

1 **Attachment C**  
2 **Additional Guidelines and Resources for Standing**  
3 **in the Arizona Region**  
4

5 I. **Additional Guidelines for Ministerial Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of**  
6 **Christ)**  
7

8 Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (DOC) is credentialing for ministry  
9 within the DOC. It is a call to accountability to the church and collegiality with other  
10 ministers, denominationally and ecumenically. Those seeking Standing in the Arizona  
11 Region must comply with all relevant requirements set out in the *TFPCOM* and the  
12 additional requirements set out in this Attachment C.  
13

14 Responsibility for certification of Standing of ministers and for annual review of that  
15 Standing is generally lodged with the Region where the minister is currently engaged in  
16 the practice of ministry or otherwise resides. Responsibility for certification of Standing  
17 of Regional Ministers is jointly lodged with the Region where they serve and the GCOM.  
18

19 A. Certification of Standing of those Commissioned and Ordained by the DOC

20 A minister becomes eligible for Standing by virtue of Commissioning or Ordination  
21 according to the Order of Ministry of the DOC.  
22

- 23 i. Standing for ministers in active service continues as long as the minister  
24 continues to do and report the following:  
25 a. Performs faithfully the duties of a minister in a “ministerial” occupation;  
26 b. Participates regularly in programs of study, growth, and renewal;  
27 c. Maintains relations with the DOC, including participating membership in  
28 a recognized local Disciples congregation, where feasible;  
29 d. Adheres to the *Ministerial Code of Ethics of the Christian Church (Disciples*  
30 *of Christ)*. \* (See Section II, “Current Regional Forms and Informational  
31 Materials Relating to Ordained Ministry” for the most current version of  
32 each of the forms/informational pieces marked with an “\*” below);  
33 e. Continues to meet the personal qualifications for admission to the Order  
34 of Ministry, as set out in Section II.A.2 of the *TFPCOM*; and  
35 f. Seeks and meets the requirements for annual certification on such terms  
36 and conditions as required by the Region or the General Commission on  
37 Ministry, as appropriate (*TFPCOM*, p.26).  
38 ii. As part of the annual certification process to maintain Standing, the Arizona  
39 Region requires that all Commissioned and Ordained ministers engaged in  
40 active practice of ministry do the following:  
41 a. Timely submit a request for continued Standing, in the prescribed format

(annual Ministerial Standing Form\*), documenting they continue to meet all of the prerequisites set out in Section I.A.i. above and have also met the following additional requirements:

1. Attended RCOM approved Clergy Ethics and Boundary Training within the past four years. Ministers new to the Arizona Region, including those newly Ordained or Commissioned, will be required to complete such training within the first 12 months of their ministry in Arizona.
2. Completed a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education for the year, including, but not limited to, Regional Workshops, Certificate of Ministry courses, as well as formal Continuing Education seminars or coursework.

- iii. Those Commissioned and Ordained ministers with DOC Standing who are actively engaged in ministry have the following privileges:
  - a. Are listed in the *Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*;
  - b. Are permitted to call upon the church for various services and support; and
  - c. Are granted voting privileges in the General Assembly of the DOC.Ordained ministers also have access to Search and Call (*TFPCOM*, p.25).

- iv. When moving from one Region to another, the following rules apply:
  - a. An Ordained minister retains Standing when moving from a ministry position in one Region to a ministry position in another; however, the minister should notify both the former and new Regional Ministers.
  - b. Since Commissioned ministry is congregation and ministry specific, a Commissioned minister who moves to another Region must contact that Regional Minister to qualify for and establish Standing in the new ministry position, based upon the requirements of the new Region.
  - c. When an Ordained minister moves from a ministry position in one Region to another Region and is no longer engaged in ministry, ministerial Standing generally will be provisionally retained for up to one year. If he or she wishes to retain Standing, he or she must notify both the former and new Regional Ministers.

B. Certification of Standing of Retired Ministers (Active and Inactive), Commissioned or Ordained by the DOC

- i. Although not clearly defined in the *TFPCOM*, the term “retirement” or “retired” minister appears to include both those Commissioned and Ordained Ministers who no longer continue in an active ministerial position and those who are treated as “retired” for pension fund purposes but continue in active ministry beyond that point. In the latter case, those Commissioned and Ordained Ministers who continue in active ministry are

85 referred to as “active retired” ministers. Those who no longer engage in  
86 active ministry are referred to as “inactive retired” ministers. For purposes of  
87 certification of Standing of retired ministers, the Arizona Region adopts the  
88 definitions set out in this paragraph.

89 ii. In the Arizona Region, upon retirement, Commissioned Ministers retain  
90 Standing as active retired ministers if they continue serving in an approved  
91 ministry site within the Arizona Region and continue to meet the  
92 requirements of Sections I.A.i. and ii. set out above. As long as they continue  
93 to meet these requirements they will also continue to have the privileges set  
94 out in Section I.A.iii. above. Because Commissioned Ministry is congregation  
95 and context specific, the Arizona Region generally does not grant Standing to  
96 “inactive retired” Commissioned Ministers. However, under the TFPCOM,  
97 the Region has the authority to do so.

98 iii. In the Arizona Region, Ordained Ministers with Standing retain their Standing  
99 at the time of retirement, on the terms and conditions set out below:

100 a. A retired Ordained Minister who intends to continue active ministry  
101 (whether occasional, part-time or full-time) within the Arizona Region  
102 must continue to seek and meet the requirements for annual certification  
103 of Standing by the Region or by the GCOM, as appropriate.

104 1. In the Arizona Region, to maintain Standing, active retired  
105 ministers must continue to meet the requirements and follow the  
106 annual certification process set out for non-retired Commissioned  
107 and Ordained ministers in Sections I.A.i. and ii. above.

108 2. As long as they continue to meet these requirements, active  
109 retired Ordained Ministers will also continue to have the  
110 privileges set out in Section I.A.iii. above, except that they will be  
111 listed in the *Yearbook of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*  
112 as active retired.

113 b. Retired Ordained Ministers who are no longer engaged in the practice of  
114 ministry may seek Standing as inactive retired ministers, on the terms  
115 and conditions set out below:

116 1. Inactive retired ministers will continue to be listed in the *Yearbook*  
117 *of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* as inactive retired  
118 ministers;

119 2. Inactive retired ministers must continue to adhere to the  
120 *Ministerial Code of Ethics*,\* hold participating membership in a  
121 recognized local Disciples congregation, where feasible, and  
122 timely submit a request for continued Standing in the prescribed  
123 format.

124 3. If an inactive retired minister decides to once again take up the  
125 practice of ministry, that minister must once again seek status as  
126 an active retired minister.

- 127 C. Certification of Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing with the DOC and UCC
- 128 i. The Ordained ministries of the DOC and the UCC are reconciled. An  
129 Ordained minister with Ordained ministerial Standing in one church may  
130 function, whenever invited, and as established procedures permit, as an  
131 Ordained minister of the other, with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in  
132 that church. When a person no longer has Ordained ministerial Standing in  
133 either the DOC or the UCC, that person is no longer an Ordained Ministerial  
134 Partner, and Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is nullified.
- 135 ii. The specific requirements, duties and privileges to attain and maintain  
136 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in either the DOC or the UCC are more  
137 fully set out in Section II.G. of the *TFPCOM* and Section I.D. of the *AZPCOM*.
- 138 iii. In addition, in the Arizona Region, in order to attain and maintain Ordained  
139 Ministerial Partner Standing in the Arizona Region, an Ordained UCC minister  
140 who seeks to serve a DOC congregation in Arizona must also do the  
141 following:
- 142 a. Contact the Regional Office to set up a meeting with the RCOM.
- 143 b. Prior to the meeting, submit the following information in writing:
- 144 1. A preliminary statement of their understanding of ministry within  
145 the DOC, including reasons for the request for Ordained  
146 Ministerial Standing with the DOC; the meaning of “church”; the  
147 role and authority of ministers and their understanding of DOC  
148 history, polity and practices;
- 149 2. Documentation of their Ordination;
- 150 3. Resume or personal information schedule (Form\*?);
- 151 4. References from clergy and laity concerning their performance in  
152 ministry;
- 153 5. Evidence of present Standing in a UCC Conference or Association.
- 154 c. Successfully complete a regionally approved course of study in the  
155 history, polity and practices of the DOC, as evidenced by a certificate.
- 156 d. Appear before the RCOM and demonstrate sufficient knowledge of, and  
157 appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the DOC, at which  
158 time they may be granted access to the DOC Search and Call process, but  
159 are not yet granted Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing. Such Standing  
160 is only granted when, having met all other requirements, the Ordained  
161 UCC minister has been called to an Ordained DOC ministry in the Arizona  
162 Region.
- 163 1. To pursue Search and Call, the Ordained UCC minister must  
164 request the appropriate Center for Leadership and Ministry,  
165 Homeland Ministries forms from the Regional Office.
- 166 2. When the forms and references are completed and submitted to  
167 the Center for Leadership and Ministry, they will be processed in  
168 the next regular submission to the Regions.

- 169 e. In addition to all other requirements, prior to the granting of ordained  
170 Ministerial Partner Standing, the Ordained UCC minister must meet the  
171 personal qualifications for admission to the Order of Ministry, as set out  
172 in Section II.A.2 of the *TFPCOM*, and agree to adhere to the *Ministerial*  
173 *Code of Ethics*\*.
- 174 f. When a call to an Arizona DOC congregation is extended and accepted,  
175 the RCOM issues a written statement granting Ordained Ministerial  
176 Partner Standing in the DOC. A copy of this statement will be forwarded  
177 to the Center for Leadership and Ministry, Homeland Ministries.
- 178 g. It is the expectation of the RCOM that this process will be completed  
179 within one year.
- 180 iv. Once granted, an Ordained UCC minister who holds Ordained Ministerial  
181 Partner Standing in the DOC shall relate to the DOC for their primary support  
182 in Ordained ministry.
- 183 a. They, however, will continue to retain Ordained ministerial Standing in  
184 the UCC Association in which the DOC calling body is located.
- 185 i. In the event of a disciplinary review, the UCC Association in which  
186 the UCC minister's Ordained ministerial Standing is maintained  
187 will be informed and invited to participate in the procedures.
- 188 ii. As long as the Ordained UCC minister maintains Ordained  
189 Ministerial Partner Standing with the DOC, they will be required  
190 to seek and meet the requirements for annual certification of  
191 such Standing, on the same terms and conditions as Ordained  
192 DOC ministers engaged in active ministry in the Arizona Region.
- 193 v. Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing may also be granted to an Ordained  
194 minister with Standing in the DOC who has been called to an Ordained  
195 ministry setting in the UCC, on such terms and conditions as more fully set  
196 out in Section II.G. of the *TFPCOM* and Section I.D. of the *AZPCOM*.
- 197 a. Once granted, an Ordained DOC minister who holds Ordained Ministerial  
198 Partner Standing in the UCC shall relate to the UCC for their primary  
199 support in Ordained ministry.
- 200 b. They, however, will continue to retain Ordained ministerial Standing in  
201 the DOC Region in which the UCC calling body is located. In the event of  
202 a disciplinary review, the Region in which the UCC minister's Ordained  
203 ministerial Standing is maintained will be informed and invited to  
204 participate in the procedures.

205  
206 D. Granting of Standing to Persons Ordained in Other Churches

- 207  
208 i. Ministers Ordained by other denominations or non-Disciples congregations  
209 may be considered for recognition of Ordination and the granting of Standing  
210 in the DOC. Provisional or temporary Standing may be granted to individuals

- 211 applying for recognition of Ordination by the Region in which they are  
212 engaged in ministry or reside.
- 213 ii. The minister seeking provisional or temporary Standing in the Arizona Region  
214 must do the following:
- 215 a. Contact the Regional Office to set up a meeting with the RCOM.  
216 b. Prior to the meeting, submit the following information in writing:
- 217 1. A preliminary statement of their understanding of ministry within  
218 the DOC, including reasons for the request for Ordained  
219 Ministerial Standing with the DOC; the meaning of “church”; the  
220 role and authority of ministers and their understanding of DOC  
221 history, polity and practices;  
222 2. Documentation of their Ordination and qualifications for  
223 Ordination;  
224 3. Resume or personal information schedule (Form\*?);  
225 4. References from clergy and laity concerning their performance in  
226 ministry;  
227 5. Evidence of present Standing (or comparable certification) in  
228 another denomination or non-Disciples congregation; and  
229 6. Contact information for appropriate officials of the denomination  
230 or congregation from which the applicant transfers.
- 231 iii. Upon completion of the above prerequisites, the RCOM will make its  
232 decision, taking into consideration the information provided in writing and  
233 during interviews, as well as additional information obtained from the  
234 following sources:
- 235 a. Consultation with appropriate officials of the denomination or  
236 congregation from which the candidate transfers; and  
237 b. Filing of other appropriate forms with the Arizona Region.  
238 In addition, the Region may require a criminal background check.
- 239 iv. If granted, the minister’s provisional or temporary Standing will be subject to  
240 the following course of action, during which their provisional or temporary  
241 Standing will be reviewed by the RCOM on an annual basis. This course of  
242 action will be for a period of 12 to 18 months (at the discretion of the RCOM)  
243 and may include the following:
- 244 a. Assignment of an Ordained DOC minister with Standing in the Arizona  
245 Region as a mentor. The mentor’s recommendation will be a part of the  
246 data used by the RCOM to determine the applicant’s appropriateness for  
247 Standing;  
248 b. Active participation in a DOC congregation, where feasible;  
249 c. Directed study, including suggested readings and other continuing  
250 education events/experiences;  
251 d. Interviews with established DOC leaders;  
252 e. Participation in various national and Regional DOC events, including  
253 Assemblies, workshops, etc.;

- 254 f. Completion of a regionally approved course of study in the history, polity  
255 and practices of the DOC, as evidenced by a certificate;
- 256 g. Completion of the Ministerial Profile\* and other appropriate forms; and
- 257 h. Completion of an assessment to determine their mental and  
258 psychological fitness for ministry, in general, and Ordination, in  
259 particular.
- 260 v. At the end of the period of directed study, a second interview with the  
261 RCOM will be scheduled during which the minister will be asked to share  
262 their experiences, including insights gained and increased knowledge of, and  
263 appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the DOC.
- 264 a. In addition to satisfactory completion of all the above-noted  
265 prerequisites, including various evaluations, assessments, background  
266 checks and other references, the minister must also meet the following  
267 additional requirements in order for the provisional or temporary  
268 conditions for Standing to be removed:
- 269 1. Membership in a recognized DOC congregation;
  - 270 2. Fulfillment of the prerequisites and preparation, including  
271 educational attainment, for the Order of Ministry;
  - 272 3. One year minimum service under the supervision or mentoring of  
273 a DOC minister with Standing;
  - 274 4. Manifesting the personal qualifications for the Order of Ministry  
275 as listed in Section II.A.2. of the TFPCOM; and
  - 276 5. Commitment to adhere to the *Ministerial Code of Ethics of the  
277 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*.
- 278 vi. If, based upon its review, the RCOM determines that the minister is qualified  
279 to have the provisional or temporary conditions for Standing removed, the  
280 RCOM will present to the minister a Certificate of Ministerial Recognition to  
281 ministerial Standing in the DOC, along with a DOC ministerial Standing card.
- 282 a. As long as the minister Ordained by another church or non-Disciples  
283 congregation has Standing with the DOC, they will be required to seek  
284 and meet the requirements for annual certification of such Standing, on  
285 the same terms and conditions as Ordained DOC ministers engaged in  
286 active ministry in the Arizona Region.

287 E. Suspension, Termination, Surrender or Lapse of Ministerial Standing

288 Subject to the special rules that apply to disciplinary review of those who have  
289 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the DOC or UCC, the following rules will  
290 apply with respect to suspension, termination, surrender or lapse of ministerial  
291 Standing:

- 292 i. Review of Standing may be initiated by the minister, the Region, or the  
293 GCOM, when one of the following applies:
- 294 a. The minister desires to be released from the practice of ministry;



- 295 b. The minister requests transfer of credentials from the DOC to another  
296 denomination or non-Disciples congregation;  
297 c. The minister enters into a full-time non-ministerial occupation and/or no  
298 longer performs the functions of a minister;  
299 d. The minister fails to meet the requirements for annual certification by  
300 the Region or the GCOM;  
301 e. The minister no longer meets the personal qualifications for admission to  
302 the Order of Ministry, as set out in Section II.A.2 of the *TFPCOM*, or fails  
303 to adhere to the *Ministerial Code of Ethics*\*.  
304 ii. When initiated by the Region, the review of Standing process will include the  
305 following:  
306 a. Written notice to the minister that Standing is to be reviewed, with the  
307 possibility of suspension or termination;  
308 b. Consultation with, or notification to, such General Offices, as may be  
309 appropriate;  
310 c. A hearing by a committee appointed by the Region or the GCOM;  
311 d. When a review is instituted in relation to a UCC minister holding  
312 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the DOC, the association of the  
313 UCC in which the UCC minister's Ordained ministerial Standing is  
314 maintained will be informed and invited to participate in the process;  
315 e. When a review is instituted in relation to a DOC minister holding  
316 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the UCC, the Region of the DOC  
317 in which the DOC minister's Ordained ministerial Standing is maintained,  
318 shall be informed and invited to participate in the process.  
319 iii. When initiated by the minister, the review of Standing process will include  
320 the following:  
321 a. Written notice to the Region that Standing is to be reviewed, with the  
322 possibility of suspension or termination;  
323 b. Consultation by a committee appointed by the Region.  
324 iv. Standing may be granted to a minister whose Standing has been terminated or  
325 suspended by another Region or GCOM only upon the recommendation of the  
326 terminating or suspending body.  
327 v. When a minister surrenders Standing, Standing can be granted again only upon  
328 the recommendation of the body to which Standing was surrendered, assuming  
329 any outstanding allegations of misconduct have been addressed.  
330 vi. When a minister's Standing has lapsed, Standing may only be granted after  
331 consultation with the body where the Standing was previously held.  
332

333 Additional policies and procedures relating to review of Standing, including the  
334 investigation and adjudication of suspected ministerial misconduct, the outcome of  
335 which may affect ministerial Standing, are set out in Attachment D (as it may be  
336 amended from time to time) to the AZPCOM.  
337



338 **II. Current Regional Forms and Informational Materials Relating to Standing\***

339

340 A. Annual Ministerial Standing Form

341 B. Ministerial Record Form

342 C. *Ministerial Code of Ethics of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*

343

344 \*These forms/informational pieces may be revised or replaced from time to time. To assure that you  
345 have the most current version, please check with the Regional Office or Regional Office website:

346 [www.azdisciples.org/](http://www.azdisciples.org/)