standing will be furnished for presentation to the student. The certificate must be renewed annually.

The student will report annually in writing to the Committee as to his/her growth and plans, and to request renewal of his/her standing.

The Committee shall request the local church in writing to join with the Association in a service of recognition for the student. It is appropriate that the certificate be presented at this service.