

## **General Information About Licensed Ministry**

In the United Church of Christ, a licensed minister is a lay person who performs specified duties in a designated local church or within an Association, mainly preaching and conducting services of worship. Licensed ministry has been created by the church for those special situations when ordained ministers are not available to provide these services to a local church. A licensed minister may be authorized to administer the sacraments and rites of the church "in special cases and at the request of the local church which the person serves."

Persons are licensed by an Association of the United Church of Christ where the local church is located. The Association determines the specific duties for which the license is granted in consultation with the local church served. The license is granted for a period of one year and must be renewed.

A license is not transferable to another association and licensed ministers are not able to participate in the Search and Call process of the United Church of Christ. If a licensed minister is called to serve in a new or different setting, a new license must be applied for and granted that authorizes the person to serve in that new setting.

The qualifications generally required of a licensed minister include:

- Membership in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ.

- Demonstrated knowledge and affirmation of the faith, polity and practice of ministry in the UCC.

Licensed ministers are also expected to pursue a course of study to prepare them for their roles. Generally, renewal of a license requires continuing education. The specifics are determined by the Association which grants the license.

For more information about licensed ministry in the United Church of Christ, persons should contact the Conference or Association where they hold UCC membership. Persons may also discuss licensed ministry with a United Church of Christ pastor. Or persons may obtain the section of "Manual on Ministry" that describes "Licensed Ministry" in detail for a modest charge from United Church of Christ Resources at 1-800-325-7061 or may review it online at [ucc.org/ministers/manual](http://ucc.org/ministers/manual).