

## Appendix F

### EXPLORATION CHECKLIST

#### Step 1

- Candidate is an active member of a church affiliated with the UCC for at least one year
- Candidate approaches pastor and church leaders with their sense of call to Authorized Ministry
- Church forms a Discernment Support Team of 3-5 members
- Pastor, Discernment Support Team and candidate meet to discern call
- When the pastor, Discernment Support Team and Governing Body of the church feel the person is ready to move forward in the process, a letter of recommendation is sent to the Committee on Ministry

#### Step 2

- Candidate meets with the Association General Minister
- Candidate submits application documents to the Discernment Working Group
  - Member in Discernment Application
  - Statement of Spiritual Journey and story of their call
  - Three letters of reference (including one from their local church pastor)
  - Documentation of their formal education (transcripts, evaluations)
  - Plans for theological education, if any
  - Background Check (arranged by the Association office)
- Candidate is scheduled to meet with the Discernment Working Group
- At the end of the meeting the candidate is granted or declined Member in Discernment status

#### If Member in Discernment status is granted:

- Member in Discernment begins using Journaling the Journey
- Member in Discernment completes Vocational/Psychological Assessment
- Member in Discernment Covenantal Agreement is completed