

## Appendix E

### DISCERNMENT PROCESS COVENANT

Completed upon granting Member in Discernment status, we recommend this covenant be used with the local church to celebrate the reception of the candidate into Member in Discernment Status. It could be incorporated in a worship service or during a meeting of the Local Church Discernment Support Group. It is the responsibility of the Member in Discernment to assure that this covenant is completed and copies delivered to all parties.

#### LOCAL CHURCH

We, the members of \_\_\_\_\_ (local church) United Church of Christ, located at \_\_\_\_\_, promise to support and nurture \_\_\_\_\_ (Member in Discernment) in their period of discernment and formation as they explores a call to Authorized Ministry. We will, in partnership with \_\_\_\_\_ (Member in Discernment), create a Discernment Support Team and work with them to discern the call to Authorized Ministry. We will, as we are able, provide financial support for costs associated with ministerial preparation and training. We covenant with them and the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church Moderator or President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### ASSOCIATION

We, the members of the Living Water Association covenant with the people of \_\_\_\_\_ (local church) United Church of Christ, located at \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Member in Discernment), to explore a call to Authorized Ministry in the United Church of Christ. The Discernment Working Group of the Committee on Ministry will work with \_\_\_\_\_ (Member in Discernment) to develop a Ministerial Formation Plan and accompany them as they engage in a path of discernment, preparation and formation.

We will provide counsel and support, and will meet with \_\_\_\_\_  
(Member in Discernment) at appropriate intervals to discern readiness for the Authorized Ministry sought. We will, as we are able, provide resources for financial support for costs associated with ministerial preparation and training. We will assign an advisor and a mentor and be responsible for the oversight of these relationship. If \_\_\_\_\_  
(Member in Discernment) is determined to be worthy of Authorized Ministry, we will authorize them for ministry according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ. We enter into this covenant as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee on Ministry

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **MENTOR**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (mentor), promise to faithfully meet with \_\_\_\_\_  
(Member in Discernment) once a month. I promise to support and walk with  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Member in Discernment) as they discern their call. We will work together on The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers by using *Journaling the Journey and other resources as necessary*. I covenant with \_\_\_\_\_ (local church) United Church of Christ, located at \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Member in Discernment), the Living Water Association, the Discernment Working Group, as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **DISCERNMENT WORKING GROUP**

We, the members of the Discernment Working Group of the Committee on Ministry, promise to discern with you and the Living Water Association, your call to ordained ministry. We promise to faithfully speak the truth in love. We covenant with you to create a plan that will hold to the

expectations of the United Church of Christ for all UCC Authorized Ministers. We promise to support you and expect you to attend all Member in Discernment gatherings and workshops. We covenant with you \_\_\_\_\_ (Member in Discernment), \_\_\_\_\_ (local church) located at \_\_\_\_\_, your mentor \_\_\_\_\_, and the Living Water Association as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Discernment Working Group Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **MEMBER IN DISCERNMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, promise to continue to faithfully discern with my covenant partners my call to ministry, including exploration regarding which form of Authorized Ministry may be the most appropriate response to my call. I will engage in the educational plan and formative practices developed with the Association Discernment Working Group of the Committee on Ministry that will prepare me for this calling. During this time, I will continue to participate with my Local Church, contributing to its life and witness as possible and appropriate. I will also participate in the Member in Discernment events that are planned by the Living Water Association and the United Church of Christ. I will provide material as requested that reflect my progress to the Committee on Ministry and DWG. I covenant with \_\_\_\_\_ (local church) United Church of Christ, \_\_\_\_\_, (mentor) and the Discernment Working Group of Committee on Ministry, and the Living Water Association as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member in Discernment

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date