

When Can a Minister Access the UCC Ministerial Portal?

ADMINISTRATION OF PORTAL ACCESS

Access to the UCC Ministerial Profiles Portal depends upon a person's **ecclesial status**, **ministerial authorization**, and **ministerial standing**, as determined by Committees on Ministry and reported in the UCC Data Hub. Committees on Ministry are responsible for reporting to their Associations and/or Conferences all actions related to ecclesial status, authorization and standing. Reported actions are input directly into the UCC Data Hub by staff who are permitted and trained to do so for their Associations and Conferences. The beginning and conclusion of all Fitness Review processes are reported to the MESA Ministry Team, who input that information into the UCC Data Hub.

MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT

A draft profile may be used by a Committee on Ministry in decision-making related to a Member in Discernment. The draft is fully prepared and submitted by a MID to the Association or Conference office, which in turn shares the draft with the COM. The MID's home conference is the only conference that can access the draft profile. A MID's profile will not go into circulation until it is validated by the appropriate conference staff member; validation is dependent upon a COM or Association's affirmative action known as "approval for ordination pending call," usually through an Ecclesiastical Council.

FITNESS

Circulation of a valid UCC Ministerial Profile ceases upon expiration of the criminal background check and/or commencement of a Fitness Review. Conference validation of a profile (and subsequent circulation) is prohibited when an individual's standing is suspended or terminated following a Fitness Review. The Ministerial Profile discloses all past ecclesiastical employment, any ongoing program of growth, and all past ethical infractions rising to the level of censure, suspension or termination.

ECUMENICAL SCENARIOS

For Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and The United Church of Canada ministers – known as **Ordained Ministerial Partners** – profiles proceed along one of two lines. (1) The minister comes before a COM for a time of mutual discernment and obtains approval from the COM to seek a call in the UCC ("Seeking Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing"), after which the minister can create and circulate a UCC Ministerial Profile. (2) At the discretion of a DOC or UC-Canada judicatory minister, and that of a UCC

Conference Minister, a minister can have their DOC or UC-Canada profile passed to UCC ministry settings. Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing (OMPS) is granted if called to a UCC ministry setting.

Profiles for all ordained ministers other than Ordained Ministerial Partners follow the process of **Privilege of Call**. An ordained minister spends time in discernment with a COM regarding their call into the UCC; the COM may grant Privilege of Call status, thus allowing the minister to access the UCC Profiles Portal and circulate a validated profile. Once a minister with Privilege of Call is called to a position within or representing the UCC, the minister is confirmed as a UCC minister with Ordained Ministerial Standing, no longer designated as Privilege of Call nor holding any affiliation with their former denomination.

Scenarios that *do not* involve the UCC Profiles Portal include Formula of Agreement Partners (Presbyterian Church [USA], Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and the Reformed Church in America), whose own denominational paperwork may be shared with a UCC ministry setting at the discretion of Association/ Conference staff. Once called to a UCC position, the minister meets with a COM to seek **Dual Standing** with the UCC.

REFERENCE SHEET			
Ministerial Access to the UCC Ministerial Profiles Portal			
Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization (MESA) Ministry Team			
Local Church Ministries • United Church of Christ			
may develop a Snapshot in the UCC Ministerial Profiles Portal	may draft a Profile in the UCC Ministerial Profiles Portal	may Circulate through conferences a validated UCC Ministerial Profile	STATUS/STANDING IN UCC DATA HUB
✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no	Member in Discernment
✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	Member in Discernment approved for ordination pending call
✗ no	✗ no	✗ no	Lay Ministerial Standing (if not also a Member in Discernment)
✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	Ordained UCC Minister
✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	Ordained Ministerial Partner with “Seeking OMPS” status
✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no	Ordained minister with “Seeking Privilege of Call” status
✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes	Minister granted Privilege of Call
✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, conditional upon program of growth and full disclosure in profile	UCC Ordained Minister with current conditional affirmation
✓ yes	✓ yes	✓ yes, conditional upon full disclosure in profile in perpetuity	UCC Ordained Minister with previous censure, suspension, or termination (with reinstatement)
✓ yes	✓ yes	✗ no	UCC Ordained Minister with current censure or suspension and program of growth
✗ no	✗ no	✗ no	UCC Ordained Minister whose standing has been terminated