

1 **Attachment A**
2 **Additional Guidelines and Resources for Commissioned Ministry**
3 **in the Arizona Region**
4

5 **I. Additional Guidelines for Commissioned Ministry**
6

7 Those seeking to attain and maintain recognition as Commissioned ministers in the
8 Arizona Region must comply with all relevant requirements set out in the *TFPCOM* and
9 the additional requirements set out in this Attachment A. Assuming that all
10 requirements are met, such recognition may be granted for a specific ministry in a
11 specific place for a specified period (usually one year).
12

13 A. The procedures for candidates seeking recognition as Commissioned ministers
14 include the following initial steps:
15

- 16 i. The Candidate will submit an application on an appropriate form provided by
17 the Regional Office, including evidence in writing of their educational
18 preparation and theological base appropriate for the ministry they will be
19 performing. (Candidate Form*) (See Section II, “Current Regional Forms and
20 Informational Materials Relating to Commissioned Ministry” for the most
21 current version of each of the forms/informational pieces marked with an “*”
22 below.)
23 ii. In response to the Candidate’s application, the Regional Office will provide
24 information to the Candidate about Commissioned ministry, including a copy
25 of the Commissioned Ministry Requirements Completion Check List*.
26 iii. In addition, the Candidate may request an initial interview with the
27 Commission to obtain additional information about Commissioned ministry,
28 the process for recognition and what it means to be “taken under care” by the
29 Commission.
30 iv. The Candidate will submit a comprehensive statement giving evidence of their
31 understanding of the Christian faith, the nature and work of the church and its
32 ministry, which, at a minimum, will include completing the prerequisites set
33 out in the Disciples of Christ (DOC) Discovery* document involving exploration
34 of, and personal reflection on, DOC history, polity and theology.
35 v. Following receipt of the above-noted items (i-iv), the Commission will set an
36 interview date with the Candidate.
37

38 Assuming that all of the above requirements have been met, prior to being
39 Commissioned, the Candidate must complete the following additional steps:
40

- 41 vi. The Candidate will complete the Wallace SC&W Foundations Course or other
42 currently approved program (Option 1)* or obtain a Certificate of Ministry or

- 43 its equivalent from a seminary approved by the Commission (Option 2)*.
44 vii. The Candidate will complete a “Disciples History and Polity” class approved by
45 the Commission.
46 viii. The Candidate will request their congregation to recommend them for
47 Commissioning and to send a letter of recommendation signed by the minister
48 and board moderator to the Commission on Ministry.
49 ix. The Candidate will complete a candidate assessment/evaluation with an
50 approved counseling center
51

52 In addition, the Region may require such additional assurances of the Candidate’s
53 fitness for Commissioning as they deem reasonable and necessary, including, but not
54 limited to, personal interviews, letters of reference, or a criminal background check.
55

- 56 B. The Commission on Ministry will review the information gathered during the process
57 of Candidacy to determine if the Candidate displays the qualities and standards
58 necessary to grant Commissioned status to a specific ministry for the period of one
59 year. Such qualities and standards include, but are not limited to, those set out in
60 the *TFPCOM*, Paragraph II.A.2 (p. 16) and the *AZPCOM*, Section I (p. 4). In addition,
61 the Candidate must adhere to the *Ministerial Code of Ethics of the Christian Church*
62 (*Disciples of Christ*)*. Assuming that the Candidate meets all relevant requirements,
63 they will be recognized as a Commissioned minister for one year, so long as they
64 have a specific place to practice ministry. In the event that their ministry or location
65 is changed or the period of Commissioning expires, they will need to seek re-
66 Commissioning.
67

- 68 C. Minimum annual continuing education requirements for ongoing recognition as a
69 Commissioned Minister will include the following:
70

- 71 i. The Commissioned Minister must complete a minimum 10 hours of ongoing
72 education/training, which can include Regional Workshops, Certificate of
73 Ministry courses, as well as formal Continuing Education seminars or
74 coursework.
75 ii. The Commissioned Minister must participate in Regional and General events.
76 iii. The Commissioned Minister must attend Commission approved Clergy Ethics &
77 Boundary Training within the first year of Commissioning and once every four
78 years thereafter.
79

- 80 D. Procedures for Candidates seeking re-Commissioning.
81

- 82 i. Candidates are Commissioned for a specified ministry in a particular place for a
83 limited period of time, generally one year. Thus, Commissioned Ministers need
84 to seek re-Commissioning every 12 months. Failure to do so will result in a loss
85 of Standing as a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

- 86 ii. The Candidate will submit an application for re-Commissioning that is provided
- 87 by the Regional Commission on the Ministry.
- 88 iii. The Candidate will be responsible for obtaining evaluations/recommendations
- 89 from their congregation and/or ministry supervisor and having them sent to
- 90 the Commission.
- 91 iv. The Candidate may be asked to participate in an annual review with the
- 92 Commission. (A Candidate may also request an interview).
- 93 v. Upon approval of the Commission for re-Commissioning, an appropriate
- 94 ministerial Standing card will be issued.
- 95

96 E. The Act of Commissioning

- 97
- 98 i. The Candidate will be Commissioned in the local congregation in which the
- 99 Candidate is serving. A sample service is available from the Regional Office,
- 100 upon request.
- 101 ii. The Regional Minister or a representative from the Commission on Ministry
- 102 will preside in a service of Commissioning.
- 103 iii. The following persons may be included in the Commissioning Service.
- 104 a. Pastor(s) of the congregation
- 105 b. Board Chair or Moderator
- 106 c. Regional Minister and/or member(s) of the Commission on Ministry
- 107 d. Other leaders as appropriate
- 108

109 **II. Current Regional Forms and Informational Materials Relating to Commissioned**

110 **Ministry***

- 111
- 112 A. Candidate Form (COM FORM 04/11)
- 113
- 114 B. Commissioned Ministry Requirements Completion Check List (current)
- 115
- 116 C. Disciples of Christ (DOC) Discovery (Rev 6/13)
- 117
- 118 D. COMMISSIONED MINISTRY CURRICULUM (1/19/12), (including information on both
- 119 Option 1 [Wallace SC&W Foundations Course] and Option 2 [Certificate of Ministry
- 120 or equivalent certification from COM-approved seminary]
- 121
- 122 E. Commission on Ministry: Disciples Ministry in Arizona (1/12)
- 123
- 124 F. Ministerial Code of Ethics of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

125 *These forms/informational pieces may be revised or replaced from time to time. To assure that you
126 have the most current information, please check with the Regional Office or Regional Office website:
127 www.azdisciples.org

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