

Northern Lights Region Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2023 Clergy Standing Renewal Form

In keeping with The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), regions are responsible for annually reviewing and certifying the ministerial standing of all ordained and commissioned Disciples clergy who live in their area. When your standing is acknowledged by the region, your name is listed in the official Yearbook and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the ensuing year. It is important to know that the Yearbook is the primary document the IRS uses to verify ministerial standing, and thus, your eligibility for housing allowance exclusions. Another key value – you cannot enter Search and Call without standing. Standing reflects your being “accountable to and up-to-date with” the required denominational criteria for maintaining your ecclesiastical certification.

The following questions are detailed but with purpose. Complete the form as accurately as possible. Many of the questions are directly related to those the Northern Lights Region is asked to provide the general church’s Office of Christian Vocation (who keeps minister records) when your standing is transferred between regions. The more complete and accurate your replies are here, the more complete and accurate your records at the Office of Christian Vocation will be.

Friendly Note: If you are in need of assistance for technological or other reasons, do not hesitate to reach out to the Regional Office to be connected with someone who will be happy to support you in completing this form! Together, we can ensure all ministers wishing to maintain standing are given every opportunity to do so.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete this form in full. In addition to honoring The Design, this information will be cross-checked in our records for accuracy of your data in our system.

Thank you for completing this form by January 20, 2023.

You may return it by mail or scan/email them back to the Regional Office (office@northernlightsdisciples.org).

Mail to: Northern Lights Region, 4227 S Meridian #C615, Puyallup, WA 98373

Section 1: Personal Data and Contact Information

Name (First, Complete Middle, Last):

Common name/nickname:

Pronouns:

Spouse/Partner:

Birthdate:

Ethnicity:

Home Address, City, State, Zip:

Phone Numbers

Home:

Mobile:

Work:

Email Address:

Provide the PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS you wish to receive email from the Region at, to include bulk messages to clergy, newsletters, prayer alerts, etc. (such as sent by MailChimp), in addition to day-to-day business from the regional office and staff.

Section 2: Order of Ministry

Ordination Information

Are you Ordained or Commissioned:

What denomination completed your Ordination/Commission (DOC, UCC, etc.):

Date:

Location (Church, City, State):

Ministry Status: I am best described as a...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congregational Minister | <input type="checkbox"/> Interim Minister |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Counselor | <input type="checkbox"/> Chaplain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minister in Higher Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Parish Minister |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional or General Office Staff/Minister | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired-Active Minister (serving a congregation as a settled pastor, interim pastor, supply preaching regularly, etc.) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired-Inactive Minister (if you no longer regularly engage in active ministry, skip Section 3) | |

Section 3: Criteria for Continuation of Annual Standing for Active Ministers

Employment Criteria

“Standing for ministers in active service continues so long as the minister does and reports the following: Performs faithfully the duties of a minister as authorized by Commissioning or Ordination, either in an occupation recognized by the church as ministerial in purpose or in a service recognized by the church as ministerial in purpose.” Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry [II.F.2.b.i]

Current Ministry Position

Church/Agency/Institution Name:

Address, City, State, Zip:

Start Date:

Full Time or Part Time:

Is this a position...

- with a congregation/organization/related institution/or a general/regional unit of the CC(DoC)
- that employs you as an ordained Ministerial Partner in the United Church of Christ.
- that you seek to have recognized as "ministerial in purpose" though it is not with a congregation/organization/related institution/or a general/regional unit.

Other Employment

Church/Agency/Institution Name:

Address, City, State, Zip:

Start Date:

Full Time or Part Time:

Study and Growth Criteria

Qualifications for Standing to continue include participation in “programs of study, research, growth, renewal.” Theological Foundations & Policies & Criteria for the Order of Ministry [II.F.2.b.ii]

Briefly describe programs of study, research, growth, and renewal you've undertaken in 2022.

Section 4: Healthy Boundaries and Anti-Racism Training/Pro-Reconciliation Training

Healthy Boundaries Training: All active clergy, both ordained and commissioned, are required to complete six hours of Healthy Boundaries Training for Clergy every four years beginning in 2020. Approved training is provided by the Northern Lights Region (2020, 2024...). Other options may be: courses offered by other regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), member denominations of Churches Uniting in Christ, or trainings approved by the Commission on Ministry on a case by case basis.

Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Training: All active clergy, both ordained and commissioned, are required to complete six hours of Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation training every four years beginning in 2018. Approved training is provided by the Northern Lights Region (2022, 2026...). Other options may be: courses offered by other regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), member denominations of Churches Uniting in Christ, or trainings approved by the Commission on Ministry on a case by case basis.

Active clergy, including retired-active, both ordained and commissioned, who fail to complete either of the required trainings in the year they are due may have commissioning/standing removed, not for cause. Commissioning/standing may be reinstated after training is completed.

Special Circumstances:

1. In-care candidates seeking ordination, commissioning, or standing should complete the trainings as they are offered and must complete Healthy Boundaries training prior to approval for ordination, commissioning or standing.
2. Pastors transferring standing from another region should enter the training cycle at the earliest opportunity. The pastor must also either have completed a Healthy Boundaries Training within the past four years or complete an approved course within one year.
3. Retired-inactive clergy are not required to complete these trainings. However, retired-inactive clergy who wish to re-enter active ministry must enter the training cycle at the earliest opportunity. If the pastor has not participated in a Healthy Boundaries training within the past four years, an approved course must be completed within one year.

You may access this information at any time at <https://northernlightsdisciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Section-8.1-Clergy-Healthy-Boundary-Anti-Racism-Training-Policy-2019.pdf>.

It is the responsibility of each active clergyperson to register for and complete training in the year it is required.

Per the schedule laid out in the policy, all Active and Retired-active clergy were due to take Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation training in 2022. Contact the Regional Office immediately if this did not occur.

- CHECK HERE to acknowledge: that you have read the above training policy details; that you, as an Active or Retired-active clergy completed six hours of region-approved Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation training in 2022 and; that you did notify/receive approval from the Regional office if outside of its scheduled trainings and provided certification of completion.**

Section 5: Maintenance of Relationship with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

“Standing continues so long as the minister maintains relations with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), including participating membership in a recognized congregation in the community where feasible.” Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry [II.F.2.b.iii]

I am a member of: _____

Your Participation in the Wider Church (check all that apply in the last year):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Assembly | <input type="checkbox"/> Camps/Outdoor Ministries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Assembly | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecumenical Participation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Gatherings | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's/Men's Retreats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional or Church Boards, Commissions, Committees | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Please Specify: _____ | |

Section 6: Getting to Know You Better

Your Advanced Degrees (check any that apply):

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Master's | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Your Professional Certifications (check any that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Counselor | <input type="checkbox"/> Boundary Leader Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaplain | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Revitalization Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Facilitation and Mediation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Appreciative Inquiry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intentional Interim Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Your Passions and Interests (check any that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship | <input type="checkbox"/> Turner Lectures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creation Ministries | <input type="checkbox"/> Justice/Peace Leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Church Ministries | <input type="checkbox"/> Disciples History/Polity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministries | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling/Directing Camp/Retreat | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Transformation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global Ministries | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Section 7: Affirmations

- I have read and affirm My Ministerial Code of Ethics.
Please contact the Regional Office if you need a copy.
- I have read and affirm the Northern Lights Region's Clergy Misconduct Policy & Procedures document.
Please contact the Regional Office if you need a copy.

Section 8: Optional Questions & Notes to the Commission

Is there any other information you wish to share, clarifications you would like to make or questions and suggestions for the Commission on Ministry?

Section 9: Signature and Preferences

Thank you for submitting your Northern Lights Region annual Clergy Standing Renewal form. The information will be reviewed by the Regional Office as it is received, and the Commission on Ministry will make a final review to sign off on it at the February 2023 meeting. You will be contacted if there are any questions at that time; otherwise, your standing is to be continued without interruption. Any questions or comments you may have included which indicate a need for more prompt attention are forwarded immediately. If you have any other questions or a change in status, do not hesitate to contact the regional office.

Signature

Date

Regional Directory

Unless otherwise indicated, your contact information will be included in the regularly updated Northern Lights Regional Directory.

I do NOT wish to have my contact information included in the Regional Directory this year.

Pulpit Supply

From time to time the Regional Office is asked for help to contact clergy/ministry professionals who may be able to provide Pulpit Supply.

I WOULD like my name and contact information to be included for consideration of Pulpit Supply opportunities this year. *(Retired-INACTIVE ministers are not able to perform this service)*

Northern Lights Region - Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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